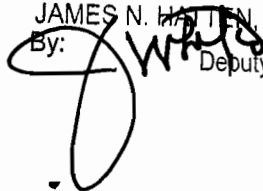


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U.S.D.C. - Atlanta

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

NOV 14 2017

JAMES N. HAYDEN, Clerk
By:  Deputy Clerk

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

Plaintiff,

v.

**JOHN DOES 1-51,
CONTROLLING MULTIPLE
COMPUTER BOTNETS
THEREBY INJURING
MICROSOFT AND ITS
CUSTOMERS**

Defendants.

CASE NO.

1:17-CV-4568

FILED UNDER SEAL

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL ZWEIBACK IN SUPPORT OF
MICROSOFT'S APPLICATION FOR AN EMERGENCY *EX PARTE*
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
RE: PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

VOLUME 1 OF 3

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I, Michael Zweiback, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am an attorney with the law firm of Alston & Bird LLP ("Alston"), and counsel of record for Plaintiff Microsoft Corporation ("Microsoft"). I make this declaration in support of Microsoft's Application for an Emergency *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause Re Preliminary Injunction ("TRO Application"). I make this declaration of my own personal knowledge and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the truth of the matters set forth herein.

I. PARTIES

2. Microsoft seeks an Emergency *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order And Order To Show Cause Re Preliminary Injunction to disable the Internet domains, domain name servers, and the Internet Protocol (“IP”) addresses used by Defendants John Does 1 – 51 (“Defendants”), who created and are using for criminal purposes global networks of interconnected computers infected with malicious software (“malware”) known as “botnets.” Defendants have infected Internet-connected computing devices with a family of malware known as “Gamarue.” A presentation explaining the Gamarue malware infection and operation is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

3. Microsoft has engaged in previous efforts to disable other type of unlawful Internet activity, including the “**Waledac**” Botnet in February 2010 in the Eastern District of Virginia, the “**Rustock**” Botnet in March 2011 in the Western District of Washington, the “**Kelihos**” Botnet in September 2011 in the Eastern District of Virginia, the “**Zeus**” Botnets in March 2012 in the Eastern District of New York, the “**Bamital**” Botnet in February 2013 in the Eastern District of Virginia, the “**Citadel**” Botnets in May 2013 in the Western District of North Carolina, the “**ZeroAccess**” Botnet in November 2013 in the Western District of Texas, the “**Shylock**” Botnet in June 2014 in the Eastern District of Virginia, the “**Ramnit**” Botnet in February 2015 in the Eastern District of Virginia, the

“**Dorkbot**” Botnet in November 2015 in the Eastern District of New York, and the “**Strontium**” takedown in August 2016 in the Eastern District of Virginia.

4. Based on my previous experience prosecuting cybercriminal defendants that conduct their operations using an online command and control (“C2”) infrastructure consisting of a set of websites and domains, *ex parte* relief is necessary, as notice to Defendants would allow them to destroy the evidence of their illicit activity and give them an opportunity to move the instrumentalities they used to conduct their unlawful activity. This would render the further prosecution of this matter futile. I am aware that in one attempt to disable the Rustock Botnet predating Microsoft’s action, the operators of the Rustock Botnet—after learning of the attempt to disable the botnet—attempted to migrate that botnet’s C2 infrastructure to new IP addresses and attempted to delete files from the seized host servers.

5. I am also aware that the Dorkbot Botnet’s operators attempted to activate previously dormant C2 domains so that they could continue to illegally control the Dorkbot infected devices *one* day after Microsoft executed the court’s temporary restraining order. Further, during the action regarding the ZeroAccess botnet in November 2013, the operators of that botnet immediately attempted (unsuccessfully) to take action, in response to the seizure of domains to attempt, to move the botnet’s C2 infrastructure.

6. I am also aware that the Northern District of Georgia is familiar with

sophisticated international cybercrimes, including botnets. In September 2015, the Russian developer of the “Citadel” malware, a sophisticated malware that created a sophisticated banking botnet which infected over 11 million computers worldwide using a variety of infection methods. A true and correct copy of the article Russian Developer of the Notorious “Citadel” Malware Sentenced To Prison, available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/russian-developer-notorious-citadel-malware-sentenced-prison>, is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. The toolkit developer who assisted in the development and maintenance of the “Citadel” botnet malware toolkit was also sentenced to federal prison in the Northern District of Georgia. A true and correct copy of the article Russian Citizen who Helped Develop the “Citadel” Malware Toolkit is Sentenced, available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/russian-citizen-who-helped-develop-citadel-malware-toolkit-sentenced-0>, is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3**.

7. Microsoft’s counsel has not attempted to provide notice of the TRO Application to Defendants, and should not be required to provide notice at this time. I respectfully submit that good and sufficient reasons exist for this TRO Application to be made by Order to Show Cause in lieu of by notice of motion. Microsoft has previously sought *ex parte* temporary restraining orders in the United States District Court case in *Microsoft Corporation v. John Does 1-27*, Case No. 1:10-cv-00156 (E.D. Va. 2010) (Brinkema, J.); *Microsoft v. John Does, 1-11*, Case No. 2:11-cv-

00222 (W.D. Wa. 2011) (Robart, J.); *Microsoft Corporation v. Dominique Piatti et al.*, Case No. 1:11-cv-01017 (E.D. Va., 2011) (Cacheris, J.); *Microsoft Corporation et al. v. John Does 1-39 et al.*, Case No. 12-cv-1335 (E.D.N.Y. 2012) (Johnson, J.); *Microsoft Corporation v. Peng Yong et al.*, Case No. 1:12-cv-1005-GBL (E.D. Va. 2012) (Lee, J.); *Microsoft Corp. v. John Does 1-18 et al.*, Case No. 1:13-cv-139-LMB/TCB (E.D. Va. 2013) (Brinkema, J.); *Microsoft v. John Does 1-82*, Case No. 3:13-CV-00319-GCM (W.D. N.C. 2013) (Mullen, J.); *Microsoft v. John Does 1-8*, Case No. A-13-CV-1014-SS (Sparks, J.) (W.D. Tex. 2013); *Microsoft v. John Does 1-8*, Case No. 1:14-cv-811-LO-IDD (O'Grady, J.) (E.D. Va. 2014); *Microsoft v. John Does 1-3*, Case No. 1:15-cv-240-LMB/IDO (Brinkema, J.) (E.D. Va. 2015); *Microsoft v. John Does 1-5*, 1:15-cv-06565-JBW-LB (E.D.N.Y. 2015); *Microsoft v. John Does 1-2*, 1:16-cv-00993-GBL-TCB (E.D. Va. 2016). Microsoft, however, has not previously sought this particular *ex parte* relief in this district as to these particular Defendants.

8. Microsoft has identified certain Internet domains as part of the C2 infrastructure wherein Defendants control and operate Gamarue, which are set forth in Appendix A to the Complaint. A true and correct copy of Appendix A to the Complaint is attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**.

9. I understand that personnel from Microsoft and ESET, a cybersecurity company, including Jean-Ian Boutin, Vishant Patel, and Rodelio Fiñones, have

worked to determine the true identities of Defendants. On information and belief, the information provided by Defendants when registering their domains is false. Based on my prior experience and based on ESET's research regarding these domains, name servers, and IP addresses, it is likely that further contact information has been provided by Defendants to the service providers, hosting companies, and Internet domain name registrars through the domain, name server, and IP address registration process. This information may include individual and entity names, physical addresses, e-mail addresses, facsimile numbers, and telephone numbers.

10. To the extent Defendants have provided such information, the information most likely to be accurate are e-mail addresses as, upon information and belief, such are necessary to register IP addresses or Internet domains. It is more likely that the e-mail addresses exist and are functional than it is likely that the personal names and physical addresses are correct or accurate. I conclude this in part based on the fact that when registrants set up IP addresses and Internet domains they must receive confirmation from the hosting company and Internet domain registrars via e-mail in order to utilize and access the IP addresses and Internet domains. Other contact information, such as physical address information, is more likely to be false. I base this conclusion, in part, on past experiences relating to botnets in which IP address or domain registration name, address and telephone number were determined to be fraudulent or stolen, but the e-mail address provided

by defendants was, in fact, associated with them. Further supporting this conclusion, in May 2010, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”)—an organization that administers the domain name system—issued a study indicating the ease with which name and physical mailing addresses for domain registrations may be falsified. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 5** is a true and correct copy of the ICANN’s May 2010 study, “WHOIS Proxy/Privacy Service Abuse – Definition.”

11. Based on my prior experience and from Microsoft’s research, I believe that the most reliable contact information for effecting communication with Defendants are e-mail addresses that have been discovered to be associated with Defendants’ IP addresses or domains, and the contact information, particularly e-mail addresses, in possession of the Internet domain registrars. From my research, I conclude that such e-mail address is likely to be valid, as it is necessary to obtain web hosting services or Internet domain names and receive communications from the registrar. Upon provision of such contact information by the web hosting companies and the Internet domain registries to Microsoft, notice of this proceeding and service of process may be attempted using such contact information. Through my research, I have not discovered any other information that would enable, at this point, further identification of or contact with Defendants other than that in the possession of these companies. I believe that absent an order directing Doe

discovery, these companies will be unlikely to share contact information necessary to provide notice and service to Defendants.

II. NOTICE AND SERVICE OF PROCESS

A. Microsoft Has Robust Plans To Provide Notice

12. On behalf of Microsoft, Alston will attempt notice of any TRO and preliminary injunction hearing, as well as service of the Complaint by sending the pleadings and/or links to the pleadings to e-mail addresses, facsimile numbers and mailing addresses associated with Defendants or otherwise provided by Defendants to the Internet domain registries and IP address hosting companies.

13. On behalf of Microsoft, Alston will attempt notice of any TRO, preliminary injunction hearing and service of the Complaint by publishing those pleadings on a publicly accessible website located at: www.noticeofpleadings.net/gamarue. Alston will publish such notice on the website for a period of six months. The following information will be made available on the website:

- a. The information contained in the case caption and the content of the summons.
- b. The following summary statement of the object of the complaint and the demand for relief: "Plaintiff Microsoft Corporation ("Microsoft") has sued Defendants John Does 1-51 associated

with the Internet domains listed below. Microsoft alleges that Defendants have violated various Federal and state laws by hosting a cybercriminal operation through these Internet domains, causing unlawful intrusion into Microsoft and Microsoft's customers' computers and computing devices; and intellectual property violations to the injury of Microsoft and Microsoft's customers. Microsoft seeks a preliminary injunction directing the registries associated with these Internet domains to take all steps necessary to disable access to and operation of these Internet domains to ensure that changes or access to the Internet domains cannot be made absent a court order and that all content and material associated with these Internet domains are to be isolated and preserved pending resolution of the dispute. Microsoft seeks a permanent injunction, other equitable relief and damages. Full copies of the pleading documents are available at www.noticeofpleadings.net/gamarue."

- c. The date of first publication.
- d. The following text: "NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you

must file with the court a legal document called a “motion” or “answer.” The “motion” or “answer” must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 21 days of the date of first publication specified herein. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Microsoft’s attorneys, Michael Zweiback at Alston & Bird LLP, 333 South Hope Street, 16th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071. If you have questions, you should consult with your own attorney immediately.”

14. On behalf of Microsoft, Alston will serve the Internet domain registries listed at Appendix A to the Complaint with all copies of all documents served on Defendants.

15. On behalf of Microsoft, Alston will retain a national service of process firm to attempt notice of any TRO and preliminary injunction hearing, as well as service of the complaint by personal delivery on any Defendant in this case that has provided contact information in the United States. Upon execution of any TRO, Alston will instruct the process server to deliver these documents to any U.S. addresses associated with Defendants.

16. On behalf of Microsoft, Alston will prepare Requests for Service Abroad of Judicial or Extrajudicial Documents to attempt notice of any TRO and preliminary injunction hearing, as well as service of the Complaint on any

Defendants in this case that have provided contact information in foreign countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention on Service Abroad or any similar treaty, and will comply with the requirements of those treaties. Upon entry of any TRO, Alston will execute and deliver these documents to the appropriate Central Authority and request, pursuant to the Hague Convention or similar treaty, that the Central Authority deliver these documents to the contact information provided by Defendants. I am informed, and therefore believe, that notice of the preliminary injunction hearing and service of the Complaint could take approximately three to six months or longer through this process.

17. Microsoft has not and will not publicize the requested relief until the TRO has been executed.

B. Notice Under ICANN Domain Name Registration Policies

18. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 6** is a true and correct copy of a document describing ICANN's role. Exhibit 6 reflects the following: ICANN is a not-for-profit partnership formed in 1998. ICANN coordinates domain names and IP addresses (unique identifying numbers for computers throughout the world), which enables the operation of the global Internet. ICANN's responsibilities include running an accreditation system for domain name "registrars." Domain name registrars enter into arrangements with individual "registrants" who wish to register particular domain names. ICANN has a contractual relationship with all accredited

registrars that set forth the registrars' obligations. The purpose of the requirements of ICANN's accreditation agreements with registrars is to provide a consistent and stable environment for the domain name system, and hence the Internet.

19. A true and correct copy of the 2013 ICANN Registrar Accreditation Agreement between ICANN and domain name registrars is attached hereto as **Exhibit 7**.

20. The following summarizes provisions set forth in the ICANN accreditation agreements with registrars at Exhibit 7.

ICANN Requires That Registrants Agree To Provide Accurate Contact Information

21. Section 3.7.7.1 of the accreditation agreement provides that domain registrants will provide the registrar accurate and reliable contact information. In particular, the domain name registrant:

“shall provide to Registrar accurate and reliable contact details and correct and update them within seven (7) days of any change during the term of the Registered Name registration, including: the full name, postal address, e-mail address, voice telephone number, and fax number if available of the Registered Name Holder; name of authorized person for contact purposes in the case of an Registered Name Holder that is an organization, association, or corporation....”

22. Section 3.7.7.2 of the accreditation agreement provides that if the registrant fails to respond for over 15 days to a registrar's inquiry about inaccurate

contact information, the domain may be cancelled. In particular, the domain name registrant's:

willful provision of inaccurate or unreliable information, its willful failure to update information provided to Registrar within seven (7) days of any change, or its failure to respond for over fifteen (15) days to inquiries by Registrar concerning the accuracy of contact details associated with the Registered Name Holder's registration shall constitute a material breach of the Registered Name Holder-registrar contract and be a basis for suspension and/or cancellation of the Registered Name registration.

ICANN Requires That Registrants Agree To A Dispute Resolution Policy Under Which Notice Is Given By Sending The Complaint To The Registrant's Contact Information

23. Section 3.8 of the accreditation agreement provides that registrars shall require registrants to agree to the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy ("UDRP"). The UDRP is a policy between a registrar and its customer and is included in registration agreements for all ICANN-accredited registrars. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 8** is a true and correct copy of the UDRP.

24. As part of the registrant's agreement to the UDRP, the registrant agrees to the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy ("Rules"). Attached hereto as **Exhibit 9** is a true and correct copy of the Rules.

25. Pursuant to the Rules, "Written Notice" of a complaint regarding a domain requires electronic transmittal of the complaint to a domain registrant and

hardcopy notification that the complaint was sent by electronic means. In particular,

“Written Notice” is defined as:

hardcopy notification by the Provider to the Respondent of the commencement of an administrative proceeding under the Policy which shall inform the respondent that a complaint has been filed against it, and which shall state that the Provider has electronically transmitted the complaint including any annexes to the Respondent by the means specified herein. Written notice does not include a hardcopy of the complaint itself or any annexes.

26. Pursuant to the Rules, notice of a complaint may be achieved by the registrar forwarding the complaint to the postal address, facsimile number and e-mail addresses of the domain registrant. In particular, the Rules define the procedure for providing notice as follows:

(a) When forwarding a complaint, including any annexes, electronically to the Respondent, it shall be the Provider’s responsibility to employ reasonably available means calculated to achieve actual notice to Respondent. Achieving actual notice, or employing the following measures to do so, shall discharge this responsibility:

(i) sending Written Notice of the complaint to all postal-mail and facsimile addresses (A) shown in the domain name’s registration data in Registrar’s Whois database for the registered domain-name holder, the technical contact, and the administrative contact and (B) supplied by Registrar to the Provider for the registration’s billing contact; and

(ii) sending the complaint, including any annexes, in electronic form by e-mail to:

(A) the e-mail addresses for those technical, administrative and billing contacts;

(B) postmaster@<the contested domain name>; and

(C) if the domain name (or “www.” followed by the domain name) resolves to an active web page other than a generic page the Provider concludes is maintained by a registrar or ISP for parking domain-names registered by multiple domain-name holders), any e-mail address shown or e-mail links on that web page; and

(iii) sending the complaint, including any annexes, to any e-mail address the Respondent has notified the Provider it prefers and, to the extent practicable, to all other e-mail addresses provided to the Provider by Complainant...

27. The effect of the UDRP and the Rules is that domain name registrants agree that notice of a complaint relating to their domains may be provided by the foregoing means, including by sending the complaint to postal, facsimile and e-mail addresses provided by registrants.

ICANN Requires That Registrants Agree That Domains May Be Suspended Or Cancelled Pursuant To The Dispute Resolution Policy

28. Section 3.7.7.11 of the accreditation agreement provides that registrars shall require that a domain name registrant “shall agree that its registration of the Registered Name shall be subject to suspension, cancellation, or transfer” pursuant to ICANN’s policies for the resolution of disputes concerning domain names.

ICANN Requires That Registrants Agree Not To Use Domains In An Illegal Manner

29. Under Section 2 of the UDRP, the domain registrant agrees that:

By applying to register a domain name, or by asking us to maintain or renew a domain name registration, you hereby represent and warrant to us that (a) the statements that you made in your Registration Agreement are complete and accurate; (b) to your knowledge, the registration of the

domain name will not infringe upon or otherwise violate the rights of any third party; (c) you are not registering the domain for an unlawful purpose; and (d) you will not knowingly use the domain name in violation of any applicable laws or regulations. It is your responsibility to determine whether your domain name registration infringes or violates someone else's rights.

30. Similarly, section 3.7.7.9 of the accreditation agreement provides that the domain name registrant "shall represent that, to the best of the Registered Name Holder's knowledge and belief, neither the registration of the Registered Name nor the manner in which it is directly or indirectly used infringes the legal rights of any third party."

**Hosting Companies And Internet Domain Registrars Send
Account-Related Information To Customer-Provided
Contact**

31. Based on my past experience and my research regarding Internet domain registrars, third party Internet hosting companies and Internet domain name registrars require that customers must provide contact information, including the email address, postal address, and a valid phone number where they can reach their customers. During the domain name registration process, registrars collect the registrant's e-mail address, postal address, and a phone number. These Internet domain registrars further provide that they may contact their respective customers based on the information provided by that customer.

