

Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN80 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The scoping team’s activities are currently paused.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The GNSO Council adopted the [formation of and instructions](#) to the Accuracy Scoping Team during its 22 July 2021 meeting. The scoping team was tasked to consider the current enforcement and reporting of registration data accuracy. In addition, the scoping team was asked to consider how to measure accuracy. These considerations are expected to help inform its deliberations and the development of recommendations to the GNSO Council on whether changes are recommended to improve accuracy levels, and if so, how and by whom these changes would need to be developed.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

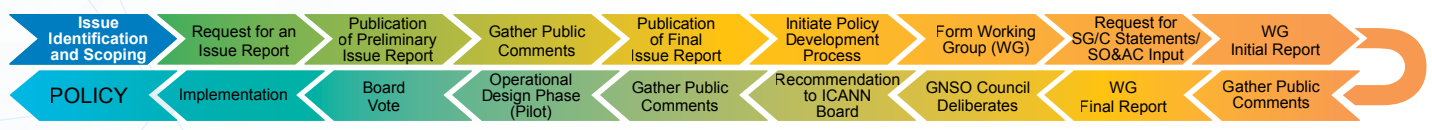
The scoping team started deliberations in October 2021. Following a review of proposals that may assist in the measurement of accuracy, the team submitted a [write-up](#) regarding Enforcement and Reporting and Measurement of Accuracy to the GNSO Council in September 2022. During its November 2022 meeting, the GNSO Council decided to adopt recommendation Number 3 of the write-up. It suggested, among other points, pausing the scoping team’s proposals which require access to gTLD registration data. The GNSO Council also encouraged ICANN org to proceed with outreach to the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and proceeding with a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA), which is described in detail below.

In an attempt to advance the community’s efforts, the Board requested ICANN org to prepare specific scenarios for which it would consult with the EDPB concerning the legality of the proposed data processing under GDPR.

ICANN initially proposed four scenarios to determine whether it could produce useful material for the Accuracy Scoping Team, taking into account current contractual requirements and applicable laws.

[ICANN conducted a comprehensive assessment of the four scenarios](#), as well as DPIAs on scenarios two and four, and identified several deficiencies and challenges in pursuing them, which the GNSO Council discussed during its November meeting.

- Scenario 1, which involved analyzing publicly available registration data for accuracy, was deemed unfeasible due to the majority of personal registration data



being redacted from the public RDDS following the adoption of the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data to comply with GDPR.

- Scenario 2 proposed a proactive Contractual Compliance audit of registrar compliance with registration data validation and verification requirements. While this audit could provide insights into compliance, it would not confirm the accuracy of underlying data related to registrants' identities and would require significant resources.
- Scenario 3 suggested analyzing a sample of full registration data provided by registrars, but this raised concerns regarding legal basis and GDPR compliance, as well as access to the data.
- Lastly, Scenario 4, a voluntary registrar survey on data accuracy, was paused pending feedback from ICANN. While the survey could offer insights into registrar practices, concerns were raised about potential disparities in participation and the voluntary nature of the survey.

In recognition of the current challenges in pursuing the scenarios, councilors noted that: barring (i) completion of the Data Processing Agreement, (ii) implementation of the Network and Information Security 2 directive, or (iii) publication of the Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains Study, the GNSO Council decided to defer consideration for another six months during its February meeting.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Following further feedback from ICANN org and contracted parties, or after six months (by August 2024), whichever is shorter, the GNSO Council will consider how to proceed. This will include a review of the scoping team's formation and instructions, based on the feedback gathered from scoping team members by GNSO Council leadership. The GNSO Council agreed to further discuss the topic of accuracy during ICANN80.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Scoping Team instructions](#)
- [Scoping Team workspace](#)
- [Assessment of Registration Data Accuracy Scenarios](#)

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