

WHOIS Survey Results GNSO Council Meeting

17 October 2012



Feasibility Survey

- Authorised by the GNSO Council in April 2011
 - ◆ <http://gnsso.icann.org/resolutions/#201104>
- Determine the feasibility of conducting a Full Study
 - ◆ assess the willingness and ability of Relay/Reveal request originators, Privacy/Proxy providers, and Registrars to participate in the Full Study
 - ◆ assess the availability of data and conditions for sharing it
 - ◆ sample regional limitations on participation, including business sensitivities and national data privacy laws
- Inform the design of the Full Study (should one be undertaken) so as to maximize its value
- Offer potential participants an opportunity to identify themselves

Findings and Analysis

- Expectation of “tangible results” may not align with study goals to collect data
- Participation would drop if study were perceived as intended to identify or blame “bad actors”
- Key participants would be unable to disclose individual identifiable relay or reveal requests
 - ◆ most participants would be able to provide only aggregated or anonymized data
 - ◆ historical and/or public-domain data may be available
- Participation might improve with adequate privacy and confidentiality guarantees

Conclusions

1

A full study of WHOIS privacy and proxy reveal and relay could, if defined in such a way as to resolve identified barriers, provide some—but not all—of the data anticipated by the GNSO Council.

Conclusions

2

Such a study (specifically by ICANN) would be well received by people on all sides of the WHOIS information access debate.

Conclusions

3

Attention to issues including confidentiality and convenience in the design of the study would improve the quantity and quality of the data that it would deliver, but would not entirely overcome the asymmetric reluctance of potential participants from different constituencies to contribute.

Conclusions

4

The results of a full study thus encumbered might not satisfy the expectations of the GNSO Council or the ICANN community with respect to statistical validity or independent verifiability.

Next Steps:

- In light of
 - WHOIS RT Rec. No. 10 that ICANN implement processes to regulate and oversee privacy and proxy service providers, and
 - RAA amendments that propose an accreditation process for privacy/proxy providers
- New study as suggested by Interisle could inform a PDP or other policy process on
 - Handling Relay and Reveal requests
 - Identifying current processes used by providers
 - Motion needed to approve the study at a future Council meeting



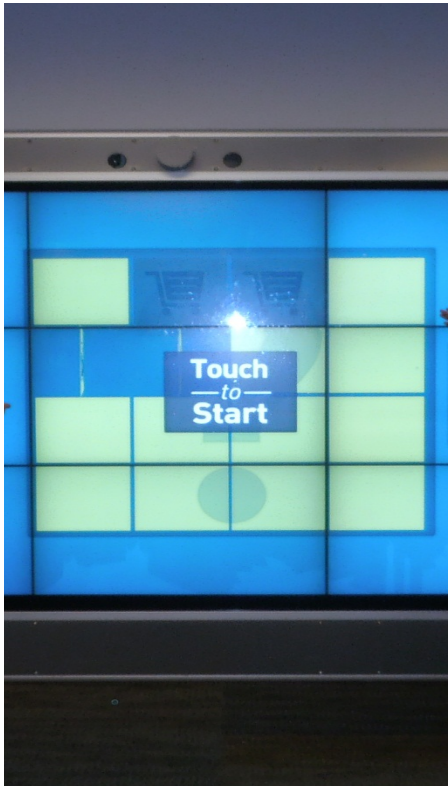
Recommendations for new Study

A successful study could provide the following information to inform GNSO policy making:

- Current practices of Proxy/Privacy service providers in handling of Reveal & Relay requests;
- Numbers of Reveal and/or Relay requests and aggregate data on their management;
- Some non-specific characterization of the origination of Reveal and/or Relay requests;
- The relationships among those making, receiving, and processing Reveal & Relay requests.



For more information:



Webinar Link:

[transcript-whois-survey-webinar-1300-15aug12-en.pdf](#)

Draft Report:

[whois-pp-survey-draft-report-31may12-en.pdf](#)

Final Report to be posted shortly.



Thank You



Questions

One World

One Internet