**Internet Domain Name Registrars Terms Of Service Prohibit
Customers From Using Services In An Illegal Manner**

32. One of the registries included in Appendix A to the Complaint, Afilias, requires that all registrants for .info top-level domains comply with the Afilias Domain Anti-Abuse Policy, last revised on June 27, 2017 and available at <https://www.afilias.info/sites/afilias.info/files/Afilias%20Domain%20Anti-Abuse%2027JUN2017.pdf>, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as

Exhibit 10. Such policy prohibits, among other conduct:

- Illegal or fraudulent actions;
- Spam: The use of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited bulk messages. The term applies to e-mail spam and similar abuses such as instant messaging spam, mobile messaging spam, and the spamming of Websites and Internet forums. An example, for purposes of illustration, would be the use of email in denial-of-service attacks;
- Phishing: The use of counterfeit Web pages that are designed to trick recipients into divulging sensitive data such as usernames, passwords, or financial data;
- Pharming: The redirecting of unknowing users to fraudulent sites or services, typically through DNS hijacking or poisoning;
- Willful distribution of malware: The dissemination of software designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system without the owner's informed consent. Examples include, without limitation, computer viruses, worms, keyloggers, and trojan horses;
- Fast flux hosting: Use of fast-flux techniques to disguise the location of Websites or other Internet services, or to avoid detection and mitigation efforts, or to host illegal activities. Fastflux techniques use DNS to frequently change the location on the Internet to

which the domain name of an Internet host or name server resolves. Fast flux hosting may be used only with prior permission of Afilias;

- Botnet command and control: Services run on a domain name that are used to control a collection of compromised computers or “zombies,” or to direct denial-of-service attacks (DDoS attacks);
- Distribution of child pornography; and
- Illegal Access to Other Computers or Networks: Illegally accessing computers, accounts, or networks belonging to another party, or attempting to penetrate security measures of another individual’s system (often known as “hacking”). Also, any activity that might be used as a precursor to an attempted system penetration (e.g., port scan, stealth scan, or other information gathering activity).

Id.

33. Such policy also requires that registrars include in their applicable terms of service a provision “prohibiting Registered Name Holders from distributing malware, abusively operating botnets, phishing, piracy, trademark or copyright infringement, fraudulent or deceptive practices, counterfeiting or otherwise engaging in activity contrary to applicable law. . . .” *Id.* Based on my past experience and my current research of other Internet domain registrars and hosting companies, and on information and belief, the other Internet domain registrars and hosting companies used by Defendants prohibit similar unlawful conduct.

III. OTHER AUTHORITY AND EVIDENCE

34. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 11** is a true and correct copy of the June 2, 2009 *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause in the matter *FTC v. Pricewert LLC et al.*, Case No. 09-2407 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (Whyte J.).

35. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 12** is a true and correct copy of the June 15, 2009 Preliminary Injunction in the matter *FTC v. Pricewert LLC et al.*, Case No. 09-2407 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (Whyte J.).

36. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 13** is a true and correct copy of the Indictment and supporting materials in the criminal case *U.S. v. Ancheta*, Case No. 05-1060 (C.D. Cal. 2005).

37. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 14** is a true and correct copy of the Sentencing in the criminal case *U.S. v. Ancheta*, Case No. 05-1060 (C.D. Cal. May 8, 2006).

38. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 15** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause in the matter *Microsoft Corporation v. John Does 1-27*, Case No. 1:10-cv-00156 (E.D. Va. 2010) (Brinkema J.).

39. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 16** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter *Microsoft Corporation v. John Does 1-27*, Case No. 1:10-cv-00156 (E.D. Va., 2010) (Brinkema J.).

40. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 17** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-11*, Case No. 2:11-cv-00222 (W.D. Wa. 2011) (Robart, J.).

41. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 18** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter *Microsoft Corporation v. John Doe 1-11*, Case No. 2:11-cv-00222 (W.D. Wa. 2011) (Robart, J.).

42. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 19** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause in the matter *Microsoft Corporation v. Dominique Alexander Piatti et al.*, Case No. 1:11-cv-01017 (E.D. Va. 2011) (Cacheris, J.).

43. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 20** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter *Microsoft Corporation v. Dominique Alexander Piatti et al.*, Case No. 1:11-cv-01017 (E.D. Va. 2011) (Cacheris, J.).

44. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 21** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order, Seizure Order and Order To Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft Corporation et al. v. John Does 1-39 et al.*, Case No. 12-cv-1335 (E.D.N.Y. 2012) (Johnson, J.).

45. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 22** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft Corporation et al. v. John Does 1-39 et al.*, Case No. 12-cv-1335 (E.D.N.Y. 2012) (Johnson, J.).

46. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 23** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order To Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft Corporation v. Peng Yong et al.*, Case No. 1:12-cv-1004-GBL (E.D. Va. 2012) (Lee, J.).

47. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 24** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order To Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft Corp. v. John Does 1-18 et al.*, Case No. 1:13-cv-139-LMB/TCB (E.D. Va. 2013).

48. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 25** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft Corp. v. John Does 1-18 et al.*, Case No. 1:13-cv-139-LMB/TCB (E.D. Va. 2013) (Brinkema, J.).

49. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 26** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order To Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-82*, Case No. 3:13-CV-00319-GCM (W.D. N.C. 2013) (Mullen, J.).

50. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 27** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-82*, Case No. 3:13-CV-00319-GCM (W.D. N.C. 2013) (Mullen, J.).

51. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 28** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order To Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft Corporation v. John Does 1-8 et al.*, Case No. A13-cv-1014-SS (W.D. Tex. 2013) (Sparks, J.).

52. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 29** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order To Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-8*, Case No. 1:14-cv-811-LO-IDD (E.D. Va. 2014) (O'Grady, J.).

53. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 30** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-8*, Case No. 1:14-cv-811-LO-IDD (E.D. Va. 2014) (O'Grady, J.).

54. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 31** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order To Show Cause in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-3*, Case No. 1:15-cv-240-LMB/IDO (E.D. Va. 2015) (Brinkema, J.).

55. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 32** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-3*, Case No. 1:15-cv-240-LMB/IDO (E.D. Va. 2015) (Brinkema, J.).

56. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 33** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Order To Show Cause Re Preliminary Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-5*, Case No. 1:15-cv-06565-JBW-LB (E.D.N.Y. 2015) (Bloom, J.).

57. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 34** is a true and correct copy of the Permanent Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-5*, Case No. 1:15-cv-06565-NGG-LB (E.D.N.Y. 2017) (Garaufis, J.).

58. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 35** is a true and correct copy of the *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-2*, 1:16-cv-00993-GBL-TCB (E.D. Va. 2016) (Lee, J.).

59. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 36** is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Injunction in the matter of Preliminary Injunction in the matter of *Microsoft v. John Does 1-2*, 1:16-cv-00993-GBL-TCB (E.D. Va. 2016) (Lee, J.).

60. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 37** is a true and correct copy of ICANN's "Guidance for Preparing Domain Name Orders, Seizures & Takedowns."

[Signature on next page]

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
Executed this 13th day of November, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia.



Michael Zweiback

Victims

Gamarue Malware

The Defendants

Requested Relief

Microsoft Corporation

V.

JOHN DOES 1-51, CONTROLLING MULTIPLE
COMPUTER BOTNETS THEREBY INJURING
MICROSOFT AND ITS CUSTOMERS

FILED UNDER SEAL

United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
November 14, 2017

CC 1

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
Timeline of Past Botnet Disruptions			
Conficker November 2008 <i>Botnet Worm</i>	Waledac February 2010 <i>Spam</i>	Rustock March 2011 <i>Spam</i>	Kelihos September 2011 <i>Spam, Bitcoin Mining, Distributed DOS Attacks</i>
Worm spreads via TCP and UDP ports. Worms infected other devices in common internet. Botnet cyber security entities joined forces. Microsoft-led incident response unit shut down.	Trojan that collects email addresses, distributes spam, post data to web, downloads executable files. Proving model of industry-led efforts. Seized 70-90,000 devices from the botnet.	Directed cyber search results took victims to dangerous sites. Malware spread via TCP and UDP ports. Worms infected other devices in common internet. Botnet cyber security entities joined forces. Microsoft-led incident response unit shut down.	Steals identity, financial info., controls PC, turns off firewall, install other malware, ransomware. Cross-sector partnership with financial services. Focused on disruption because of technical complexity.
ZeroAccess aka Siraef December 2013 <i>Advertising Click-Fraud</i>	GameOver Zeus June 2014 <i>Identity Theft / Financial Fraud</i>	Bladabindi & Jenxcus (B106) June 2014 <i>Identity Theft, Financial Fraud, Privacy Invasion</i>	Caphaw July 2014 <i>Identity Theft / Financial Fraud</i>
Hijacks search results, takes victim to dangerous sites. Cost online advertisers upwards of \$2.7 million each month. Successful disruption in partnership with European EC3, FBI, & 10 Networks.	Extremely sophisticated trojan which steals banking credentials. Spread via spam or phishing messages. Worked in partnership with LE providing Technical Remediation.	Malware using Dynamic DNS for command. It involved password and identity theft, webcam and other privacy invasions. Over 200 different types of malware impacted.	Focused on online financial fraud responsible for more than \$250M in losses. Coordinated disruption with public-private sector partnerships.
Bamital February 2013 <i>Advertising Click-Fraud</i>	Zeus March 2012 <i>Identity Theft, Financial Fraud</i>	Nitol September 2012 <i>Malware Spreading Botnet, Distributed DOS Attacks</i>	Citadel June 2013 <i>Identity Theft, Financial Fraud</i>
Hijacks search results took victims to dangerous sites. Malware spread via TCP and UDP ports. Worms infected other devices in common internet. Botnet cyber security entities joined forces. Microsoft-led incident response unit shut down.	Steals identity, financial info., controls PC, turns off firewall, install other malware, ransomware. Cross-sector partnership with financial services. Focused on disruption because of technical complexity.	Malware spread via TCP and UDP ports. Worms infected other devices in common internet. Botnet cyber security entities joined forces. Microsoft-led incident response unit shut down.	Committed online financial fraud responsible for more than \$500M in losses. Coordinated disruption with public-private sector partnerships to combat cybercrime.
Strontium August 2016 to present <i>Highly targeted theft of sensitive information</i>	Dorkbot December 2015 <i>Identity Theft / Financial Fraud</i>	Simda April 2015 <i>Identity Theft / Financial Fraud</i>	Ramnit February 2015 <i>Identity Theft / Financial Fraud</i>
Disables security, steals credentials, personal info., distributes other malware. Spreads via USB, messaging, and social networks. Partnership with Homeland Security and international agencies.	Uses remote access to steal personal and banking info., as well as install other malware. Partnered with Interpol and industry partners and activated CME platform, to disrupt global malware attack.	Module-based malware which concentrates on stealing credential information from banking websites. International public-private partnership shut down C&C servers, redirected 300 domains.	Disables security, steals credentials, personal info., distributes other malware. Spreads via USB, messaging, and social networks. Partnership with Homeland Security and international agencies.

CC 2

CC 2

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
Similar TROs for Other Malware Previously Granted			

Similar TROs for other malware previously granted by:

- Eastern District of VA – Aug. 5, 2016
- Eastern District of NY – Nov. 23, 2015
- Eastern District of VA – Feb. 20, 2015
- Eastern District of VA – Jun. 27, 2014
- Western District of TX – Nov. 25, 2013
- Western District of NC – May 29, 2013
- Eastern District of VA – Jan. 31, 2013
- Eastern District of VA – Sept. 10, 2012
- Eastern District of NY – Mar. 19, 2012
- Eastern District of VA – Sept. 22, 2011
- Western District of WA – Mar. 9, 2011
- Eastern District of VA – Feb. 22, 2010
- Northern District of CA – Jun. 2, 2009

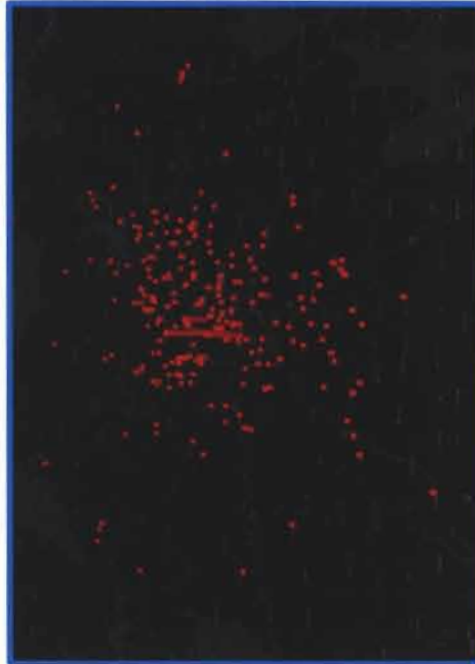
Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
Victims			
CC 4			

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
Victims			

A view of the victims:



US victims



Georgia area victims

- Red is associated with computers impacted by Gamarue
- Gamarue infects Microsoft Windows operating system on victim computers
- As many as 3-4 million monthly encounters (worldwide)

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
Victims			

Harm to victims:



Georgia area victims

- Gives cybercriminals control of victim computers.
- Delivers a “devil’s brew” of malware on victim computers.
 - Including: Backdoors that provide cybercriminals access to victim computers, Ransomware, Password Stealers, Spammers, and Trojans capable of stealing financial information leading to large financial losses and potential identity theft.
- Disables built-in security features of victim computers; leaves victim computers unprotected, vulnerable to further harm.
- Steals victims’ sensitive information, and credentials (e.g., email, social media sites, etc.).



US victims

- Turns victim computers into instruments of deception and theft to carryout additional criminal activity.
 - Victims suffer fraud, identify and financial theft, loss of privacy, ransom, spam.
- Damages victim computers and Microsoft-licensed software installed on their computers; prevents normal computer operation.
 - Even with professional assistance, cleaning an infected computer can be exceedingly difficult, time-consuming, and frustrating.

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
Victims			

Harm to Microsoft:

- **Irreparable harm:** Long term injury to Microsoft’s reputation and brand when victims wrongfully blame Microsoft software for harms caused by Gamarue

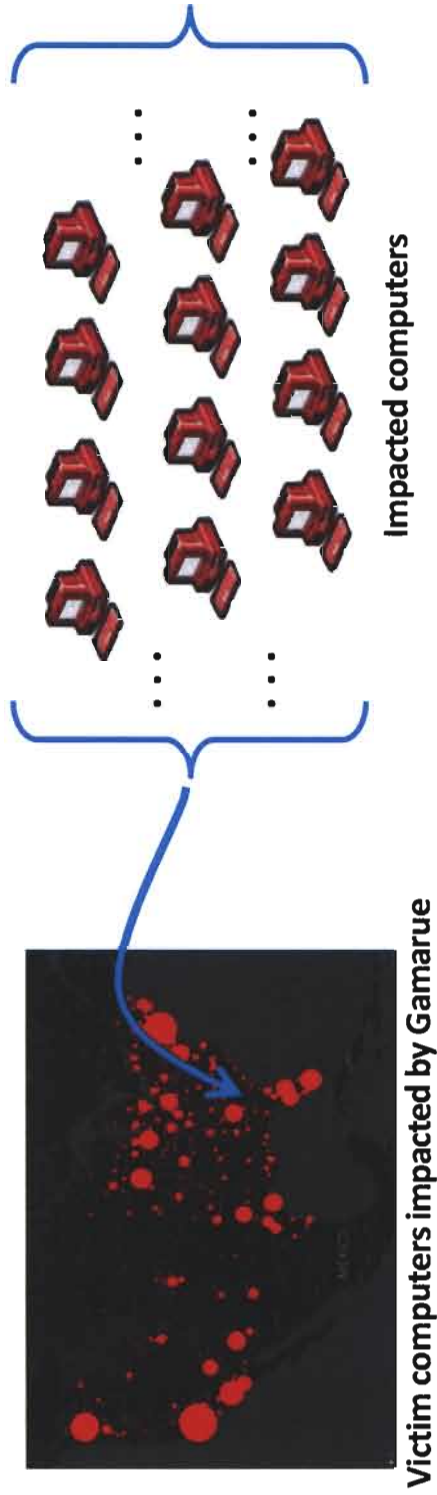


- Malware degrades performance of Microsoft products and services
- Microsoft’s customers face exploitation, including loss of privacy, identity theft, financial theft

- **Direct financial injury and cost:** Microsoft must invest substantial resources, money and time detecting and mitigating the Gamarue malware to protect Microsoft customers and the Microsoft, Windows, and Internet Explorer brands.

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
<div>The Gamarue Malware</div>			
CC 8			

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
The Gamarue Malware			



The Gamarue Malicious Software (“Malware”) Allows Cybercriminals To:

- Steal victims’ sensitive data (e.g., passwords, account numbers, documents)
- See the victims’ screens / record victims’ keystrokes
- Install additional malware onto victims’ computers
- **Control victims’ computers as a “botnet” to perpetrate malicious activity**

Victims

Gamarue Malware

The Defendants

Requested Relief

The Gamarue Malware

Background on Botnets

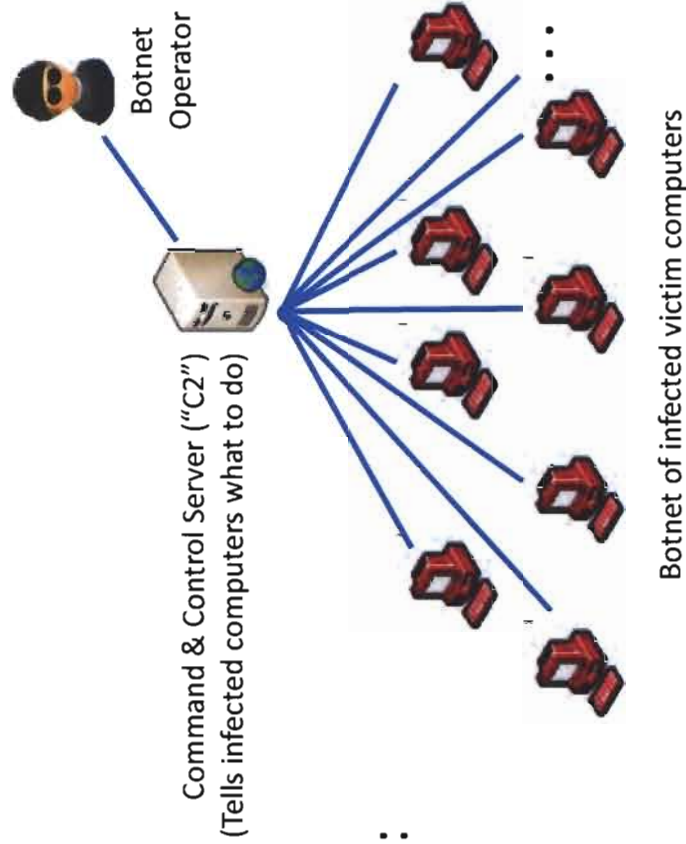
A collection of infected computers under the control of a cybercriminal known as a bot herder

Can be used for:

- Stealing data from victim computer
- Spamming campaigns
- Coordinated attacks on websites

A cybercriminal commodity:

