



Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) Request

October 26, 2017

Registry Operator

Top Level Design, LLC
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Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

Request Details

Case Number: 00875957

This service request should be used to submit a Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) request. An RSEP is required to add, modify or remove Registry Services for a TLD. More information about the process is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rsep-2014-02-19-en>

Complete the information requested below. All answers marked with a red asterisk are required. Click the Save button to save your work and click the Submit button to submit to ICANN.

PROPOSED SERVICE

1. Name of Proposed Service

Registry Lock Service for .design, .ink, and .wiki

2. Technical description of Proposed Service. If additional information needs to be considered, attach one PDF file

Top Level Design, LLC, the registry operator for the .ink, .design, and .wiki top-level domains (TLDs), wishes to provide a Registry Lock Service (the "Service") to help prevent accidental or inadvertent modifications to or deletions of domain name registration data in our TLDs.

ICANN has approved this service for use in other gTLDs.

Providing the Service will enable our registrars to offer their registrants, especially those registrants concerned with identity theft and other malicious activities, a new service to protect their domain name and/or host.

The Extensible Provisioning Protocol ("EPP") specifies both client (registrar) and server (registry) status codes that are consistent with the intent to prevent registry changes (i.e., a Delete, Transfer and/or Update) that were not intended by the registrant. Many registrars currently use the client status codes and have requested the ability to add server status codes as an additional layer of protection.

The EPP server status codes that would be applicable for domain names include (i) serverUpdateProhibited, (ii) serverDeleteProhibited, and (iii) serverTransferProhibited. These statuses may be applied individually or in combination.

The EPP also enables setting Host (name server) status codes to prevent deleting or renaming a host or modifying its IP addresses. Setting Host status codes at the registry would reduce the risk of inadvertent disruption of the DNS resolution for domain names associated with locked name servers.

CONSULTATION

3. Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?

Top Level Design discussed implementing the Service with registrars and its registry service provider, Centralnic.

3a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?

Not applicable.

3b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?

Top Level Design received inquiries about the Service and discussed the Service with registrars.

3c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

Not applicable.

3d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

Not applicable.

3e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

Top Level Design registrars and their registrants would endorse the introduction of the Service, especially those registrars and registrants concerned about domain security and the risk of domain hijacking.

3f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were (or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?

As the requested Service has been successfully offered in other TLDs without any substantive objection or issue, Top Level Design believes there are no grounds for objection.

TIMELINE

4. Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service.

Following approval by the ICANN Board, Top Level Design intends to implement the Service within three (3) months.

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

5. Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered.

The Extensible Provisioning Protocol ("EPP") specifies both client (registrar) and server (registry) status codes that are consistent with the intent to prevent registry changes (i.e., a Delete, Transfer and/or Update) that were not intended by the registrant. This means that today, a registrar may place a series of EPP client status codes on the domain name record for various purposes such as restricting access to making updates, transfers and deletes.

As previously described, the Service will allow registrars to offer server-level protection to the domain name and/or Name Server records for their registrants. The Service is designed to be a low volume/high value service that will be used in conjunction with a Registrar's proprietary security measures to bring a greater level of security to registrants' domain names and help mitigate the potential for domain name hijacking, inadvertent or unintended deletions, transfers and/or updates.

The Service is made up of two components, both of which will be administered by CentralNic as Top Level Design's registry service provider:

1. A registrar must provide CentralNic with a list of the domain names to be placed on any/all of the server status codes. During the term of the service agreement, a Registrar may add domain names to be placed on any/all of the server status codes and/or remove domain names currently placed on any/all of the server status codes. Through a manual process, CentralNic will authenticate that the registrar submitting the list of domain names to be placed on any/all of the server status codes is the registrar-of-record for such domain names.

2. If changes (including updates, deletes, transfers) are required on a domain name(s) placed on a server status code(s), CentralNic will follow a secure, authenticated process which includes, among other things, a request from an authorized individual at the registrar for CentralNic to remove the specific registry status code(s), validation of the authorized individual by CentralNic, removal of the specified server status code(s), completion by registrar of the desired change(s), and a request from the authorized individual at the registrar to reinstate the server status code(s) on the domain name(s). This process is designed to complement the automated transaction processing through the Shared Registration System using independent authentication by trusted registry experts.

6. Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service.

CentralNic has demonstrated the ability to deliver reliable registry services. The lessons learned are being applied to the testing/scalability requirements for the commercial offerings for Top Level Design's TLDs, including the processes described above.

7. Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.

Subsequent to the initial registration process, the provisioning protocols currently implemented will apply:

RFC 5731- Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Domain Name Mapping and
RFC 5732 - Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Host Mapping will describe the EPP
Statuses utilized in the Registry Lock Service.

RFCs that apply include:

- RFC 5730 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP)
- RFC 5731 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Domain Name Mapping
- RFC 5732 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Host Mapping
- RFC 5734 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Transport over TCP

CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS

8. List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service.

No substantive contractual provisions will be impacted.

9. What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN.

None.

10. What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?

None.

11. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the price of a domain name registration?

This service will be billed separately from domain name registration and will not affect the price of domain name registrations.

CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

12. Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service

No contractual amendments are required.

BENEFITS OF PROPOSED SERVICE

13. Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service.

The Service is intended to provide interested registrars and their registrants the highest level of domain name and host record protection.

COMPETITION

14. Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.

The Service would have a positive rather than negative effect on competition. There is an interest from registrars and registrants to have the option of purchasing additional protections to prevent the unauthorized modification of domain, host, and registration data. Many other TLD registries provide registry-level lock services, and allowing Top Level Design to offer the Service would increase the number of protective services offered in the marketplace.

15. How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?

The market is all current and future Top Level Design accredited registrars and registrants.

16. What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?

The Service will add to existing lock/protection services offered by registrars and will enable interested registrars to enhance their offerings. Similar registry lock services are also offered by other gTLD operators.

17. In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?

No. ICANN has approved other registry lock services in the past which have not impaired or hindered other registry operators from developing similar services or stopped registrars from offering their own security and lock services.

18. Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.

Top Level Design's registry service provider, CentralNic, will provide this Service directly to .ink, .design, and .wiki registrars and will leverage their experience as a registry backend.

19. Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.

Top Level Design has communicated with interest parties that have inquired about the Service. Once approved by ICANN, Top Level Design will alert its registrars to the availability of the Service.

20. Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).

No.

SECURITY AND STABILITY

21. Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?

No.

22. Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems.

The service will have no impact on throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of the responses to internet servers or end systems.

23. Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?

No.

OTHER ISSUES

24. Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service?

Top Level Design is not aware of any Intellectual Property considerations.

25. Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?

(1) Trademark or similar rights may exist or arise with respect to trade names or terminology used in connection with the proposed Service.

(2) Copyright protection may exist or arise in connection with materials created in connection with the proposed service.

(3) Certain information or processes related to the Service may be confidential to the registry operator/registry service provider and/or subject to trade secret protection.

(4) Top Level Design is not aware of the issuance of any patents by any party with respect to the Service.

26. List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service.

Top Level Design will include industry standard disclaimers, such as a disclaimer of all warranties in the services agreement.

27. Please provide any other relevant information to include with the request.

None.

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Affected TLDs

Current Registry Operator	Top Level Domain	Registry Agreement Date
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