From: ICANN Global Support <noreply-globalsupport@icann.org>
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 4:31 PM
Subject: IMPORTANT REMINDER NOTICE Implementation of RDAP Service

Dear Registry Operators,

This is a reminder that all gTLD registries and registrars are required to implement a Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) service no later than **26 August 2019**, as per ICANN org's 27 February 2019 legal notification. It is recommended that registries and registrars implement RDAP according to the February-2019 version of the gTLD-RDAP Profile created by the RDAP Working Group and endorsed by the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) and Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG) on 26 February 2019.

RDAP enables access to current registration data and was created as an eventual replacement for the WHOIS protocol. RDAP offers many advantages over the current WHOIS service including standardized queries, secure access to data, extensibility, differentiated access, support for internationalization of registration data, and enabling search for objects. RDAP is the protocol required to deliver the policies of the future registration data directory services. Now is the ideal time to gain experience with RDAP prior to attempting to implement more complex policy requirements.

ICANN org is coordinating the multi-phased transition of Registration Data Directory Services from WHOIS to RDAP in partnership with the contracted parties. A successful transition requires a brief period of having both services available to ensure both the community users and contracted parties develop experience with the new protocol and tools before retiring WHOIS services. Thus, it is imperative for registries and registrars **to continue to offer access to port 43**

and web-based WHOIS service until a coordinated sunset of WHOIS services has been defined.

Next, ICANN org will work with the contracted parties to incorporate the RDAP service more robustly into the respective Registry Agreements (RA) and the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) via contractual amendments. We expect to initiate formal discussions of amendments to the RA with the RySG in August 2019.

Our goal is for the amendment to be specifically limited to the definition of the RDAP service and retirement of the WHOIS service. We expect the amendment to include:

- Defining Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS) to include RDAP and update references to WHOIS throughout the contract as necessary.
- Reporting Requirements for RDAP (Specification 3)
- Requiring the implementation of the gTLD RDAP Profile to standardize RDAP query responses (Specification 4)
- Registry Performance Specifications (Specification 10)
    - Definitions
    - Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Emergency Thresholds for RDAP
    - Clear transition timeline to retire the WHOIS service

Many of the items above have already been discussed and preliminarily agreed to between the contracted parties and ICANN during the development of the RDAP Profile, and we hope the amendments will be done collaboratively and relatively swiftly.

<u>Registry Operator Actions:</u>
1. Implement the registry operator's RDAP service for each of its gTLDs by 26 August 2019. **Registries that cannot meet the RDAP implementation date of 26 August 2019 are requested to please contact ICANN org** via globalsupport@icann.org.

2. Registries must register their RDAP service base URL for each of their TLDs with IANA. More information can be found at https://www.iana.org/domains/root/manage.

3. Per section 3.2 of the "RDAP Profile - RDAP Technical Implementation Guide," Registries must include a links array in their response to an RDAP domain query linking to the registrar's RDAP server.

   The registrar RDAP base URL is being captured in a self-service field in RADAR as of April 2019, and it is available at the Monitoring System API (MoSAPI) using the endpoint documented on section 11 of the MoSAPI specification found at https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/mosapi-specification-2019-01-03-en

4. If you have questions about continuing to offer WHOIS services please contact ICANN org via globalsupport@icann.org.

Questions about the gTLD-RDAP Profile may be directed to globalsupport@icann.org.

Learn more: ICANN RDAP Overview page: https://www.icann.org/rdap

Best Regards,

Russ Weinstein
Sr. Director, gTLD Accounts & Services
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To reference past registry operator communications please click here.