- Botnets can be leased, rented, sold
- Victim computers traded, sold



CC 10

Victims

Gamarue Malware

The Defendants

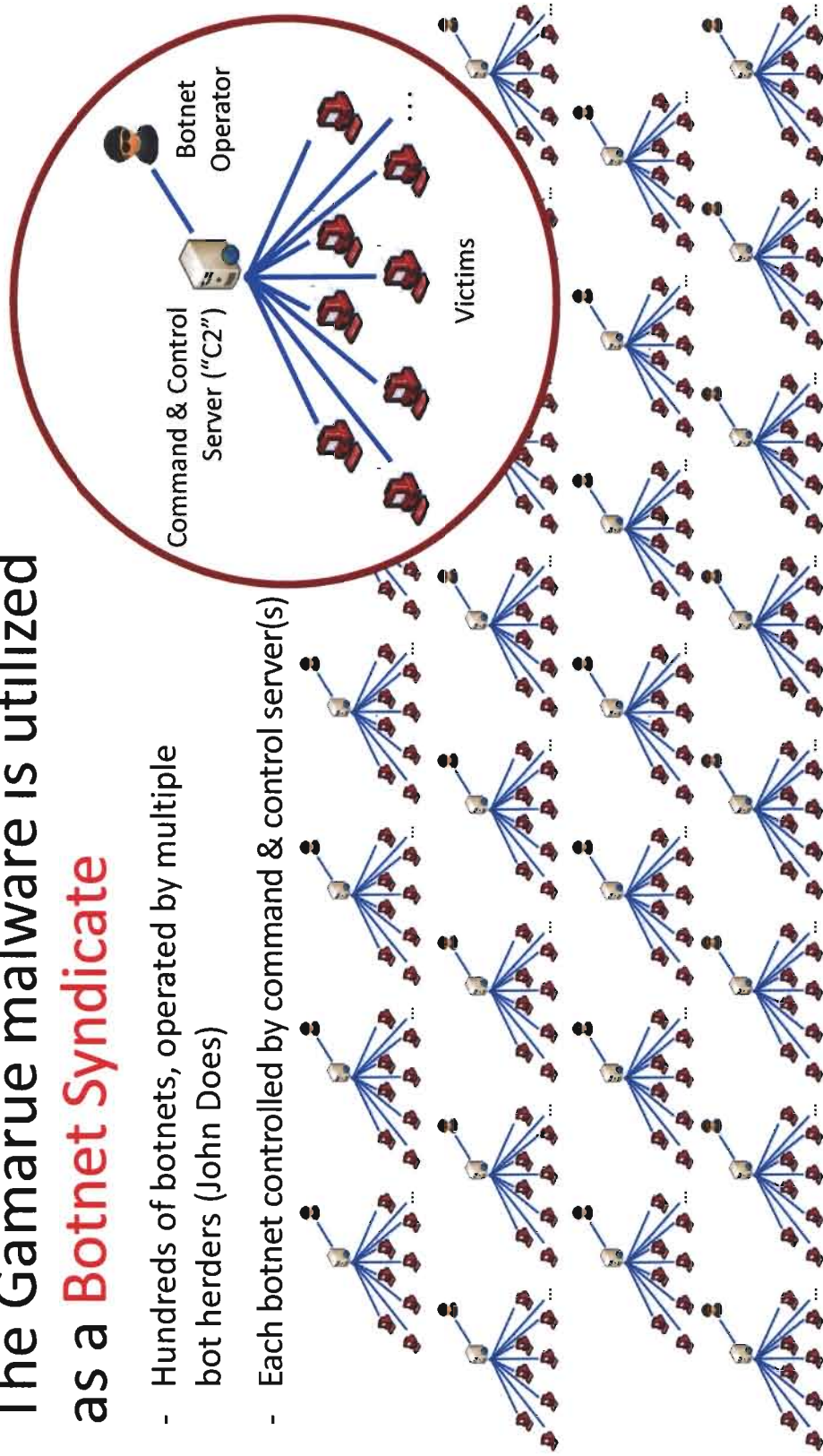
Requested Relief

The Gamarue Malware

The Botnet Syndicate

The Gamarue malware is utilized as a **Botnet Syndicate**

- Hundreds of botnets, operated by multiple bot herders (John Does)
- Each botnet controlled by command & control server(s)



CC 11

Victims

Gamarue Malware

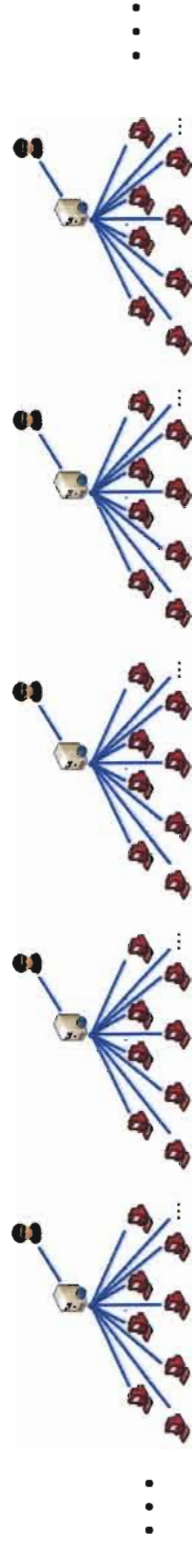
The Defendants

Requested Relief

The Gamarue Malware

The Botnet Syndicate

There are **451+** distinctly different botnets.

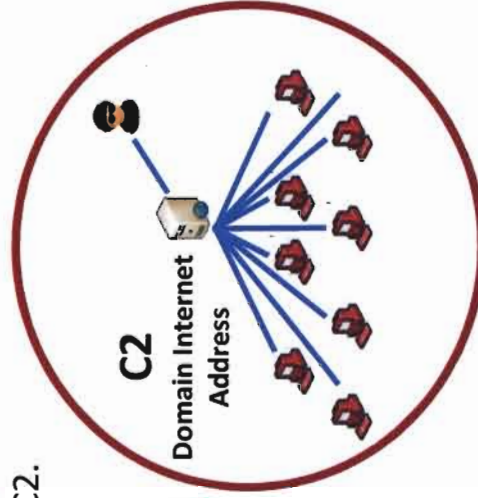


— **A command and control server (“C2”) used to control each botnet.**

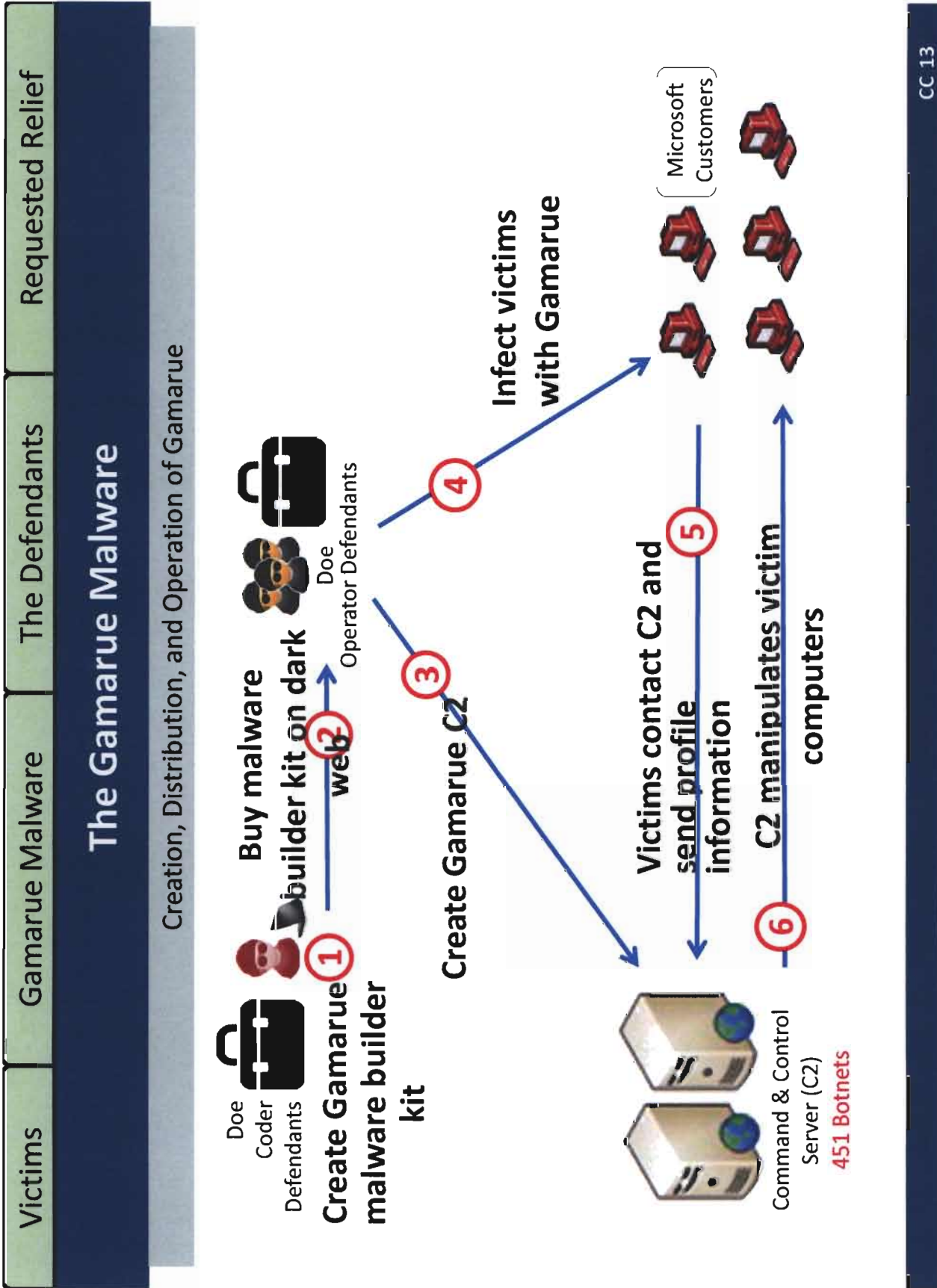
- Sometimes a botnet may be controlled by more than one C2.
- We are requesting seizure of the active US-based Gamarue C2 domains.

— **Each C2 has a unique “domain” Internet address.**

- Using the domain (address), the infected computers can contact the C2 to receive nefarious instructions.
- The **domains are hardcoded** into Gamarue computer code.



CC 12



Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
<h2>The Gamarue Malware</h2> <p>The Gamarue Builder Kit</p>			

Gamarue builder kit includes a builder program to create the botnet

- Provided by the Coder Defendant cybercriminals who developed and maintain the Gamarue computer program codebase.



Builder kit includes a crime-toolbox of malicious tools (called plugin modules)

- Other criminals first purchase the Gamarue builder kits from cybercrime forums
- Then they customize the kit with optional additional plugin modules.



Gamarue builder kit is monetized: Some plugin modules are provided for free, others are available for additional cost

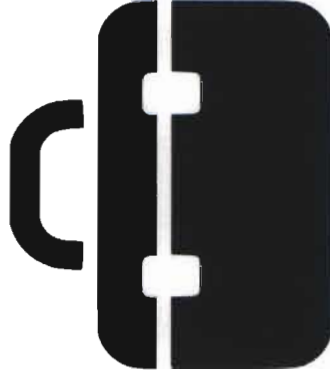
- The Gamarue developers profit from the sale of these modules.

Victims	Gamarue Malware	The Defendants	Requested Relief
The Gamarue Malware			

The Gamarue Builder Kit

Gamarue crime-toolbox plugin modules

- **Keylogger (\$150)** – Used for logging victims keystrokes & mouse activity for stealing usernames and passwords, financial information, etc.
- **Rootkit (included with builder kit)** – Surreptitiously injects into all processes running on a victim computer to give Gamarue persistency.
- **Socks4/5 (included with builder kit)** – Turns victim computer into a proxy server for serving malware, malicious instructions to other computers on the Internet.
- **Formgrabber (\$250)** – Captures any data that is submitted by a victim when online. Targets web browsers (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, and Internet Explorer).
- **Teamviewer (\$250)** – enables remote control, spying on victim's desktop, and file transfer among other functions.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Russian Developer of the Notorious "Citadel" Malware Sentenced to Prison

ATLANTA - Dmitry Belorossoff, a/k/a Rainerfox, has been sentenced to four years, six months in prison following his guilty plea for conspiring to commit computer fraud. Belorossoff distributed and installed Citadel, a sophisticated malware that infected over 11 million computers worldwide, onto victim computers using a variety of infection methods.

"Global cyber-crime requires a global response, and this case is a perfect example," said U.S. Attorney John Horn. "This defendant committed computer hacking offenses on victims in the United States from the relative safety of his home country of Russia, but he was arrested by our law enforcement partners in Spain. As malware and hacking toolkits continue to victimize computer users around the world, we will step up our efforts to focus internationally on the criminals who develop these programs."

"The FBI, in working with its international partners, continues to demonstrate that international boundaries no longer provide a safe haven for cybercriminals targeting U.S. individuals or interests domestically. Successful investigation and prosecution of cases such as this are directly attributable to the increased capabilities and determination of our cyber trained investigators and our foreign based legal attachés working collectively to not only disrupt and dismantle these foreign based hacking efforts, but also to bring those individuals responsible to justice," said J. Britt Johnson, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Atlanta Field Office.

According to U.S. Attorney Horn, the charges and other information presented in court: In late 2011, a malicious software toolkit named "Citadel" began appearing for sale on invite-only Internet website forums frequented by cybercriminals. Citadel was a sophisticated form of malware known as a "banking Trojan" designed to steal online banking credentials, credit card information, personally identifiable information, and, ultimately, funds through unauthorized electronic transfers. Citadel electronically infected the computers of unsuspecting individuals and financial institutions, creating "bots," which cybercriminals, such as Belorossoff, then remotely accessed and controlled.

Cybercriminals, including Belorossoff, distributed and installed Citadel onto victim computers through a variety of infection methods, including malicious attachments to spam emails and commercial Internet ads containing malware or links to malware. Since 2011, multiple versions of Citadel have been distributed and operated throughout the world. Citadel became one of the most advanced crimeware tools available in the

underground market, as it had the capability, among other things, to block antivirus sites on infected computers. According to industry estimates, Citadel, and other botnets like it, infected approximately 11 million computers worldwide and are responsible for over \$500 million in losses.

In 2012, Belorossoff downloaded a version of Citadel, which he then used to operate a Citadel botnet primarily from Russia. Belorossoff remotely controlled over 7,000 victim bots, including at least one infected computer system with an IP address resolving to the Northern District of Georgia. Belorossoff's Citadel botnet contained personal information from the infected victim computers, including online banking credentials for U.S.-based financial institutions with federally insured deposits, credit card information, and other personally identifying information.

In addition to operating a Citadel botnet, Belorossoff also provided online assistance with the goal of developing suggested improvements to Citadel, including posting comments on criminal forums on the Internet and electronically communicating with other cybercriminals via email and instant messaging.

For example, in 2012 Belorossoff made numerous postings to Citadelmovement.com, an online forum in which Belorossoff discussed his Citadel botnet and recommended improvements to the Citadel malware. In those postings, which were in Russian, Belorossoff shared his concurrence with the improvements to Citadel recommended by others and commented on the efficacy of additional criminal functions other customers had recommended as enhancements to the Citadel malware.

Belorossoff, 22, of St. Petersburg, Russia, has been sentenced by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Thomas W. Thrash Jr., to four years, six months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$322,409.09. Belorossoff was convicted on July 18, 2014, after he pleaded guilty.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Steven D. Grimberg and Scott Ferber prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact the U.S. Attorney's Public Affairs Office at USAGAN.PressEmails@usdoj.gov or (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga>

Topic(s):

Cyber Crime

Component(s):

USAO - Georgia, Northern

Updated September 29, 2015

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NORTHERN DISTRICT *of* GEORGIA

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Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Russian Citizen who Helped Develop the "Citadel" Malware Toolkit is Sentenced

ATLANTA - Mark Vartanyan, also known as "Kolypto," was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Mark H. Cohen to serve five years in federal prison, following his guilty plea in connection with his role in developing, improving and maintaining the "Citadel" malware toolkit between 2012 and 2014.

"Citadel caused vast amounts of harm to financial institutions and individuals around the world," said U.S. Attorney John Horn. "Mark Vartanyan utilized his technical expertise to enable Citadel into becoming one of the most pernicious malware toolkits of its time, and for that, he will serve significant time in federal prison."

David J. LeValley, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Atlanta Field Office, stated: "Malicious software and botnets are rarely created by a single individual. Cybercrime is an organized team effort involving sophisticated, talented, and tech savvy individuals. Today's sentencing of Mr. Vartanyan, who was engaged in the development, improvement, maintenance and distribution of malware, both removes a key resource from the cyber underworld and serves as a strong deterrent to others who may be contributing to the development of botnets and malware. The threat posed by cyber criminals in the U.S. and abroad is ever increasing. However, the FBI will not cease in its efforts to identify, pursue and defeat cyber criminals regardless of how deep in the cyber underground they reside or where they are located in the real world."

According to United States Attorney Horn, the charges, and other information presented in court: "Citadel" is a malware toolkit designed to infect computer systems and steal financial account credentials and personally identifiable information from victim computer networks. Beginning in or about 2011, Citadel was offered for sale on invite-only, Russian-language internet forums frequented by cybercriminals. Users of Citadel targeted and exploited the computer networks of major financial and government institutions around the world, including several financial institutions in the United States. According to industry estimates, Citadel infected approximately 11 million computers worldwide and is responsible for over \$500 million in losses.

Between on or about August 21, 2012 and January 9, 2013, while residing in Ukraine, and again between on or about April 9, 2014 and June 2, 2014, while residing in Norway, Vartanyan engaged in the development, improvement, maintenance and distribution of Citadel. During these periods, Vartanyan uploaded numerous electronic files that consisted of Citadel malware, components, updates and patches, as well as customer information, all with the intent of improving Citadel's illicit functionality.

Vartanyan, a Russian national, was extradited from Norway to face charges in the United States in December 2016. He pled guilty to computer fraud on March 20, 2017.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. Grimberg prosecuted the case. The Justice Department's Office of International Affairs also provided assistance with this case.

For further information please contact the U.S. Attorney's Public Affairs Office at USAGAN.PressEmails@usdoj.gov or (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga>.

Component(s):

USAO - Georgia, Northern

Updated July 20, 2017

APPENDIX A**.COM Registry**

VeriSign, Inc.
 VeriSign Information Services, Inc.
 VeriSign Global Registry Services
 12061 Bluemont Way
 Reston Virginia 20190
 United States

.COM Domains

Domain	Registrant E-mail
cabinme24hrs.com	ishad2022222@gmail.com
joojlee.com	contact@whoissecret.org
produkktc.com	ishad2022222@gmail.com
starmanspo.com	jad.dodo1@gmail.com
windowsupdate-microsoft.com	the-schwarz@linuxmail.org

.INFO Registry

Afilias USA, Inc.
 300 Welsh Road, Building 3
 Suite 105
 Horsham Pennsylvania 19044
 United States

Afilias Limited
 Afilias plc
 4th Floor, International House
 3 Harbourmaster Place
 IFSC, Dublin D01 K8F1
 Ireland

.INFO Domains

Domain Name	Registrant E-mail
dertyert.info	dertyert.info@regprivate.ru

WHOIS Proxy/Privacy Abuse Study

Contents

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2. Approach	2
3. Inputs	2
4. Outputs	8
5. References	10

WHOIS Proxy / Privacy Service Abuse Study –Definition

This study will measure how often domains associated with illegal or harmful Internet communication abuse Privacy/Proxy services to obscure the perpetrator's identity.

1. Objective

This study is intended to help the ICANN community determine the extent to which Proxy and Privacy services are abused during illegal or harmful Internet communication. Specifically, it will attempt to prove/disprove the following hypothesis:

A significant percentage of the domain names used to conduct illegal or harmful Internet activities are registered via Privacy or Proxy services to obscure the perpetrator's identity.

As defined by [1], "illegal or harmful communication" refers to online activities (e.g., email messages, web transactions, file downloads) that violate criminal or civil law or which harm their targets (e.g., email/download recipients, website visitors). These activities include unsolicited commercial bulk email (spam), online intellectual property or identity theft, email harassment or stalking, phishing websites, online malware dissemination, and cybersquatting. Further examples include DoS attacks, DNS cache poisoning, pirated software (warez) distribution sites, money laundering email (mules scams), advanced fee fraud email (411 scams), and online sale of counterfeit merchandise or pharmaceuticals.

