Agenda

1. Introduction (5 mins)
2. Panel (30 mins)
3. High-Level Concept Presentation (10 mins)
4. Open Discussion (25 mins)
5. Wrap Up and Next Steps (5 mins)
Why We Are Here

- Explore concept of Registry Service Provider certification program
  - Work collaboratively with community to solve a set of problems identified by Registries, RSPs and ICANN

Motivation:
- Public comments to New gTLD Program Implementation Review Report
- Input provided in GDD Summit 2016 session
- Registry Operator and RSP feedback and frustrations
- Staff experiences with the 1100+ gTLDs
New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
WG Consideration of RSP Certification

Jeff Neuman | Registry Service Provider Certification | 7 Nov 2016
New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group

Overview
Community efforts, such as the PDP and various reviews, are underway to take into consideration the 2012 new gTLD round and seek ways to improve, refine, or develop new policy recommendations for new gTLDs, acknowledging that there is existing new gTLD policy from the GNSO’s 2007 Final Report on the Introduction of New gTLDs.

Working Group Consideration of RSP Certification/Accreditation
Sub Team 1 of the Working Group is deliberating on the possible advantages and drawbacks of a RSP certification/accreditation program in the context of the new gTLD program.

Learn more
Read more about the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group at:
https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw
Benefits of Registry Service Provider Certification/Accreditation
Problem to Solve: Lack of predictability

Benefits of RSP Certification:
• Create consistency in evaluation results for registry operators, leading to improved predictability
• Provide back-end providers certainty going forward in that they can meet/exceed ICANN’s requirements and can demonstrate this to applicants

Problem to Solve: Slow, inefficient, costly process

Benefits of RSP Certification:
• Quicker processing of applications, if accreditation done in advance
• Quicker time to delegation as all PDT tests done in advance
• Avoid unnecessary repeat evaluations/testing
• Reduce the number of people ICANN needs to review an application
• Potentially lead to lower (TLD) application fees for registry operators
• Reduce costs and time for switching back end providers
• Increase accessibility of the marketplace for more businesses & organizations, some of whom did not apply in the first round due to high costs

Potential Benefits (1/2)
Potential Benefits (2/2)

Problem to Solve: Lack of choice/diversity

Benefits of RSP Certification:
• Increase initial choice in back-end operators, improving competition by allowing other third-parties to become RSPs
• Increase portability of back-end registry operators, simplify ICANN processes to change back end operators, which is good for competition
• Open door to new entrants
• Improve geographic diversity and engagement by putting competent RSPs with potential ROs in the same region (Africa)

Additional benefits:
• Potentially increase security and stability
• For RSPs, help gain official identity within the ecosystem of TLD domain industry
• Create new market by establishing a unified set of requirements for RSPs
• Improve secondary market for TLDs
High-Level Concept Presentation
Guiding Principles

1. Increase competition

2. Improve security and stability for gTLDs

3. Reduce burdens on Registry Operators and Registry Service Providers

4. Reduce or maintain cost to the industry
Objectives

- Improve processes associated with changing RSP
  - Improve security, stability and resiliency during RSP changes
  - Reduce costs when switching RSP
- Transition from pre-test to ongoing technical monitoring
- Create direct channel between ICANN and RSPs
- Reduce financial and administrative burden of RO while maintaining security and stability
  - Eliminate Continued Operations Instrument (COI)
  - Reduce risk of TLD failure due to Registry Operator business failure
  - Reduce risk of RSP technical failure
  - Clarify expectations of RSPs
Optional Program

Current RSPs of gTLDs could become initial pool of certified providers

Mechanism to enable ICANN and RSPs to achieve:
- Reduced technical testing when acquiring new gTLDs
- Cooperation between RSPs during RSP transitions
- Continued service for limited periods in the event of an RO failing or exiting (in lieu of ICANN invoking EBERO)
- Enforcement and ability to ensure compliance with certification requirements
- Direct channel between ICANN and RSPs

Established, Performance-Based Technical Criteria
- Consistent performance across all gTLDs
- Service levels defined in Registry Agreements
- Other observable/trackable technical requirements defined in Registry Agreements
  - E.g., conformance of WHOIS output to specification
Tentative Timeline

- **Framework Development**
  - Q1: 2017
  - Q3: 2018

- **Technical Monitoring Development**
  - Q2: 2017
  - Q4: 2018

- **Program Development**
  - Q1: 2018
  - Q4: 2018

- **Program Deployment**
  - Q2: 2018
Some Key Questions

- Approach to solve the problems identified?
- Benefits of the program?
- Impact to Registrars? If so, how to mitigate it?
- Initial Certification Criteria (grandfathering?)
- Levels of certification?
- Criteria to sustain certification?
- Frequency for recertification?
- Enforcement mechanisms?
Participate in Defining the Solution

- Open call for participation in a small working group
  - Weekly meetings
  - Review documents
- No predefined number of participants
- Diversity desired
- Anticipate multiple opportunities for wider community feedback (e.g., Public Comment)
- Work in open, transparent manner
  - Recordings/presentation materials published
  - Mailing list openly archived
Open Discussion
Next Steps

- ICANN to publish a call for volunteers to participate in defining the Program
- Work scheduled to start in 2017
Engage with ICANN

Thank You and Questions

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