Allegations of actionable harm may require victims, law enforcement officials, and others to contact domain users (i.e., owners or licensees). To facilitate identification and contact, section 3.3.1 of the ICANN Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) [4] requires Registrars to provide an interactive web page and a port 43 WHOIS service to enable free access to up-to-date data concerning all active registered domain names. This WHOIS data includes the name and postal address of the Registered Name Holder and technical and administrative contacts for the domain.

According to [1], Proxy and Privacy registration services provide anonymity or privacy protection for domain users. *Privacy* services hide certain user details from WHOIS by offering alternate contact information and mail forwarding services while not actually shielding the user's identity. *Proxy* services have a third-party register domain names on

WHOIS Proxy/Privacy Abuse Study

the user's behalf and then license the use of the domain name so that a third-party's contact information (and not the licensee's) is published in WHOIS. According to the WHOIS Privacy/Proxy Prevalence Study [3], approximately 15 to 25 percent of gTLD domain names are likely to be registered using a Privacy or Proxy service.

Study proposals [8][9][10] suggest that Privacy/Proxy services are being abused to obscure the identity of perpetrators that instigate illegal or harmful Internet communication, thereby impeding investigation. For example, proposal [8] indicates that Privacy/Proxy registrations lengthen phishing website take-down times. Proposal [9] indicates that Privacy/Proxy services are being abused to shield cyber squatters (i.e., parties that register or use a domain name in bad faith to profit from someone else's trademark).

A recent study of 384 domains hosted by ISP 3FN (shut down in June 2009 for abetting criminal activity) found that 38 percent were registered to Proxy services [11]. Of those, approximately half were associated with least one kind of illegal activity. Although small and informal, this study illustrated that domains used by criminals do use Proxy services – in this case, more often than the random domains studied by [3].

To provide the ICANN community with empirical data to evaluate such concerns, this study will methodically analyze a large, broad sample of domains associated with various kinds of illegal or harmful Internet activities. It will measure how often these alleged “bad actors” abuse Privacy/Proxy services, comparing rates for each kind of activity to overall Privacy/Proxy rates measured by [3]. If those rates are found to be significant, policy changes may be warranted to deter Privacy/Proxy abuse.

Note: This study will NOT measure the frequency of illegal/harmful Internet activity. This study will gather a representative sample of illegal/harmful incidents to measure how often Privacy/Proxy services are abused by perpetrators (alleged and confirmed).

2. Approach

This hypothesis will be tested by performing a descriptive study on a representative sample of domains within the top five gTLDs (.biz, .com, .info, .net, .org). To focus on study goals, this sample will be composed exclusively of domains involved in illegal or harmful Internet communication, as documented by organizations that routinely track, investigate, and/or remediate various kinds of activities. To measure frequency of abuse, this study will divvy sampled domain users into those that can be reached directly using WHOIS data and those that must be contacted via a referenced Privacy/Proxy service.

Because creating a single sample that proportionally represents every major kind of illegal or harmful Internet communication is unrealistic, subsamples will be created for each activity to be studied (e.g., a spam sender list, a warez site list). Many domains are likely to be associated with multiple activities and may thus appear in more than one subsample. However, rates will be measured independently for each subsample to determine which activities most often abuse Privacy/Proxy services.

WHOIS Proxy/Privacy Abuse Study

Furthermore, because the nature and duration of illegal/harmful Internet activities varies, different methods will be required for incident tracking, investigation, and remediation.

- Timely response is essential for extremely **short-lived activities** (e.g., spam, phishing, DoS attacks). Where possible, domain subsamples for these activities will be generated by monitoring **live-feeds** (e.g., real-time blacklists), letting researchers query and record WHOIS data in near-real-time.
- Timely response is less critical for activities associated with **long-lived activities** (e.g., trademark infringement, cybersquatting). Subsamples for these activities would be impossible to generate in near-real-time; live-feeds do not exist. Instead, these domains and WHOIS data will be **recorded over time** by study participants routinely involved in these incidents (e.g., first responders and real-time cybercrime researchers, complaint centers and law enforcement agencies, victim advocates).

To meet this study's goals, Privacy/Proxy determination must be based on WHOIS data as it was at the time of the incident. WHOIS queries usually return Registrant data long after an offending domain's web, file, or mail servers disappear, appear on an RBL, or are taken down. However, WHOIS data may well change following illegal activity, such as when a malicious domain is suspended or re-registered. Study goals can still be met so long as a significant percentage of WHOIS queries performed shortly after incidents do not return recently-updated or no Registrant data.

Note that other WHOIS studies [3][6][7] have been defined to measure the overall frequency of Privacy/Proxy use, what types of entities (e.g., natural or legal persons) commonly use Privacy/Proxy-registered domains and for what apparent purpose (e.g., personal or commercial), and how Privacy/Proxy providers respond to domain user reveal requests. Those questions are therefore outside the scope of this study.

However, overall frequency of Privacy/Proxy use [3] must be considered when sizing this study's subsamples so that they represent the top 5 gTLD domain population with a 95% confidence interval. Furthermore, because harmful/illegal Internet communication tends to originate from certain countries and regions, live-feeds and incident reports may be geographically skewed. To reflect world-wide experiences, subsamples must be generated from input sources with international scope – for example, global RBLs.

Finally, this study should build upon the foundation laid by the WHOIS Accuracy Study [2] and WHOIS Privacy/Proxy Prevalence Study [3] as follows.

- **Sample Cleaning and Coding:** WHOIS data for every domain name must include certain mandatory values (e.g., Registrant Name), but there is no RFC-standard record format or even a single global database from which WHOIS data can be obtained. The Accuracy Study [2] developed a methodology for cleaning sampled domain WHOIS data to eliminate parsing errors, translate non-ASCII characters, map Registrants to country code/name, and sort the sample by Regional Internet Registry.

WHOIS Proxy/Privacy Abuse Study

- **Registrant Type Classification:** Next, based on WHOIS Registrant Name and Organization values, the Accuracy Study assigned each sampled domain one of the following Apparent Registrant Types: name completely missing or patently false, a natural person, an organization with or without a person's name, a multiple domain name holder (ISP or reseller), or a potential Privacy/Proxy service provider. All potential Privacy/Proxy service providers were then either confirmed or reclassified.

Even though this study's sample design process and parameters differ, researchers are strongly encouraged to apply the same sample cleaning, coding, and classification process to reduce cost and promote consistency across all WHOIS studies. In particular, the Accuracy Study's methodology for confirming potential Privacy/Proxy use should be applied, as this is the key differentiator upon which this study's findings will be based.

3. Inputs

The first step in conducting this study will be to generate subsamples of domain names associated with each kind of illegal or harmful Internet communication to be measured. As noted in Section 2, because activity nature and duration varies, this study will employ two different research methods: Live-Feed Monitoring for incidents typically reported in real-time and Offline Third-Party Recording for all other kinds of incidents.

Method 1: Live-Feed Monitoring

Domain names associated with the following short-lived illegal/harmful Internet activities should ideally be collected from live-feed sources. Possible sources are listed below; additional suggestions are welcome. Researchers are expected to refine and finalize this source list during the first phase of the study.

As alleged "bad actors" are identified from live-feeds, reverse DNS lookups and WHOIS queries will be performed in near-real-time¹ to record the Registrant's Name, Organization, and Address for domain names associated with each incident. Note that "associated domain name" depends upon the type of activity (e.g., spam sender, phishing website, malware server).

Note that, after incident investigation, many alleged bad actors do not end up being the real perpetrators. For example, many spam senders and phishing servers will be "bots" -- compromised hosts used by criminals without the Registrant's knowledge. Furthermore, domains may be added to RBLs based on complaints rather than verified incidents.

However, these "false positive" incident reports still require investigation; WHOIS Registrant data for those domains plays a role in enabling (or inhibiting) investigation. Therefore, this study must gather and analyze the WHOIS data associated with *all* alleged bad actors (proven or otherwise). To avoid skewing results, this study will *also* analyze refined samples that have been filtered to weed out low-probability cases – for example,

¹ Researchers will need to work around port 43 rate limits by pacing WHOIS queries, retrying failed queries, arranging for preferential access from a WHOIS query provider, or enlisting the help of a live-feed supplier that already has preferential access.

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eliminating domains associated with fewer than N reported incidents. Objective sample filtering methods should be defined by researchers at study start; suggestions are welcome.

Once sufficiently large subsamples have been collected for each activity, they will be cleaned, coded, and classified by Registrant Type as described in Section 2 for statistical analysis as described in Section 4.

- **Spam:** Live-feeds from several major real-time Domain Name System Blacklists (DNSBLs) could be used to generate a subsample of spam sender IP addresses/ranges and associated unique domain names. Possible sources include Spamhaus Blocklist, Mailshell Live-Feed, SURBL, URIBL, and SORBS DNSBL.
- **Phishing:** Several major Phishing website live-feeds could be used to generate a subsample of phishing URLs and the domain names that host them. Possible sources include OpenDNS PhishTank and Internet Identity RealPhish.
- **Malware:** A subsample of domains used to host and disseminate malware could be created from live-feeds maintained by major malware researchers and/or Internet security vendors. Possible sources include SRI Malware Threat Center, FireEye Malware Analysis & Exchange, and Malware Domains.
- **Denial-of-Service and DNS Cache Poisoning:** Input is requested on live-feed sources that could be used to generate subsamples of domains that send harmful messages during these time-sensitive attacks. Potential sources include the IMPACT Global Response Centre NEWS feed and FIRST-member incident response teams.

Method 2: Offline Third-Party Recording

Domain names associated with less time-critical illegal/harmful activities will be gathered from third-parties that routinely respond to or track such incidents in large volume and might be willing to assist by recording WHOIS data early in their investigation. Candidates include first responders and real-time cybercrime researchers, Internet crime complaint centers and law enforcement agencies, and victim advocates. Possible participants are listed below; additional suggestions are welcome. Researchers are expected to refine and finalize this participant list during the first phase of the study.

Consistency and accuracy of reported data is always a concern whenever numerous independent parties supply input for aggregate statistical analysis. To address this concern, researchers will develop a short, simple incident reporting form and process that participants can use to record the type of illegal/harmful activity, associated domain name, and WHOIS Registrant Name, Organization, and Address in a timely fashion. Here again, note that "associated domain name" depends upon the type of activity (e.g., phishing website, warez server, money laundering email sender).

At study start, researchers will identify and invite representative sources to participate. All participants must agree to record and report all incidents encountered as part of their

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normal operation during a specified study period (e.g., 30 days). In particular, participants shall be asked to report all alleged perpetrators (proven or otherwise), and to indicate whether investigation confirmed or refuted their alleged involvement in the incident. This data collection approach makes it possible to study both the entire sample and a refined sample, filtered to focus on high-probability bad actors.

Although these longer-lived incidents may not be as time-sensitive as those monitored by live-feed, participants must still perform reverse DNS lookups and WHOIS queries on alleged perpetrator IP addresses and domain names as soon as possible after incidents are detected, not at the end of the study period.

A submission process will be designed to minimize participant effort while promoting consistent, accurate reporting. After a sufficiently large/broad set of third-party reports have been submitted, researchers will clean, code, and classify WHOIS data by Registrant Type as described in Section 2 for analysis as described in Section 4.

- **Phishing:** In proposal [8], the Anti Phishing Working Group (APWG) offered to supply a global list of phishing URLs, domains used to host them, and associated shutdown times. Due to the short duration of phishing sites, live-feed monitoring is preferable. However, analyzing this activity with both research methods might be useful to determine whether results differ significantly.
- **Cybersquatting:** Data on domains cited in alleged cybersquatting incidents might be gathered by organizations like the International Trademark Association (INTA). Approved dispute resolution service providers involved in ICANN's Uniform Domain-Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) are another possible source, although waiting until a dispute is filed to query WHOIS may be too much delay.
- **Intellectual property theft:** Data on domains cited in intellectual property theft complaints might be gathered by organizations like the UK Alliance Against IP Theft or the International Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Advisory Program. However, data might be more readily available from groups that routinely record and investigate specific kinds of IP theft complaints, described below.
- **Media Piracy:** Data on domain names used by servers that illegally share copyrighted movies and music might be gathered by The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), and their international counterparts.
- **Software Piracy:** Data on domain names used by servers that illegally distribute copyrighted software might be gathered by major software vendors like Microsoft and Adobe or from an anti-piracy organization like the Business Software Alliance (BSA).

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- **Trademark Infringement:** Data on domain names alleged to infringe upon registered trademarks might be gathered by an organization like the International Trademark Association (INTA) or commercial first-responders like Mark Monitor.
- **Counterfeit Merchandise:** Data on domains that send email advertising counterfeit merchandise and illegal pharmaceuticals might be gathered by an investigative agency like the US National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Cyber Crimes Section (CCS). However, given that spam (one primary vector for online sale of counterfeit merchandise) can be studied more easily via live-feed, it might not be necessary to study this activity with method 2.
- **Money Laundering:** Data on domains that send recruiting email associated with fraudulent money laundering scams might be gathered by legitimate job recruitment websites like Monster and HotJobs or by an organization like BobBear that focuses specifically on tracking this type of illegal activity.
- **Advanced Fee Fraud:** Data on domains that send solicitation email associated with advanced fee fraud scams might be gathered by a tracking site like Artists Against 419 or bodies that handle Internet fraud complaints such as the FBI/NWCC Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) and its counterparts in other countries.
- **Identity Theft:** Data on domains that send bait email associated with online identity thefts might be gathered by the FBI/NWCC Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) or the US National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Identity Fraud Initiative. However, major online identity theft vectors like phishing and malware can be studied more easily via live-feed monitoring; reliably correlating reported identity thefts to specific email messages and domains that caused them could be difficult.
- **Child Pornography:** Data on domain names of servers involved in online distribution of child pornography might be gathered by US National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Cybercrimes Child Exploitation Section (CES) and Operation Predator. However, study [11] found it hard to obtain WHOIS data for child porn domains because, not only were sites taken down, but domain names were suspended.
- **Harassment or Stalking:** Input is requested on how to obtain a representative subsample of domain names that send online harassment and cyber-stalking email. Incidents are reported to local law enforcement agencies like FBI field offices. While HaltAbuse.org tracks statistics, based upon data supplied voluntarily by victims, many victims are reluctant to disclose these crimes. The highly personal nature of these activities could make it difficult to obtain a representative subsample.
- **Other Cybercrimes:** The FBI/NWCC Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) might also be able to supply data on perpetrator domains cited in complaints by victims of other cybercrimes, including online auction, investment fraud, and Internet extortion.

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Because domain subsamples are likely to have some degree of cross-over, other readily-available online resources can be consulted to confirm and expand upon the kinds of illegal or harmful Internet communication associated with each domain. For example, in addition to RBLs, study [11] searched for domains using ReputationAuthority.org, Google Safe Browsing, McAfee SiteAdvisor, and Malware Domain List (either by searching a published list or by attempting to browse a website).

For each sampled domain, an **Apparent Registrant Type** must be assigned using the methodology defined by the WHOIS Accuracy Study [2], including confirmation of all domains potentially registered using Privacy/Proxy services. After this classification has been completed, the following input data will be available for each sampled domain:

Raw Data recorded by monitoring live-feed or reported by study participants

- Domain Name
- Registrant Name (may be a Privacy/Proxy service)
- Registrant Organization (may be a Privacy/Proxy service)
- Full WHOIS record for the domain
- Number of Illegal or Harmful Activity reported for this domain
- Kind(s) of Illegal or Harmful Activity reported for this domain
- Input Source(s) which supplied this domain name
- Incident Investigation Outcome (confirmed, refuted, in-progress/unknown)

Additional Data supplied by researchers

- Apparent Registrant Country Code/Name
- Apparent Registrant Type: missing/false, natural person, organization, multiple domain holder, or Privacy/Proxy service provider
- Additional Kind(s) of Illegal or Harmful Activity associated with this domain, as determined by searching RBLs and site reputation lists

4. Outputs

This study will quantify the frequency of Privacy/Proxy use among domains allegedly involved in illegal or harmful communication, broken down by kind of activity. To deliver these empirical results, this study will examine the WHOIS Registrant data associated with each sampled domain as follows.

- During classification, some domains will be found to have missing, patently false, or otherwise unusable WHOIS Registrant data, thereby impeding perpetrator identification. These domains represent another method of WHOIS abuse which should be measured and included in study findings, but do not constitute Privacy/Proxy abuse.
- During classification, some domains will be found to have WHOIS Registrant data that explicitly identifies and supplies direct contact information for a natural person, an organization (with or without a person's name), or a multiple domain holder. These Registrants may or may not actually be responsible for the reported

WHOIS Proxy/Privacy Abuse Study

illegal or harmful communication. For example, many domain names will be mapped to spambot-compromised residential broadband hosts or trojan-hacked websites operated by legitimate businesses. However, for the purposes of this study, the users of these domains shall be considered readily-identifiable and directly-contactable using Registrant data returned from a simple WHOIS query.

- The rest of the sample will consist of domains that, following classification, have WHOIS Registrant data that identifies an apparent Privacy/Proxy provider. For the purposes of this study, all such domains will be considered to have abused a Privacy/Proxy service for the purpose of obscuring perpetrator identification. To determine significance, this abuse rate shall be compared to the overall rate of Privacy/Proxy use measured by [3] (15-25%).

For each kind of activity studied, the following measurements will be derived from the entire subsample of alleged bad actors (including bots and other false positives):

- Percentage of entire sample that could not be analyzed, categorized by reason (e.g., false/missing WHOIS, recently modified WHOIS, suspended domain)
- Percentage of entire sample with Registrant NOT obscured via Privacy/Proxy, distributed by gTLD/country
- Percentage of entire sample apparently registered via Privacy service, distributed by gTLD/country
- Percentage of entire sample apparently registered via Proxy service, distributed by gTLD/country

For each kind of activity studied, similar measurements will also be derived from a refined subsample, filtered to reduce false positives and focus on confirmed bad actors:

- Percentage of refined sample that could not be analyzed, categorized by reason
- Percentage of refined sample with Registrant NOT obscured via Privacy/Proxy, distributed by gTLD/country
- Percentage of refined sample apparently registered via Privacy service, distributed by gTLD/country
- Percentage of refined sample apparently registered via Proxy service, distributed by gTLD/country

Finally, these results will be aggregated and used to answer the following questions:

- Are Privacy services abused more/less often by bad actors (alleged or confirmed)?
- Are Proxy services abused more/less often by bad actors (alleged or confirmed)?
- Which illegal/harmful activities are most likely to abuse Privacy/Proxy services?
- Which illegal/harmful activities are least likely to abuse Privacy/Proxy services?
- Were there any kinds of illegal/harmful Internet communication for which Privacy/Proxy abuse could not be studied in a reliable way and why?

WHOIS Proxy/Privacy Abuse Study

5. References

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[English \(/translations\)](#) [العربية \(/ar\)](#) [Español \(/es\)](#)[Français \(/fr\)](#) [Русский \(/ru\)](#) [中文 \(/zh\)](#)[Log In \(/users/sign_in\)](#) [Sign Up \(/users/sign_up\)](#)

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& ACCOUNTABILITY \(/STEWARDSHIP-ACCOUNTABILITY\)](#)[LANGUAGE PREFERENCE \(/TRANSLATIONS\)](#)

Resources

- ▼ About ICANN
(Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)
(/resources/pages/welcome-2012-02-25-en)

- ▶ Learning
(/resources/pages/learning-2012-02-25-en)

- ▼ Participate
(/resources/pages/participate-2012-02-25-en)

What ICANN
(Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and

What Does ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Do?

This page is available in:

English | العربية (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-ar>) | Deutsch (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-de>) | Español (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-es>) | Français (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-fr>) | Italiano (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-it>) | 日本語 (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-ja>) | 한국어 (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-ko>) | Português (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-pt>) | Русский (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-ru>) | 中文 (<http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-zh>)

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet.

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Numbers)
Does
 (/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-en)
ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit partnership of people from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers.

Effect on the Internet
 (/resources/pages/effect-2012-02-25-en)
ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.

What's Going On Now
 (/resources/pages/now-2012-02-25-en)
What is the domain name system?

The domain name system, or **DNS (Domain Name System)**, is a system designed to make the Internet accessible to human beings. The main way computers that make up the Internet find one another is through a series of numbers, with each number (called an **"IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) address"**) correlating to a different device. However it is difficult for the human mind to remember long lists of numbers so the **DNS (Domain Name System)** uses letters rather than numbers, and then links a precise series of letters with a precise series of numbers.

Newcomers Program
 (/resources/pages/newcomers-2012-06-18-en)
 The end result is that **ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)**'s website can be found at "icann.org" rather than "192.0.32.7" – which

► **Fellowships**
 (/resources/pages/fellowships-2012-02-25-en)
 is how computers on the network know it. One advantage to this system – apart from making the network much easier to use for people – is that a particular domain name does not have to be tied to one particular computer because the link between a particular domain and a particular **IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) address** can be changed quickly and easily. This change will then be recognised by the entire Internet within 48 hours thanks to the constantly updating **DNS (Domain Name System) infrastructure**. The result is an extremely flexible system.

President's Corner
 (/presidents-corner)

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Management Organization Chart
 (/management-organization-chart)

Staff
 (/organization)

A domain name itself comprises two elements: before and after "the dot". The part to the right of the dot, such as "com", "net", "org" and so on, is known as a "top-level domain" or **TLD (Top Level Domain)**. One company in each case (called a registry), is in charge of all domains ending with that particular **TLD (Top Level Domain)** and has access to a full list of domains directly under that name, as well as the **IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses** with which those names are associated. The part before the dot is the domain name that you register and which is then used to provide online systems such as websites, email and so on. These domains are sold by a large number of "registrars", free to charge whatever they wish, although in each case they pay a set per-domain fee to the particular registry under whose name the domain is being registered.

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- Careers**
(<https://www.icann.org/careers>)
ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) draws up contracts with each registry. It also runs an accreditation system for registrars. It is these contracts that provide a consistent and stable environment for the domain name system, and hence the Internet.
- **In Focus**
(</resources/pages/in-focus-2012-02-25-en>)
In summary then, the DNS (Domain Name System) provides an addressing system for the Internet so people can find particular websites. It is also the basis for email and many other online uses.
- **For Journalists**
(</resources/pages/press-2014-03-17-en>)
What does ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) have to do with IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses?
- **Board**
(</resources/pages/board-of-directors-2014-03-19-en>)
ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) plays a similar administrative role with the IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses used by computers as it does with the domain names used by humans. In the same way that you cannot have two domain names the same (otherwise you never know where you would end up), for the same reason it is also not possible for there to be two IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses the same.
- **Accountability**
(</resources/accountability>)
- **Governance**
(</resources/pages/governance-2012-02-25-en>)
- **Groups**
(</resources/pages/groups-2012-02-06-en>)
Again, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) does not run the system, but it does help co-ordinate how IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses are supplied to avoid repetition or clashes. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is also the central repository for IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses, for which ranges are supplied to regional registries who in turn distribute them to network providers.
- Business**
(</resources/pages/business>)
- Civil Society**
(</resources/pages/civil-society-2016-05-24-en>)
What about root servers?
- Root servers are a different case again. There are 13 root servers – or, more accurately, there are 13 IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses on the Internet where root servers can be found (the servers that have one of the 13 IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses can be in dozens of different physical locations). These servers all store a copy of the same file which acts as the main index to the Internet's address books. It lists an address for each top-level domain (.com, .de, etc) where that registry's own address book can be found.
- **Complaints Office**
(</resources/pages/complaints-office-2017-04-26-en>)
- **Contractual Compliance**
(</resources/pages/compliance-2012-02-25-en>)
- **Registrars**
(</resources/pages/registrars-0d-2012-02-25-en>)
In reality, the root servers are consulted fairly infrequently (considering the size of the Internet) because once computers on the network know the address of a particular top-level domain they retain it, checking back only occasionally to make

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- sure the address hasn't changed. Nonetheless, the root servers remain vital for the Internet's smooth functioning.
- ▶ Registry Operators
(/resources/pages/registries-46-2012-02-25-en)
The operators of the root servers remain largely autonomous, but at the same time work with one another and with ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) to make sure the system stays up-to-date with the Internet's advances and changes.
 - ▶ Domain Name (Domain Name) Registrants
(/resources/pages/domain-name-registrants-2017-06-20-en)
What is ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s role?
As mentioned earlier, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s role is to oversee the huge and complex interconnected network of unique identifiers that allow computers on the Internet to find one another.
This is commonly termed "universal resolvability" and means that wherever you are on the network – and hence the world – that you receive the same predictable results when you access the network. Without this, you could end up with an Internet that worked entirely differently depending on your location on the globe.
 - ▶ Identifier Systems Security, Stability and Resiliency (Security, Stability and Resiliency) (OCTO IS-SSR)
(/resources/pages/octo-ssr-2016-10-10-en)
How is ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) structured?
ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is made up of a number of different groups, each of which represent a different interest on the Internet and all of which contribute to any final decisions that ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s makes.
 - ▶ ccTLDs
(/resources/pages/cclds-21-2012-02-25-en)
There are three "supporting organisations" that represent:
 - The organisations that deal with IP (Internet Protocol or Intellectual Property) addresses
 - The organisations that deal with domain names
 - The managers of country code top-level domains (a special exception as explained at the bottom).
 - ▶ Internationalized Domain Names
(/resources/pages/idn-2012-02-25-en)
 - ▶ Universal Acceptance Initiative
(/resources/pages/universal-acceptance-2012-02-25-en)
Then there are four "advisory committees" that provide ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) with advice and recommendations. These represent:
 - Governments and international treaty organisations
 - Root server operators
 - ▶ Policy
(/resources/pages/policy-01-2012-02-25-en)

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► Public Comment
(/public-
comments)

- Those concerned with the Internet's security
- The "at large" community, meaning average Internet users.

Root Zone (Root
Zone) KSK
Rollover
(/resources/pages/ksk-
rollover-2016-05-
06-en)

And finally, there is a Technical Liaison Group, which works with the organisations that devise the basic protocols for Internet technologies.

► Technical
Functions
(/resources/pages/technical-
functions-2015-
10-15-en)

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s final decisions are made by a Board of Directors. The Board is made up of 21 members: 15 of which have voting rights and six are non-voting liaisons. The majority of the voting members (eight of them) are chosen by an independent Nominating Committee and the remainder are nominated members from supporting organisations.

► Contact (/contact)

► Help
(/resources/pages/help-
2012-02-03-en)

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) then has a President and CEO who is also a Board member and who directs the work of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) staff, who are based across the globe and help co-ordinate, manage and finally implement all the different discussions and decisions made by the supporting organisations and advisory committees. An ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Ombudsman acts as an independent reviewer of the work of the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) staff and Board.

How does ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) make decisions?

When it comes to making technical changes to the Internet, here is a simplified rundown of the process:

Any issue of concern or suggested changes to the existing network is typically raised within one of the supporting organisations (often following a report by one of the advisory committees), where it is discussed and a report produced which is then put out for public review. If the suggested changes impact on any other group within ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s system, that group also reviews the suggested changes and makes its views known. The result is then put out for public review a second time.

At the end of that process, the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board is provided with a report outlining all the previous discussions and with a list of recommendations. The Board then discusses the matter and either approves the changes, approves some and rejects others, rejects all of them, or sends the issue back down to one of the supporting organisations to review, often with an explanation as to what the problems are that need to be resolved before it can be approved.

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The process is then rerun until all the different parts of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) can agree a compromise or the Board of Directors make a decision on a report it is presented with.

How is ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) held accountable?

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) has external as well as internal accountabilities.

Externally, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is an organisation incorporated under the law of the State of California in the United States. That means ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) must abide by the laws of the United States and can be called to account by the judicial system i.e. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) can be taken to court.

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is also a non-profit public benefit corporation and its directors are legally responsible for upholding their duties under corporation law.

Internally, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is accountable to the community through:

- Its bylaws
- The representative composition of the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board from across the globe
- An independent Nominating Committee that selects a majority of the voting Board members
- Senior staff who must be elected annually by the Board
- Three different dispute resolution procedures (Board reconsideration committee; Independent Review Panel; Ombudsman)

The full range of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s accountability and transparency frameworks and principles (</en/accountability/frameworks-principles/contents-overview.htm>) are available online.

* There is an important exception to this in the form of "country code top-level domains" (ccTLDs) such as .de for Germany or .uk for the United Kingdom. There

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are over 250 ccTLDs, some of which have a contract with ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers); others of which have signed working agreements with ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers); and some of which have yet to enter any formal agreement with ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers). ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) however does carry out what is known as the "IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) function" in which every ccTLD (Country Code Top Level Domain)'s main address is listed so the rest of the Internet can find it. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is also in the position where it can add new TLDs to the wider system, as it did in 2000 and 2004 when seven and six new TLDs respectively were "added to the root".

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[Terms of Service \(/en/help/tos\)](#) [Cookie Policy \(/en/help/privacy-cookie-policy\)](#)

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Who We Are	Contact Us	Accountability & Transparency	Governance	Help
Get Started (/get-started)	Locations (https://forms.icann.org/locations)	Accountability (/en/about/accountability)	Documents (/en/about/governance)	Dispute Resolution (/en/help/dispute-resolution)
Learning (/en/about/learning)	Global Support (/resources/pages/customer-support-2015-06-22-en)	Mechanisms (/en/news/in-focus/accountability/mechanisms)	Agreements (/en/about/agreements)	
Participate (/en/about/participate)	Security Team (/about/staff/security)	Independent Review Process (/resources/pages/irp-2012-02-25-en)	Specific Reviews (/resources/reviews/aoc)	Domain Name Dispute Resolution (/en/help/dndr)
Groups (https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/groups-2012-02-06-en)	PGP Keys (/en/contact/pgp-keys)	Request for Reconsideration (/groups/board/governance/about/reconsideration)	Annual Report (/about/annual-report)	Name Collision (/en/help/name-collision)
Board (/resources/pages/board-of-directors-2014-03-19-en)	Certificate Authority (/contact/certificate-authority)	Ombudsman (/help/ombudsman)	Financials (/en/about/financials)	Registrar Problems (/en/news/announcements/announcements-mar07-en.htm)
President's Corner (/presidents-corner)	Registry Liaison (/resources/pages/contact-f2-2012-02-25-en)	Empowered Community (/ec)	Document Disclosure (/en/about/transparency)	
Staff (/organization)			Planning (/en/about/planning)	WHOIS (http://whois.icann.org/)
Careers (https://www.icann.org/careers)	Specific Reviews (https://forms.icann.org/en/about/aoc-review/contact)		KPI Dashboard (/progress)	
Newsletter (/en/news/newsletter)	Organizational Reviews (http://forms.icann.org/en/groups/reviews/contact)		RFPs (/en/news/rfps)	
Public Responsibility (https://www.icann.org/prr)	Complaints Office (https://www.icann.org/complaints-office)		Litigation (/en/news/litigation)	
	Request a Speaker (http://forms.icann.org/en/contact/speakers)		Correspondence (/en/news/correspondence)	
	For Journalists (/en/news/press)			

2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement

- 1. Registrar Accreditation Agreement**
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- 3. Registration Data Directory Service (Whois) Specification**
- 4. Consensus and Temporary Policy Specification**
- 5. Specification on Privacy and Proxy Registrations**
- 6. Data Retention Specification**
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- 8. Additional Registrar Operation Specification**
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Registrar Accreditation Agreement

This REGISTRAR ACCREDITATION AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is by and between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a California non-profit, public benefit corporation ("ICANN"), and [Registrar Name], a [Organization type and jurisdiction] ("Registrar"), and shall be deemed made on _____, at Los Angeles, California, USA.

1. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

1.1 "Account Holder" means the person or entity that is paying for the Registered Name or otherwise controls the management of the registered name, when that person or entity is not the Registered Name Holder.

1.2 "Accredited" or "Accreditation" means to identify and set minimum standards for the performance of registration functions, to recognize persons or entities meeting those standards, and to enter into an accreditation agreement that sets forth the rules and procedures applicable to the provision of Registrar Services.

1.3 "Affiliate" means a person or entity that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, Controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person or entity specified.

1.4 "Affiliated Registrar" is another Accredited registrar that is an Affiliate of Registrar.

1.5 "Applicable Registrar Family" means, with respect to Affiliated Registrars, such Affiliated Registrar as a group.

1.6 "Consensus Policy" has the meaning set forth in the Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies Specification attached hereto.

1.7 "Control" (including the terms "controlled by" and "under common control with") means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a person or entity, whether through the ownership of securities, as trustee or executor, by serving as an employee or a

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member of a board of directors or equivalent governing body, by contract, by credit arrangement or otherwise.

1.8 "DNS" refers to the Internet domain-name system.

1.9 The "Effective Date" is _____.

1.10 The "Expiration Date" is _____.

1.11 "gTLD" or "gTLDs" refers to the top-level domain(s) of the DNS delegated by ICANN pursuant to a registry agreement that is in full force and effect, other than any country code TLD (ccTLD) or internationalized domain name (IDN) country code TLD.

1.12 "gTLD Zone-File Data" means all data contained in a DNS zone file for the registry, or for any subdomain for which Registry Services are provided and that contains Registered Names, as provided to nameservers on the Internet.

1.13 "Illegal Activity" means conduct involving use of a Registered Name sponsored by Registrar that is prohibited by applicable law and/or exploitation of Registrar's domain name resolution or registration services in furtherance of conduct involving the use of a Registered Name sponsored by Registrar that is prohibited by applicable law.

1.14 "Personal Data" refers to data about any identified or identifiable natural person.

1.15 "Registered Name" refers to a domain name within the domain of a gTLD, whether consisting of two (2) or more (e.g., john.smith.name) levels, about which a gTLD Registry Operator (or an Affiliate or subcontractor thereof engaged in providing Registry Services) maintains data in a Registry Database, arranges for such maintenance, or derives revenue from such maintenance. A name in a Registry Database may be a Registered Name even though it does not appear in a zone file (e.g., a registered but inactive name).

1.16 "Registered Name Holder" means the holder of a Registered Name.

1.17 The word "registrar," when appearing without an initial capital letter, refers to a person or entity that contracts with Registered Name Holders and with a Registry Operator and collects registration data about the Registered Name Holders and submits registration information for entry in the Registry Database.

1.18 "Registrar Approval" means the receipt of either of the following approvals:

1.18.1 The affirmative approval of Applicable Registrars accounting for 90% of the Total Registered Names Under Management by the Applicable Registrars; provided that, for purposes of calculating the Total Registered

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Names Under Management by Applicable Registrars, the Total Registered Names Under Management by each Applicable Registrar Family shall not exceed the Total Registered Names Under Management of the Applicable Registrar Family that is the fifth largest Applicable Registrar Family (measured by number of Registered Names Under Management), both for purposes of the numerator and the denominator; or

1.18.2 The affirmative approval of 50% plus one of the Applicable Registrars that participate in the process to approve or disapprove (i.e. vote for or against, but not abstain or otherwise fail to vote) a proposed amendment under Section 6, and the affirmative approval of Applicable Registrars accounting for 66.67% of the Total Registered Names Under Management by all Applicable Registrars; provided that, for purposes of calculating the Total Registered Names Under Management by Applicable Registrars, the Total Registered Names Under Management by each Applicable Registrar Family shall not exceed the total Registered Names Under Management of the Applicable Registrar Family that is the fifth largest Applicable Registrar Family (measured by number of Registered Names Under Management), both for purposes of the numerator and the denominator. An example of these calculations is set forth in Appendix 1 attached hereto.

1.19 "Registrar Services" means the services subject to this Agreement provided by a registrar in connection with a gTLD, and includes contracting with Registered Name Holders, collecting registration data about the Registered Name Holders, and submitting registration information for entry in the Registry Database.

1.20 "Registry Data" means all Registry Database data maintained in electronic form, and shall include gTLD Zone-File Data, all data used to provide Registry Services and submitted by registrars in electronic form, and all other data used to provide Registry Services concerning particular domain name registrations or nameservers maintained in electronic form in a Registry Database.

1.21 "Registry Database" means a database comprised of data about one or more DNS domain names within the domain of a registry that is used to generate either DNS resource records that are published authoritatively or responses to domain-name availability lookup requests or Whois queries, for some or all of those names.

1.22 A "Registry Operator" is the person or entity then responsible, in accordance with an agreement between ICANN (or its assignee) and that person or entity (those persons or entities) or, if that agreement is terminated or expires, in accordance with an agreement between the US Government and that person or entity (those persons or entities), for providing Registry Services for a specific gTLD.

1.23 "Registry Services," with respect to a particular gTLD, shall have the meaning defined in the agreement between ICANN and the Registry Operator for that gTLD.

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1.24 A "Reseller" is a person or entity that participates in Registrar's distribution channel for domain name registrations (a) pursuant to an agreement, arrangement or understanding with Registrar or (b) with Registrar's actual knowledge, provides some or all Registrar Services, including collecting registration data about Registered Name Holders, submitting that data to Registrar, or facilitating the entry of the registration agreement between the Registrar and the Registered Name Holder.

1.25 "Restricted Amendment" means (i) an amendment of the Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies Specification or (ii) the term of this Agreement as specified in Section 5.1, as such term may be extended pursuant to Section 5.2.

1.26 A Registered Name is "sponsored" by the registrar that placed the record associated with that registration into the registry. Sponsorship of a registration may be changed at the express direction of the Registered Name Holder or, in the event a registrar loses Accreditation, in accordance with then-current ICANN Specifications and Policies.

1.27 "Specifications and/or Policies" include Consensus Policies, Specifications (such as the Whois Accuracy Program Specification) referenced in this Agreement, and any amendments, policies, procedures, or programs specifically contemplated by this Agreement or authorized by ICANN's Bylaws.

1.28 "Term of this Agreement" begins on the Effective Date and continues to the earlier of (a) the Expiration Date, or (b) termination of this Agreement.

1.29 "Total Registered Names Under Management" means the total number of Registered Names sponsored by all Applicable Registrars as reflected in the latest monthly reports submitted to ICANN by Registrars.

1.30 "Whois Accuracy Program Specification" means the Whois Accuracy Program Specification attached hereto, as updated from time to time in accordance with this Agreement.

1.31 "Whois Specification" means the Registration Data Directory Service (Whois) Specification attached hereto, as updated from time to time in accordance with this Agreement.

1.32 "Working Group" means representatives of the Applicable Registrars and other members of the community that the Registrar Stakeholder Group appoints, from time to time, to serve as a working group to consult on amendments to the Applicable Registrar Agreements (excluding bilateral amendments pursuant to Section 6.9).

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2. ICANN OBLIGATIONS.

2.1 Accreditation. During the Term of this Agreement and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Registrar is hereby Accredited by ICANN to act as a registrar (including to insert and renew registration of Registered Names in the Registry Database) for gTLDs.

2.2 Registrar Use of ICANN Name, Website and Trademarks. ICANN hereby grants to Registrar a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license during the Term of this Agreement (a) to state that it is Accredited by ICANN as a registrar for gTLDs, and (b) to link to pages and documents within the ICANN website. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Logo License Specification attached hereto, ICANN hereby grants to Registrar a non-exclusive, worldwide right and license to use the Trademarks (as defined in the Logo License Specification). No other use of ICANN's name, website or Trademarks is licensed hereby. This license may not be assigned or sublicensed by Registrar to any other party, including, without limitation, any Affiliate of Registrar or any Reseller.

2.3 General Obligations of ICANN. With respect to all matters that impact the rights, obligations, or role of Registrar, ICANN shall during the Term of this Agreement:

2.3.1 exercise its responsibilities in an open and transparent manner;

2.3.2 not unreasonably restrain competition and, to the extent feasible, promote and encourage robust competition;

2.3.3 not apply standards, policies, procedures or practices arbitrarily, unjustifiably, or inequitably and not single out Registrar for disparate treatment unless justified by substantial and reasonable cause; and

2.3.4 ensure, through its reconsideration and independent review policies, adequate appeal procedures for Registrar, to the extent it is adversely affected by ICANN standards, policies, procedures or practices.

2.4 Use of ICANN Accredited Registrars. In order to promote competition in the registration of domain names, and in recognition of the value that ICANN-Accredited registrars bring to the Internet community, ICANN has ordinarily required gTLD registries under contract with ICANN to use ICANN-Accredited registrars, and ICANN will during the course of this agreement abide by any ICANN adopted Specifications or Policies requiring the use of ICANN-Accredited registrars by gTLD registries.

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3. REGISTRAR OBLIGATIONS.

3.1 Obligations to Provide Registrar Services. During the Term of this Agreement, Registrar agrees that it will operate as a registrar for one or more gTLDs in accordance with this Agreement.

3.2 Submission of Registered Name Holder Data to Registry. During the Term of this Agreement:

3.2.1 As part of its registration of Registered Names in a gTLD, Registrar shall submit to, or shall place in the Registry Database operated by, the Registry Operator for the gTLD the following data elements:

3.2.1.1 The name of the Registered Name being registered;

3.2.1.2 The IP addresses of the primary nameserver and secondary nameserver(s) for the Registered Name;

3.2.1.3 The corresponding names of those nameservers;

3.2.1.4 Unless automatically generated by the registry system, the identity of the Registrar;

3.2.1.5 Unless automatically generated by the registry system, the expiration date of the registration; and

3.2.1.6 Any other data the Registry Operator requires be submitted to it.

The agreement between the Registry Operator of a gTLD and Registrar may, if approved by ICANN in writing, state alternative required data elements applicable to that gTLD, in which event, the alternative required data elements shall replace and supersede Subsections 3.2.1.1 through 3.2.1.6 stated above for all purposes under this Agreement but only with respect to that particular gTLD. When seeking approval for alternative required data elements, the data elements set forth in Subsections 3.2.1.1 through 3.2.1.6 should be considered suggested minimum requirements.

3.2.2 Within seven (7) days after receiving any updates from the Registered Name Holder to the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.2, 3.1.2.3, and 3.2.1.6 for any Registered Name that Registrar sponsors, Registrar shall submit the updated data elements to, or shall place those elements in the Registry Database operated by, the relevant Registry Operator.

3.2.3 In order to allow reconstitution of the Registry Database in the event of an otherwise unrecoverable technical failure or a change in the designated Registry Operator, within ten (10) days of any such request by ICANN,

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Registrar shall submit an electronic database containing the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.1 through 3.2.1.6 for all active records in the registry sponsored by Registrar, in a format specified by ICANN, to the Registry Operator for the appropriate gTLD.

3.3 Public Access to Data on Registered Names. During the Term of this Agreement:

3.3.1 At its expense, Registrar shall provide an interactive web page and, with respect to any gTLD operating a “thin” registry, a port 43 Whois service (each accessible via both IPv4 and IPv6) providing free public query-based access to up-to-date (i.e., updated at least daily) data concerning all active Registered Names sponsored by Registrar in any gTLD. Until otherwise specified by a Consensus Policy, such data shall consist of the following elements as contained in Registrar's database:

3.3.1.1 The name of the Registered Name;

3.3.1.2 The names of the primary nameserver and secondary nameserver(s) for the Registered Name;

3.3.1.3 The identity of Registrar (which may be provided through Registrar's website);

3.3.1.4 The original creation date of the registration;

3.3.1.5 The expiration date of the registration;

3.3.1.6 The name and postal address of the Registered Name Holder;

3.3.1.7 The name, postal address, e-mail address, voice telephone number, and (where available) fax number of the technical contact for the Registered Name; and

3.3.1.8 The name, postal address, e-mail address, voice telephone number, and (where available) fax number of the administrative contact for the Registered Name.

The agreement between the Registry Operator of a gTLD and Registrar may, if approved by ICANN in writing, state alternative required data elements applicable to that gTLD, in which event, the alternative required data elements shall replace and supersede Subsections 3.3.1.1 through 3.3.1.8 stated above for all purposes under this Agreement but only with respect to that particular gTLD.

3.3.2 Upon receiving any updates to the data elements listed in Subsections 3.3.1.2, 3.3.1.3, and 3.3.1.5 through 3.3.1.8 from the Registered Name Holder,

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Registrar shall promptly update its database used to provide the public access described in Subsection 3.3.1.

3.3.3 Registrar may subcontract its obligation to provide the public access described in Subsection 3.3.1 and the updating described in Subsection 3.3.2, provided that Registrar shall remain fully responsible for the proper provision of the access and updating.

3.3.4 Registrar shall abide by any Consensus Policy that requires registrars to cooperatively implement a distributed capability that provides query-based Whois search functionality across all registrars. If the Whois service implemented by registrars does not in a reasonable time provide reasonably robust, reliable, and convenient access to accurate and up-to-date data, the Registrar shall abide by any Consensus Policy requiring Registrar, if reasonably determined by ICANN to be necessary (considering such possibilities as remedial action by specific registrars), to supply data from Registrar's database to facilitate the development of a centralized Whois database for the purpose of providing comprehensive Registrar Whois search capability.

3.3.5 In providing query-based public access to registration data as required by Subsections 3.3.1 and 3.3.4, Registrar shall not impose terms and conditions on use of the data provided, except as permitted by any Specification or Policy established by ICANN. Unless and until ICANN establishes a different Consensus Policy, Registrar shall permit use of data it provides in response to queries for any lawful purposes except to: (a) allow, enable, or otherwise support the transmission by e-mail, telephone, postal mail, facsimile or other means of mass unsolicited, commercial advertising or solicitations to entities other than the data recipient's own existing customers; or (b) enable high volume, automated, electronic processes that send queries or data to the systems of any Registry Operator or ICANN-Accredited registrar, except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations.

3.3.6 In the event that ICANN determines, following analysis of economic data by an economist(s) retained by ICANN (which data has been made available to Registrar), that an individual or entity is able to exercise market power with respect to registrations or with respect to registration data used for development of value-added products and services by third parties, Registrar shall provide third-party bulk access to the data subject to public access under Subsection 3.3.1 under the following terms and conditions:

3.3.6.1 Registrar shall make a complete electronic copy of the data available at least one (1) time per week for download by third parties who have entered into a bulk access agreement with Registrar.

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3.3.6.2 Registrar may charge an annual fee, not to exceed US\$10,000, for such bulk access to the data.

3.3.6.3 Registrar's access agreement shall require the third party to agree not to use the data to allow, enable, or otherwise support any marketing activities, regardless of the medium used. Such media include but are not limited to e-mail, telephone, facsimile, postal mail, SMS, and wireless alerts.

3.3.6.4 Registrar's access agreement shall require the third party to agree not to use the data to enable high-volume, automated, electronic processes that send queries or data to the systems of any Registry Operator or ICANN-Accredited registrar, except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations.

3.3.6.5 Registrar's access agreement must require the third party to agree not to sell or redistribute the data except insofar as it has been incorporated by the third party into a value-added product or service that does not permit the extraction of a substantial portion of the bulk data from the value-added product or service for use by other parties.

3.3.7 To comply with applicable statutes and regulations and for other reasons, ICANN may adopt a Consensus Policy establishing limits (a) on the Personal Data concerning Registered Names that Registrar may make available to the public through a public-access service described in this Subsection 3.3 and (b) on the manner in which Registrar may make such data available. Registrar shall comply with any such Consensus Policy.

3.3.8 Registrar shall meet or exceed the requirements set forth in the Whois Specification.

3.4 Retention of Registered Name Holder and Registration Data.

3.4.1 For each Registered Name sponsored by Registrar within a gTLD, Registrar shall collect and securely maintain, in its own electronic database, as updated from time to time:

3.4.1.1 the data specified in the Data Retention Specification attached hereto for the period specified therein;

3.4.1.2 The data elements listed in Subsections 3.3.1.1 through 3.3.1.8;

3.4.1.3 the name and (where available) postal address, e-mail address, voice telephone number, and fax number of the billing contact;

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3.4.1.4 any other Registry Data that Registrar has submitted to the Registry Operator or placed in the Registry Database under Subsection 3.2; and

3.4.1.5 the name, postal address, e-mail address, and voice telephone number provided by the customer of any privacy service or licensee of any proxy registration service, in each case, offered or made available by Registrar or its Affiliates in connection with each registration. Effective on the date that ICANN fully implements a Proxy Accreditation Program established in accordance with Section 3.14, the obligations under this Section 3.4.1.5 will cease to apply as to any specific category of data (such as postal address) that is expressly required to be retained by another party in accordance with such Proxy Accreditation Program.

3.4.2 During the Term of this Agreement and for two (2) years thereafter, Registrar (itself or by its agent(s)) shall maintain the following records relating to its dealings with the Registry Operator(s) and Registered Name Holders:

3.4.2.1 In electronic form, the submission date and time, and the content, of all registration data (including updates) submitted in electronic form to the Registry Operator(s);

3.4.2.2 In electronic, paper, or microfilm form, all written communications constituting registration applications, confirmations, modifications, or terminations and related correspondence with Registered Name Holders, including registration contracts; and

3.4.2.3 In electronic form, records of the accounts of all Registered Name Holders with Registrar.

3.4.3 During the Term of this Agreement and for two (2) years thereafter, Registrar shall make the data, information and records specified in this Section 3.4 available for inspection and copying by ICANN upon reasonable notice. In addition, upon reasonable notice and request from ICANN, Registrar shall deliver copies of such data, information and records to ICANN in respect to limited transactions or circumstances that may be the subject of a compliance-related inquiry; provided, however, that such obligation shall not apply to requests for copies of the Registrar's entire database or transaction history. Such copies are to be provided at Registrar's expense. In responding to ICANN's request for delivery of electronic data, information and records, Registrar may submit such information in a format reasonably convenient to Registrar and acceptable to ICANN so as to minimize disruption to the Registrar's business. In the event Registrar believes that the provision of any such data, information or records to ICANN would

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violate applicable law or any legal proceedings, ICANN and Registrar agree to discuss in good faith whether appropriate limitations, protections, or alternative solutions can be identified to allow the production of such data, information or records in complete or redacted form, as appropriate. ICANN shall not disclose the content of such data, information or records except as expressly required by applicable law, any legal proceeding or Specification or Policy.

3.4.4 Notwithstanding any other requirement in this Agreement or the Data Retention Specification, Registrar shall not be obligated to maintain records relating to a domain registration beginning on the date two (2) years following the domain registration's deletion or transfer away to a different registrar.

3.5 **Rights in Data.** Registrar disclaims all rights to exclusive ownership or use of the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.1 through 3.2.1.3 for all Registered Names submitted by Registrar to the Registry Database for, or sponsored by Registrar in, each gTLD for which it is Accredited. Registrar does not disclaim rights in the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.4 through 3.2.1.6 and Subsections 3.3.1.3 through 3.3.1.8 concerning active Registered Names sponsored by it in each gTLD for which it is Accredited, and agrees to grant non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licenses to make use of and disclose the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.4 through 3.2.1.6 and 3.3.1.3 through 3.3.1.8 for the purpose of providing a service or services (such as a Whois service under Subsection 3.3.4) providing interactive, query-based public access. Upon a change in sponsorship from Registrar of any Registered Name in each gTLD for which it is Accredited, Registrar acknowledges that the registrar gaining sponsorship shall have the rights of an owner to the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.4 through 3.2.1.6 and 3.3.1.3 through 3.3.1.8 concerning that Registered Name, with Registrar also retaining the rights of an owner in that data. Nothing in this Subsection prohibits Registrar from (1) restricting bulk public access to data elements in a manner consistent with this Agreement and any Specifications or Policies or (2) transferring rights it claims in data elements subject to the provisions of this Subsection 3.5.

3.6 **Data Escrow.** During the Term of this Agreement, on a schedule, under the terms, and in the format specified by ICANN, Registrar shall submit an electronic copy of the data described in Subsections 3.4.1.2 through 3.4.1.5 to ICANN or, at Registrar's election and at its expense, to a reputable escrow agent mutually approved by Registrar and ICANN, such approval also not to be unreasonably withheld by either party. The data shall be held under an agreement among Registrar, ICANN, and the escrow agent (if any) providing that (1) the data shall be received and held in escrow, with no use other than verification that the deposited data is complete, consistent, and in proper format, until released to ICANN; (2) the data shall be released from escrow upon expiration without renewal or termination of this Agreement; and (3) ICANN's rights under the escrow agreement shall be assigned with any assignment of this Agreement. The escrow shall provide that in

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the event the escrow is released under this Subsection, ICANN (or its assignee) shall have a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license to exercise (only for transitional purposes) or have exercised all rights necessary to provide Registrar Services.

3.7 Business Dealings, Including with Registered Name Holders.

3.7.1 In the event ICANN adopts a Specification or Policy that is supported by a consensus of ICANN-Accredited registrars as reflected in the Registrar Stakeholder Group (or any successor group), establishing or approving a Code of Conduct for ICANN-Accredited registrars, Registrar shall abide by that Code of Conduct.

3.7.2 Registrar shall abide by applicable laws and governmental regulations.

3.7.3 Registrar shall not represent to any actual or potential Registered Name Holder that Registrar enjoys access to a registry for which Registrar is Accredited that is superior to that of any other registrar Accredited for that registry.

3.7.4 Registrar shall not activate any Registered Name unless and until it is satisfied that it has received a reasonable assurance of payment of its registration fee. For this purpose, a charge to a credit card, general commercial terms extended to creditworthy customers, or other mechanism providing a similar level of assurance of payment shall be sufficient, provided that the obligation to pay becomes final and non-revocable by the Registered Name Holder upon activation of the registration.

3.7.5 At the conclusion of the registration period, failure by or on behalf of the Registered Name Holder to consent that the registration be renewed within the time specified in a second notice or reminder shall, in the absence of extenuating circumstances, result in cancellation of the registration by the end of the auto-renew grace period (although Registrar may choose to cancel the name earlier).

3.7.5.1 Extenuating circumstances are defined as: UDRP action, valid court order, failure of a Registrar's renewal process (which does not include failure of a registrant to respond), the domain name is used by a nameserver that provides DNS service to third-parties (additional time may be required to migrate the records managed by the nameserver), the registrant is subject to bankruptcy proceedings, payment dispute (where a registrant claims to have paid for a renewal, or a discrepancy in the amount paid), billing dispute (where a registrant disputes the amount on a bill), domain name subject to litigation in a court of competent jurisdiction, or other circumstance as approved specifically by ICANN.

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3.7.5.2 Where Registrar chooses, under extenuating circumstances, to renew a domain name without the explicit consent of the registrant, the registrar must maintain a record of the extenuating circumstances associated with renewing that specific domain name for inspection by ICANN consistent with clauses 3.4.2 and 3.4.3 of this registrar accreditation agreement.

3.7.5.3 In the absence of extenuating circumstances (as defined in Section 3.7.5.1 above), a domain name must be deleted within 45 days of either the registrar or the registrant terminating a registration agreement.

3.7.5.4 Registrar shall provide notice to each new registrant describing the details of their deletion and auto-renewal policy including the expected time at which a non-renewed domain name would be deleted relative to the domain's expiration date, or a date range not to exceed ten (10) days in length. If a registrar makes any material changes to its deletion policy during the period of the registration agreement, it must make at least the same effort to inform the registrant of the changes as it would to inform the registrant of other material changes to the registration agreement (as defined in clause 3.7.7 of the registrars accreditation agreement).

3.7.5.5 If Registrar operates a website for domain name registration or renewal, details of Registrar's deletion and auto-renewal policies must be clearly displayed on the website.

3.7.5.6 If Registrar operates a website for domain registration or renewal, it should state, both at the time of registration and in a clear place on its website, any fee charged for the recovery of a domain name during the Redemption Grace Period.

3.7.5.7 In the event that a domain which is the subject of a UDRP dispute is deleted or expires during the course of the dispute, the complainant in the UDRP dispute will have the option to renew or restore the name under the same commercial terms as the registrant. If the complainant renews or restores the name, the name will be placed in Registrar HOLD and Registrar LOCK status, the WHOIS contact information for the registrant will be removed, and the WHOIS entry will indicate that the name is subject to dispute. If the complaint is terminated, or the UDRP dispute finds against the complainant, the name will be deleted within 45 days. The registrant retains the right under the existing redemption grace period provisions to recover the name at any time during the Redemption Grace Period, and retains the right to renew the name before it is deleted.

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3.7.6 Registrar shall not insert or renew any Registered Name in any gTLD registry in a manner contrary to (i) any Consensus Policy stating a list or specification of excluded Registered Names that is in effect at the time of insertion or renewal, or (ii) any list of names to be reserved from registration as required by the specific Registry Operator for which the Registrar is providing Registrar Services.

3.7.7 Registrar shall require all Registered Name Holders to enter into an electronic or paper registration agreement with Registrar including at least the provisions set forth in Subsections 3.7.7.1 through 3.7.7.12, and which agreement shall otherwise set forth the terms and conditions applicable to the registration of a domain name sponsored by Registrar. The Registered Name Holder with whom Registrar enters into a registration agreement must be a person or legal entity other than the Registrar, provided that Registrar may be the Registered Name Holder for domains registered for the purpose of conducting its Registrar Services, in which case the Registrar shall submit to the provisions set forth in Subsections 3.7.7.1 through 3.7.7.12 and shall be responsible to ICANN for compliance with all obligations of the Registered Name Holder as set forth in this Agreement and Specifications and Policies. Registrar shall use commercially reasonable efforts to enforce compliance with the provisions of the registration agreement between Registrar and any Registered Name Holder that relate to implementing the requirements of Subsections 3.7.7.1 through 3.7.7.12 or any Consensus Policy.

3.7.7.1 The Registered Name Holder shall provide to Registrar accurate and reliable contact details and correct and update them within seven (7) days of any change during the term of the Registered Name registration, including: the full name, postal address, e-mail address, voice telephone number, and fax number if available of the Registered Name Holder; name of authorized person for contact purposes in the case of an Registered Name Holder that is an organization, association, or corporation; and the data elements listed in Subsections 3.3.1.2, 3.3.1.7 and 3.3.1.8.

3.7.7.2 A Registered Name Holder's willful provision of inaccurate or unreliable information, its willful failure to update information provided to Registrar within seven (7) days of any change, or its failure to respond for over fifteen (15) days to inquiries by Registrar concerning the accuracy of contact details associated with the Registered Name Holder's registration shall constitute a material breach of the Registered Name Holder-registrar contract and be a basis for suspension and/or cancellation of the Registered Name registration.

3.7.7.3 Any Registered Name Holder that intends to license use of a domain name to a third party is nonetheless the Registered Name

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Holder of record and is responsible for providing its own full contact information and for providing and updating accurate technical and administrative contact information adequate to facilitate timely resolution of any problems that arise in connection with the Registered Name. A Registered Name Holder licensing use of a Registered Name according to this provision shall accept liability for harm caused by wrongful use of the Registered Name, unless it discloses the current contact information provided by the licensee and the identity of the licensee within seven (7) days to a party providing the Registered Name Holder reasonable evidence of actionable harm.

3.7.7.4 Registrar shall provide notice to each new or renewed Registered Name Holder stating:

3.7.7.4.1 The purposes for which any Personal Data collected from the applicant are intended;

3.7.7.4.2 The intended recipients or categories of recipients of the data (including the Registry Operator and others who will receive the data from Registry Operator);

3.7.7.4.3 Which data are obligatory and which data, if any, are voluntary; and

3.7.7.4.4 How the Registered Name Holder or data subject can access and, if necessary, rectify the data held about them.

3.7.7.5 The Registered Name Holder shall consent to the data processing referred to in Subsection 3.7.7.4.

3.7.7.6 The Registered Name Holder shall represent that notice has been provided equivalent to that described in Subsection 3.7.7.4 to any third-party individuals whose Personal Data are supplied to Registrar by the Registered Name Holder, and that the Registered Name Holder has obtained consent equivalent to that referred to in Subsection 3.7.7.5 of any such third-party individuals.

3.7.7.7 Registrar shall agree that it will not process the Personal Data collected from the Registered Name Holder in a way incompatible with the purposes and other limitations about which it has provided notice to the Registered Name Holder in accordance with Subsection 3.7.7.4 above.

3.7.7.8 Registrar shall agree that it will take reasonable precautions to protect Personal Data from loss, misuse, unauthorized access or disclosure, alteration, or destruction.

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3.7.7.9 The Registered Name Holder shall represent that, to the best of the Registered Name Holder's knowledge and belief, neither the registration of the Registered Name nor the manner in which it is directly or indirectly used infringes the legal rights of any third party.

3.7.7.10 For the adjudication of disputes concerning or arising from use of the Registered Name, the Registered Name Holder shall submit, without prejudice to other potentially applicable jurisdictions, to the jurisdiction of the courts (1) of the Registered Name Holder's domicile and (2) where Registrar is located.

3.7.7.11 The Registered Name Holder shall agree that its registration of the Registered Name shall be subject to suspension, cancellation, or transfer pursuant to any Specification or Policy, or pursuant to any registrar or registry procedure not inconsistent with any Specification or Policy, (1) to correct mistakes by Registrar or the Registry Operator in registering the name or (2) for the resolution of disputes concerning the Registered Name.

3.7.7.12 The Registered Name Holder shall indemnify and hold harmless the Registry Operator and its directors, officers, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including reasonable legal fees and expenses) arising out of or related to the Registered Name Holder's domain name registration.

3.7.8 Registrar shall comply with the obligations specified in the Whois Accuracy Program Specification. In addition, notwithstanding anything in the Whois Accuracy Program Specification to the contrary, Registrar shall abide by any Consensus Policy requiring reasonable and commercially practicable (a) verification, at the time of registration, of contact information associated with a Registered Name sponsored by Registrar or (b) periodic re-verification of such information. Registrar shall, upon notification by any person of an inaccuracy in the contact information associated with a Registered Name sponsored by Registrar, take reasonable steps to investigate that claimed inaccuracy. In the event Registrar learns of inaccurate contact information associated with a Registered Name it sponsors, it shall take reasonable steps to correct that inaccuracy.

3.7.9 Registrar shall abide by any Consensus Policy prohibiting or restricting warehousing of or speculation in domain names by registrars.

3.7.10 Registrar shall publish on its website(s) and/or provide a link to the Registrants' Benefits and Responsibilities Specification attached hereto and shall not take any action inconsistent with the corresponding provisions of this Agreement or applicable law.

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3.7.11 Registrar shall make available a description of the customer service handling processes available to Registered Name Holders regarding Registrar Services, including a description of the processes for submitting complaints and resolving disputes regarding the Registrar Services.

3.7.12 Nothing in this Agreement prescribes or limits the amount Registrar may charge Registered Name Holders for registration of Registered Names.

3.8 Domain-Name Dispute Resolution. During the Term of this Agreement, Registrar shall have in place a policy and procedures for resolution of disputes concerning Registered Names. Until ICANN adopts an alternative Consensus Policy or other Specification or Policy with respect to the resolution of disputes concerning Registered Names, Registrar shall comply with the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy ("UDRP") identified on ICANN's website (www.icann.org/general/consensus-policies.htm), as may be modified from time to time. Registrar shall also comply with the Uniform Rapid Suspension ("URS") procedure or its replacement, as well as with any other applicable dispute resolution procedure as required by a Registry Operator for which Registrar is providing Registrar Services.

3.9 Accreditation Fees. As a condition of Accreditation, Registrar shall pay Accreditation fees to ICANN. These fees consist of yearly and variable fees.

3.9.1 Registrar shall pay ICANN a yearly Accreditation fee in an amount established by the ICANN Board of Directors, in conformity with ICANN's bylaws and articles of incorporation. This yearly Accreditation fee shall not exceed US\$4,000. Payment of the yearly fee shall be due within thirty (30) days after invoice from ICANN, provided that Registrar may elect to pay the yearly fee in four (4) equal quarterly installments.

3.9.2 Registrar shall pay the variable Accreditation fees established by the ICANN Board of Directors, in conformity with ICANN's bylaws and articles of incorporation, provided that in each case such fees are reasonably allocated among all registrars that contract with ICANN and that any such fees must be expressly approved by registrars accounting, in the aggregate, for payment of two-thirds of all registrar-level fees. Registrar shall pay such fees in a timely manner for so long as all material terms of this Agreement remain in full force and effect, and notwithstanding the pendency of any dispute between Registrar and ICANN.

3.9.3 For any payments thirty (30) days or more overdue, Registrar shall pay interest on late payments at the rate of 1.5% per month or, if less, the maximum rate permitted by applicable law from later of the date of the invoice or the date the invoice is sent pursuant to Section 7.6 of this Agreement. On reasonable notice given by ICANN to Registrar, accountings submitted by Registrar shall be subject to verification by an audit of

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Registrar's books and records by an independent third-party designated by ICANN that shall preserve the confidentiality of such books and records (other than its findings as to the accuracy of, and any necessary corrections to, the accountings).

3.9.4 The Accreditation fees due under this Agreement are exclusive of tax. All taxes, duties, fees and other governmental charges of any kind (including sales, turnover, services, use and value-added taxes) that are imposed by or under the authority of any government or any political subdivision thereof on the Accreditation fees for any services, software and/or hardware shall be borne by Registrar and shall not be considered a part of, a deduction from, or an offset against such Accreditation fees. All payments due to ICANN shall be made without any deduction or withholding on account of any tax, duty, charge, or penalty except as required by applicable law, in which case, the sum payable by Registrar from which such deduction or withholding is to be made shall be increased to the extent necessary to ensure that, after making such deduction or withholding, ICANN receives (free from any liability with respect thereof) a net sum equal to the sum it would have received but for such deduction or withholding being required.

3.10 Insurance. Registrar shall maintain in force commercial general liability insurance or similar liability insurance as specified by ICANN with policy limits of at least US\$500,000 covering liabilities arising from Registrar's registrar business during the Term of this Agreement.

3.11 Obligations of Registrars under common controlling interest. Registrar shall be in breach of this Agreement if:

3.11.1 ICANN terminates an Affiliated Registrar's accreditation agreement with ICANN (an "Affiliate Termination");

3.11.2 Affiliated Registrar has not initiated arbitration challenging ICANN's right to terminate the Affiliated Registrar's accreditation agreement under Section 5.8 of this Agreement, or has initiated such arbitration and has not prevailed;

3.11.3 the Affiliate Termination was the result of misconduct that materially harmed consumers or the public interest;

3.11.4 a second Affiliated Registrar has pursued, after the Affiliate Termination, the same course of conduct that resulted in the Affiliate Termination; and

3.11.5 ICANN has provided Registrar with written notice that it intends to assert the provisions of this Section 3.11 with respect to Registrar, which notice shall identify in reasonable detail the factual basis for such assertion,

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and Registrar has failed to cure the impugned conduct within fifteen (15) days of such notice.

3.12 Obligations Related to Provision of Registrar Services by Third Parties.

Registrar is responsible for the provision of Registrar Services for all Registered Names that Registrar sponsors being performed in compliance with this Agreement, regardless of whether the Registrar Services are provided by Registrar or a third party, including a Reseller. Registrar must enter into written agreements with all of its Resellers that enable Registrar to comply with and perform all of its obligations under this Agreement. In addition, Registrar must ensure that:

3.12.1 Its Resellers do not display the ICANN or ICANN-Accredited Registrar logo, or otherwise represent themselves as Accredited by ICANN, unless they have written permission from ICANN to do so.

3.12.2 Any registration agreement used by reseller shall include all registration agreement provisions and notices required by the ICANN Registrar Accreditation Agreement and any ICANN Consensus Policies, and shall identify the sponsoring registrar or provide a means for identifying the sponsoring registrar, such as a link to the InterNIC Whois lookup service.

3.12.3 Its Resellers identify the sponsoring registrar upon inquiry from the customer.

3.12.4 Its Resellers comply with any ICANN-adopted Specification or Policy that establishes a program for accreditation of individuals or entities who provide proxy and privacy registration services (a "Proxy Accreditation Program"). Among other features, the Proxy Accreditation Program may require that: (i) proxy and privacy registration services may only be provided in respect of domain name registrations by individuals or entities Accredited by ICANN pursuant to such Proxy Accreditation Program; and (ii) Registrar shall prohibit Resellers from knowingly accepting registrations from any provider of proxy and privacy registration services that is not Accredited by ICANN pursuant the Proxy Accreditation Program. Until such time as the Proxy Accreditation Program is established, Registrar shall require Resellers to comply with the Specification on Privacy and Proxy Registrations attached hereto.

3.12.5 Its Resellers' customers are provided with a link to an ICANN webpage detailing registrant educational information, as detailed in subsection 3.16 below.

3.12.6 In the event Registrar learns that a Reseller is causing Registrar to be in breach of any of the provisions of this Agreement, Registrar shall take reasonable steps to enforce its agreement with such Reseller so as to cure and prevent further instances of non-compliance.

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3.12.7 Its Resellers shall publish on their website(s) and/or provide a link to the Registrants' Benefits and Responsibilities Specification attached hereto and shall not take any action inconsistent with the corresponding provisions of this Agreement or applicable law.

Registrar shall use commercially reasonable efforts to enforce compliance with the provisions of the agreement between Registrar and any Reseller that relate to the provisions of Registrar Services.

3.13 Registrar Training. Registrar's primary contact as identified in Subsection 7.6 below or designee (so long as the designee is employed by Registrar or an Affiliated Registrar) shall complete a training course covering registrar obligations under ICANN policies and agreements. The course will be provided by ICANN at no expense to Registrar, and shall be available in an online format.

3.14 Obligations Related to Proxy and Privacy Services. Registrar agrees to comply with any ICANN-adopted Specification or Policy that establishes a Proxy Accreditation Program. Registrar also agrees to reasonably cooperate with ICANN in the development of such program. Until such time as the Proxy Accreditation Program is established, Registrar agrees to comply with the Specification on Privacy and Proxy Registrations attached hereto.

3.15 Registrar Self-Assessment and Audits. Registrar shall complete and deliver to ICANN on a schedule and in the form specified by ICANN from time to time in consultation with registrars a Registrar self-assessment. Registrar shall complete and deliver to ICANN within twenty (20) days following the end of each calendar year, in a form specified by ICANN a certificate executed by the president, chief executive officer, chief financial officer or chief operating officer (or their equivalents) of Registrar certifying compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. ICANN may from time to time (not to exceed twice per calendar year) conduct, or engage a third party to conduct on its behalf, contractual compliance audits to assess compliance by Registrar with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Any audits pursuant to this Section 3.15 shall be tailored to achieve the purpose of assessing compliance, and ICANN will (a) give reasonable advance notice of any such audit, which notice shall specify in reasonable detail the categories of documents, data and other information requested by ICANN, and (b) use commercially reasonable efforts to conduct such audit in such a manner as to not unreasonably disrupt the operations of Registrar. As part of such audit and upon request by ICANN, Registrar shall timely provide all responsive documents, data and any other information necessary to demonstrate Registrar's compliance with this Agreement. Upon no less than ten (10) days notice (unless otherwise agreed to by Registrar), ICANN may, as part of any contractual compliance audit, conduct site visits during regular business hours to assess compliance by Registrar with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. ICANN shall not disclose Registrar confidential information gathered through such audits except as required by applicable law, legal proceedings, or as expressly permitted by any Specification or

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Policy (including ICANN's Documentary Information Disclosure Policy, as such policy may be amended from time to time); provided, however, that, except as required by applicable law or legal proceedings, ICANN shall not release any information that Registrar has marked as, or has otherwise designated in writing to ICANN as, a "confidential trade secret," "confidential commercial information" or "confidential financial information" of Registrar. If any applicable law, legal proceeding or Specification or Policy permits such disclosure, ICANN will provide Registrar no less than fifteen (15) days notice of its intent to disclose such information, unless such notice is prohibited by law or legal proceeding. Such notice shall include to whom and in what manner ICANN plans to disclose such information.

3.16 Link to Registrant Educational Information. ICANN has published an educational webpage summarizing the terms of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement and related Consensus Policies (as of the date of this Agreement, located at: <http://www.icann.org/en/registrars/registrant-rights-responsibilities-en.htm>). Registrar shall provide a link to such webpage on any website it may operate for domain name registration or renewal clearly displayed to its Registered Name Holders at least as clearly as its links to policies or notifications required to be displayed under ICANN Consensus Policies. ICANN may, in consultation with registrars, update the content and/or URL for this website.

3.17 Registrar Contact, Business Organization and Officer Information. Registrar shall provide to ICANN and maintain accurate and current information as specified in the Registrar Information Specification to this Agreement. In addition, Registrar shall publish on each website through which Registrar provides or offers Registrar Services the information specified as requiring such publication in the Registrar Information Specification. Registrar shall notify ICANN within five (5) days of any changes to such information and update Registrar's website(s) within twenty (20) days of any such changes.

3.18 Registrar's Abuse Contact and Duty to Investigate Reports of Abuse.

3.18.1 Registrar shall maintain an abuse contact to receive reports of abuse involving Registered Names sponsored by Registrar, including reports of Illegal Activity. Registrar shall publish an email address to receive such reports on the home page of Registrar's website (or in another standardized place that may be designated by ICANN from time to time). Registrar shall take reasonable and prompt steps to investigate and respond appropriately to any reports of abuse.

3.18.2 Registrar shall establish and maintain a dedicated abuse point of contact, including a dedicated email address and telephone number that is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to receive reports of Illegal Activity by law enforcement, consumer protection, quasi-governmental or other similar authorities designated from time to time by the national or

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territorial government of the jurisdiction in which the Registrar is established or maintains a physical office. Well-founded reports of Illegal Activity submitted to these contacts must be reviewed within 24 hours by an individual who is empowered by Registrar to take necessary and appropriate actions in response to the report. In responding to any such reports, Registrar will not be required to take any action in contravention of applicable law.

3.18.3 Registrar shall publish on its website a description of its procedures for the receipt, handling, and tracking of abuse reports. Registrar shall document its receipt of and response to all such reports. Registrar shall maintain the records related to such reports for the shorter of two (2) years or the longest period permitted by applicable law, and during such period, shall provide such records to ICANN upon reasonable notice.

3.19 Additional Technical Specifications to Implement IPV6, DNSSEC and IDNs. Registrar shall comply with the Additional Registrar Operations Specification attached hereto.

3.20 Notice of Bankruptcy, Convictions and Security Breaches. Registrar will give ICANN notice within seven (7) days of (i) the commencement of any of the proceedings referenced in Section 5.5.8. (ii) the occurrence of any of the matters specified in Section 5.5.2 or Section 5.5.3 or (iii) any unauthorized access to or disclosure of registrant account information or registration data. The notice required pursuant to Subsection (iii) shall include a detailed description of the type of unauthorized access, how it occurred, the number of registrants affected, and any action taken by Registrar in response.

3.21 Obligations of Registrars Affiliated with Registry Operators. In the event Registrar is Affiliated with any Registry Operator or back-end registry operator (an "Affiliated Relationship") during the Term of this Agreement, Registrar shall comply with all ICANN Specifications and Policies that may be developed from time to time with respect to such Affiliated Relationships, and will notify ICANN within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the event that created the Affiliate relationship (e.g., the closing of any merger, acquisition or other transaction, or the execution of any agreement, in each case, giving rise to such Affiliated Relationship).

3.22 Cooperation with Emergency Registry Service Providers. In the event that ICANN transitions the operation of a registry for a gTLD in which Registrar sponsors Registered Names to an emergency registry service provider, Registrar shall cooperate in all reasonable respects with such emergency registry service provider, including by entering into a registry-registrar agreement with such provider necessary to effect the transition and by providing all Registered Name Holder data reasonably requested by such emergency operator for the purpose of facilitating an efficient transition of the registry for the gTLD.

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4. PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OR REVISION OF SPECIFICATIONS AND POLICIES.

4.1 Compliance with Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies. During the Term of this Agreement, Registrar shall comply with and implement all Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies in existence as of the Effective Date found at <http://www.icann.org/general/consensus-policies.htm>, and as may in the future be developed and adopted in accordance with the ICANN Bylaws, provided such future Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies are adopted in accordance with the procedures and relate to those topics and subject to those limitations set forth in the Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies Specification to this Agreement.

5. TERM, TERMINATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

5.1 Term of Agreement. This Agreement shall be effective on the Effective Date and shall have an initial term running until the Expiration Date, unless sooner terminated.

5.2 Renewal. This Agreement and Registrar's Accreditation will be renewed for successive periods of five (5) years upon the Expiration Date and the expiration of each successive five-year term thereafter under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, unless:

5.2.1 at the time of such renewal, Registrar no longer meets the ICANN registrar Accreditation criteria then in effect;

5.2.2 Registrar is not in compliance with its obligations under this Agreement at the time of the Expiration Date or at the expiration of any successive five (5) year term thereafter;

5.2.3 Registrar has been given notice by ICANN of three (3) or more material breaches of this Agreement within the two (2) years preceding the Expiration Date or the date of expiration of any successive five (5) year term thereafter; or

5.2.4 this Agreement has terminated prior to the Expiration Date or the expiration date of any successive five (5) year term thereafter.

In the event Registrar intends to renew this Agreement pursuant to this Section 5.2, Registrar shall provide ICANN written notice thereof during the period that is no more than ninety (90) days and no less than sixty (60) days prior to the Expiration Date and each successive five (5) year term thereafter. The provision of such notice shall not be a condition to renewal hereunder. Pursuant to its customary practices (as may be modified by ICANN), ICANN will provide notice to Registrar of the Expiration Date and the date of expiration of any subsequent term hereunder.

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5.3 Right to Substitute Updated Agreement. In the event that, during the Term of this Agreement, ICANN adopts a revised form Registrar accreditation agreement (the "Updated RAA"), Registrar (provided it has not received (i) a notice of breach that it has not cured or (ii) a notice of termination or suspension of this Agreement under this Section 5) may elect, by giving ICANN written notice, to enter into the Updated RAA. In the event of such election, Registrar and ICANN shall as soon as practicable enter into the Updated RAA for the term specified in the Updated RAA, and this Agreement will be deemed terminated.

5.4 Termination of Agreement by Registrar. This Agreement may be terminated before its expiration by Registrar by giving ICANN thirty (30) days written notice. Upon such termination by Registrar, Registrar shall not be entitled to any refund of fees paid to ICANN pursuant to this Agreement.

5.5 Termination of Agreement by ICANN. This Agreement may be terminated before its expiration by ICANN in any of the following circumstances:

5.5.1 There was a material misrepresentation, material inaccuracy, or materially misleading statement in Registrar's application for Accreditation or renewal of Accreditation or any material accompanying the application.

5.5.2 Registrar:

5.5.2.1 is convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a felony or other serious offense related to financial activities, or is judged by a court of competent jurisdiction to have:

5.5.2.1.1 committed fraud,

5.5.2.1.2 committed a breach of fiduciary duty, or

5.5.2.1.3 with actual knowledge (or through gross negligence) permitted Illegal Activity in the registration or use of domain names or in the provision to Registrar by any Registered Name Holder of inaccurate Whois information; or

5.5.2.1.4 failed to comply with the terms of an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction relating to the use of domain names sponsored by the Registrar;

or is the subject of a judicial determination that ICANN reasonably deems as the substantive equivalent of any of the foregoing; or

5.5.2.2 is disciplined by the government of its domicile for conduct involving dishonesty or misuse of funds of others; or

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5.5.2.3 is the subject of a non-interlocutory order issued by a court or arbitral tribunal, in each case of competent jurisdiction, finding that Registrar has, directly or through an Affiliate, committed a specific violation(s) of applicable national law or governmental regulation relating to cybersquatting or its equivalent; or

5.5.2.4 is found by ICANN, based on its review of the findings of arbitral tribunals, to have been engaged, either directly or through its Affiliate, in a pattern and practice of trafficking in or use of domain names identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark of a third party in which the Registered Name Holder has no rights or legitimate interest, which trademarks have been registered and are being used in bad faith.

5.5.3 Registrar knowingly employs any officer that is convicted of a misdemeanor related to financial activities or of any felony, or is judged by a court of competent jurisdiction to have committed fraud or breach of fiduciary duty, or is the subject of a judicial determination that ICANN reasonably deems as the substantive equivalent of any of the foregoing and such officer is not terminated within thirty (30) days of Registrar's knowledge of the foregoing; or any member of Registrar's board of directors or similar governing body is convicted of a misdemeanor related to financial activities or of any felony, or is judged by a court of competent jurisdiction to have committed fraud or breach of fiduciary duty, or is the subject of a judicial determination that ICANN reasonably deems as the substantive equivalent of any of the foregoing and such member is not removed from Registrar's board of directors or similar governing body within thirty (30) days of Registrar's knowledge of the foregoing.

5.5.4 Registrar fails to cure any breach of this Agreement within twenty-one (21) days after ICANN gives Registrar notice of the breach.

5.5.5 Registrar fails to comply with a ruling granting specific performance under Sections 5.7 or 7.1.

5.5.6 Registrar has been in fundamental and material breach of its obligations under this Agreement at least three (3) times within a twelve (12) month period.

5.5.7 Registrar continues acting in a manner that ICANN has reasonably determined endangers the stability or operational integrity of the Internet after receiving three (3) days notice of that determination.

5.5.8 (i) Registrar makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors or similar act; (ii) attachment, garnishment or similar proceedings are commenced against Registrar, which proceedings are a material threat to Registrar's ability to provide Registrar Services for gTLDs, and are not

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dismissed within sixty (60) days of their commencement; (iii) a trustee, receiver, liquidator or equivalent is appointed in place of Registrar or maintains control over any of Registrar's property; (iv) execution is levied upon any property of Registrar, (v) proceedings are instituted by or against Registrar under any bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other laws relating to the relief of debtors and such proceedings are not dismissed within thirty (30) days of their commencement, or (vi) Registrar files for protection under the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. Section 101 et seq., or a foreign equivalent or liquidates, dissolves or otherwise discontinues its operations.

5.6 Termination Procedures. This Agreement may be terminated in circumstances described in Subsections 5.5.1 through 5.5.6 above only upon fifteen (15) days written notice to Registrar (in the case of Subsection 5.5.4 occurring after Registrar's failure to cure), with Registrar being given an opportunity during that time to initiate arbitration under Subsection 5.8 to determine the appropriateness of termination under this Agreement. This Agreement may be terminated immediately upon notice to Registrar in circumstances described in Subsections 5.5.7 and 5.5.8.

5.7 Suspension.

5.7.1 Upon the occurrence of any of the circumstances set forth in Section 5.5, ICANN may, in ICANN's sole discretion, upon delivery of a notice pursuant to Subsection 5.7.2, elect to suspend Registrar's ability to create or sponsor new Registered Names or initiate inbound transfers of Registered Names for any or all gTLDs for a period of up to a twelve (12) months following the effectiveness of such suspension. Suspension of a Registrar does not preclude ICANN's ability to issue a notice of termination in accordance with the notice requirements of Section 5.6.

5.7.2 Any suspension under Subsections 5.7.1 will be effective upon fifteen (15) days written notice to Registrar, with Registrar being given an opportunity during that time to initiate arbitration under Subsection 5.8 to determine the appropriateness of suspension under this Agreement.

5.7.3 Upon suspension, Registrar shall notify users, by posting a prominent notice on its web site, that it is unable to create or sponsor new gTLD domain name registrations or initiate inbound transfers of Registered Names. Registrar's notice shall include a link to the notice of suspension from ICANN.

5.7.4 If Registrar acts in a manner that ICANN reasonably determines endangers the stability or operational integrity of the Internet and upon notice does not immediately cure, ICANN may suspend this Agreement for five (5) working days pending ICANN's application for more extended specific performance or injunctive relief under Subsection 7.1. Suspension

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of the Agreement under this Subsection may, at ICANN's sole discretion, preclude the Registrar from (i) providing Registration Services for gTLDs delegated by ICANN on or after the date of delivery of such notice to Registrar and (ii) creating or sponsoring new Registered Names or initiating inbound transfers of Registered Names for any gTLDs. Registrar must also post the statement specified in Subsection 5.7.3.

5.8 Resolution of Disputes Under this Agreement. Subject to the limitations set forth in Section 6 and Section 7.4, disputes arising under or in connection with this Agreement, including (1) disputes arising from ICANN's failure to renew Registrar's Accreditation and (2) requests for specific performance, shall be resolved in a court of competent jurisdiction or, at the election of either party, by an arbitration conducted as provided in this Subsection 5.8 pursuant to the International Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). The arbitration shall be conducted in English and shall occur in Los Angeles County, California, USA. Except as set forth in Section 7.4.5, there shall be one (1) arbitrator agreed by the parties from a list of AAA arbitrators, or if parties do not agree on an arbitrator within fifteen (15) days of the AAA request that the parties designate an arbitrator, the AAA shall choose and appoint an arbitrator, paying due regard to the arbitrator's knowledge of the DNS. The parties shall bear the costs of the arbitration in equal shares, subject to the right of the arbitrator to reallocate the costs in their award as provided in the AAA rules. The parties shall bear their own attorneys' fees in connection with the arbitration, and the arbitrator may not reallocate the attorneys' fees in conjunction with their award. The arbitrator shall render its decision within ninety (90) days of the conclusion of the arbitration hearing. In the event Registrar initiates arbitration to contest the appropriateness of termination of this Agreement by ICANN pursuant to Section 5.5 or suspension of Registrar by ICANN pursuant to Section 5.7.1, Registrar may at the same time request that the arbitration panel stay the termination or suspension until the arbitration decision is rendered. The arbitration panel shall order a stay: (i) upon showing by Registrar that continued operations would not be harmful to consumers or the public interest, or (ii) upon appointment by the arbitration panel of a qualified third party to manage the operations of the Registrar until the arbitration decision is rendered. In furtherance of sub-clause (ii) above, the arbitration panel is hereby granted all necessary authority to appoint a qualified third-party to manage the operations of the Registrar upon the Registrar's request and if the panel deems it appropriate. In selecting the third-party manager, the arbitration panel shall take into consideration, but shall not be bound by, any expressed preferences of Registrar. Any order granting a request for a stay must be issued within fourteen (14) days after the filing of the arbitration. If an order granting a request for a stay is not issued within fourteen (14) days, ICANN has the right to proceed with the termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 5.5 or suspension of the Registrar pursuant to Section 5.7.1. In the event Registrar initiates arbitration to contest an Independent Review Panel's decision under Subsection 4.3.3 sustaining the ICANN Board of Director's determination that a specification or policy is supported by consensus, Registrar may at the same time request that the arbitration

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panel stay the requirement that it comply with the policy until the arbitration decision is rendered, and that request shall have the effect of staying the requirement until the decision or until the arbitration panel has granted an ICANN request for lifting of the stay. In all litigation involving ICANN concerning this Agreement (whether in a case where arbitration has not been elected or to enforce an arbitration award), jurisdiction and exclusive venue for such litigation shall be in a court located in Los Angeles, California, USA; however, the parties shall also have the right to enforce a judgment of such a court in any court of competent jurisdiction. For the purpose of aiding the arbitration and/or preserving the rights of the parties during the pendency of an arbitration, the parties shall have the right to seek temporary or preliminary injunctive relief from the arbitration panel or in a court located in Los Angeles, California, USA, which shall not be a waiver of this arbitration agreement.

5.9 Limitations on Monetary Remedies for Violations of this Agreement. ICANN's aggregate monetary liability for violations of this Agreement shall not exceed an amount equal to the Accreditation fees paid by Registrar to ICANN under Subsection 3.9 of this Agreement during the preceding twelve-month period. Registrar's monetary liability to ICANN for violations of this Agreement shall be limited to Accreditation fees owing to ICANN under this Agreement and, except in the case of a good faith disagreement concerning the interpretation of this agreement, reasonable payment to ICANN for the reasonable and direct costs including attorney fees, staff time, and other related expenses associated with legitimate efforts to enforce Registrar compliance with this agreement and costs incurred by ICANN to respond to or mitigate the negative consequences of such behavior for Registered Name Holders and the Internet community. In the event of repeated willful material breaches of the agreement, Registrar shall be liable for sanctions of up to five (5) times ICANN's enforcement costs, but otherwise in no event shall either party be liable for special, indirect, incidental, punitive, exemplary, or consequential damages for any violation of this Agreement.

6. AMENDMENT AND WAIVER.

6.1 If the ICANN Board of Directors determines that an amendment to this Agreement (including to the Specifications referred to herein, unless such Specifications expressly do not permit amendment thereto) and all other registrar agreements between ICANN and the Applicable Registrars (the "Applicable Registrar Agreements") is desirable (each, a "Special Amendment"), ICANN may adopt a Special Amendment pursuant to the requirements of and process set forth in this Section 6; provided that a Special Amendment may not be a Restricted Amendment.

6.2 Prior to submitting a Special Amendment for Registrar Approval, ICANN shall first consult in good faith with the Working Group regarding the form and substance of such Special Amendment. The duration of such consultation shall be reasonably determined by ICANN based on the substance of the Special Amendment. Following

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such consultation, ICANN may propose the adoption of a Special Amendment by publicly posting such amendment on its website for no less than thirty (30) calendar days (the "Posting Period") and providing notice of such proposed amendment to the Applicable Registrars in accordance with Section 7.6. ICANN will consider the public comments submitted on a Special Amendment during the Posting Period (including comments submitted by the Applicable Registrars).

6.3 If, within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following the expiration of the Posting Period (the "Approval Period"), the ICANN Board of Directors approves a Special Amendment (which may be in a form different than submitted for public comment, but must address the subject matter of the Special Amendment posted for public comment, as modified to reflect and/or address input from the Working Group and public comments), ICANN shall provide notice of, and submit, such Special Amendment for approval or disapproval by the Applicable Registrars. If, during the sixty (60) calendar day period following the date ICANN provides such notice to the Applicable Registrars, such Special Amendment receives Registrar Approval, such Special Amendment shall be deemed approved (an "Approved Amendment") by the Applicable Registrars, and shall be effective and deemed an amendment to this Agreement on the date that is sixty (60) calendar days following the date ICANN provided notice of the approval of such Approved Amendment to Registrar (the "Amendment Effective Date"). In the event that a Special Amendment does not receive Registrar Approval, the Special Amendment shall be deemed not approved by the Applicable Registrars (a "Rejected Amendment"). A Rejected Amendment will have no effect on the terms and conditions of this Agreement, except as set forth below.

6.4 If the ICANN Board of Directors reasonably determines that a Rejected Amendment falls within the subject matter categories set forth in Section 1.2 of the Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies Specification, the ICANN Board of Directors may adopt a resolution (the date such resolution is adopted is referred to herein as the "Resolution Adoption Date") requesting an Issue Report (as such term is defined in ICANN's Bylaws) by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (the "GNSO") regarding the substance of such Rejected Amendment. The policy development process undertaken by the GNSO pursuant to such requested Issue Report is referred to herein as a "PDP." If such PDP results in a Final Report supported by a GNSO Supermajority (as defined in ICANN's Bylaws) that either (i) recommends adoption of the Rejected Amendment as Consensus Policy or (ii) recommends against adoption of the Rejected Amendment as Consensus Policy, and, in the case of (i) above, the Board adopts such Consensus Policy, Registrar shall comply with its obligations pursuant to Section 4 of this Agreement. In either case, ICANN will abandon the Rejected Amendment and it will have no effect on the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 6.4, the ICANN Board of Directors shall not be required to initiate a PDP with respect to a Rejected Amendment if, at any time in the twelve (12) month period preceding the submission of such Rejected Amendment for Registrar Approval pursuant to Section 6.3, the subject matter of such Rejected Amendment was the

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subject of a concluded or otherwise abandoned or terminated PDP that did not result in a GNSO Supermajority recommendation.

6.5 If (i) a Rejected Amendment does not fall within the subject matter categories set forth in Section 1.2 of the Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies Specification, (ii) the subject matter of a Rejected Amendment was, at any time in the twelve (12) month period preceding the submission of such Rejected Amendment for Registrar Approval pursuant to Section 6.3, the subject of a concluded or otherwise abandoned or terminated PDP that did not result in a GNSO Supermajority recommendation, or (iii) a PDP does not result in a Final Report supported by a GNSO Supermajority that either (a) recommends adoption of the Rejected Amendment as Consensus Policy or (b) recommends against adoption of the Rejected Amendment as Consensus Policy (or such PDP has otherwise been abandoned or terminated for any reason), then, in any such case, such Rejected Amendment may still be adopted and become effective in the manner described below. In order for the Rejected Amendment to be adopted, the following requirements must be satisfied:

6.5.1 the subject matter of the Rejected Amendment must be within the scope of ICANN's mission and consistent with a balanced application of its core values (as described in ICANN's Bylaws);

6.5.2 the Rejected Amendment must be justified by a Substantial and Compelling Reason in the Public Interest, must be likely to promote such interest, taking into account competing public and private interests that are likely to be affected by the Rejected Amendment, and must be narrowly tailored and no broader than reasonably necessary to address such Substantial and Compelling Reason in the Public Interest;

6.5.3 to the extent the Rejected Amendment prohibits or requires conduct or activities, imposes material costs on the Applicable Registrars, and/or materially reduces public access to domain name services, the Rejected Amendment must be the least restrictive means reasonably available to address the Substantial and Compelling Reason in the Public Interest;

6.5.4 the ICANN Board of Directors must submit the Rejected Amendment, along with a written explanation of the reasoning related to its determination that the Rejected Amendment meets the requirements set out in subclauses (i) through (iii) above, for public comment for a period of no less than thirty (30) calendar days; and

6.5.5 following such public comment period, the ICANN Board of Directors must (i) engage in consultation (or direct ICANN management to engage in consultation) with the Working Group, subject matter experts, members of the GNSO, relevant advisory committees and other interested stakeholders with respect to such Rejected Amendment for a period of no less than sixty

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(60) calendar days; and (ii) following such consultation, reapprove the Rejected Amendment (which may be in a form different than submitted for Registrar Approval, but must address the subject matter of the Rejected Amendment, as modified to reflect and/or address input from the Working Group and public comments) by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the ICANN Board of Directors eligible to vote on such matter, taking into account any ICANN policy affecting such eligibility, including ICANN's Conflict of Interest Policy (a "Board Amendment").

Such Board Amendment shall, subject to Section 6.6, be deemed an Approved Amendment, and shall be effective and deemed an amendment to this Agreement on the date that is sixty (60) calendar days following the date ICANN provided notice of the approval of such Board Amendment to Registrar (which effective date shall be deemed the Amendment Effective Date hereunder). Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Board Amendment may not amend the registrar fees charged by ICANN hereunder, or amend this Section 6.

6.6 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6.5, a Board Amendment shall not be deemed an Approved Amendment if, during the thirty (30) calendar day period following the approval by the ICANN Board of Directors of the Board Amendment, the Working Group, on the behalf of the Applicable Registrars, submits to the ICANN Board of Directors an alternative to the Board Amendment (an "Alternative Amendment") that meets the following requirements:

6.6.1 sets forth the precise text proposed by the Working Group to amend this Agreement in lieu of the Board Amendment;

6.6.2 addresses the Substantial and Compelling Reason in the Public Interest identified by the ICANN Board of Directors as the justification for the Board Amendment; and

6.6.3 compared to the Board Amendment is: (a) more narrowly tailored to address such Substantial and Compelling Reason in the Public Interest, and (b) to the extent the Alternative Amendment prohibits or requires conduct or activities, imposes material costs on Affected Registrars, or materially reduces access to domain name services, is a less restrictive means to address the Substantial and Compelling Reason in the Public Interest.

Any proposed amendment that does not meet the requirements of subclauses 6.6.1 through 6.6.3 in the immediately preceding sentence shall not be considered an Alternative Amendment hereunder and therefore shall not supersede or delay the effectiveness of the Board Amendment. If, following the submission of the Alternative Amendment to the ICANN Board of Directors, the Alternative Amendment receives Registrar Approval, the Alternative Amendment shall supersede the Board Amendment and shall be deemed an Approved Amendment hereunder (and shall be effective and deemed an amendment to this Agreement on

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the date that is sixty (60) calendar days following the date ICANN provided notice of the approval of such Alternative Amendment to Registrar, which effective date shall be deemed the Amendment Effective Date hereunder), unless, within a period of sixty (60) calendar days following the date that the Working Group notifies the ICANN Board of Directors of Registrar Approval of such Alternative Amendment (during which time ICANN shall engage with the Working Group with respect to the Alternative Amendment), the ICANN Board of Directors by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the ICANN Board of Directors eligible to vote on such matter, taking into account any ICANN policy affecting such eligibility, including ICANN's Conflict of Interest Policy, rejects the Alternative Amendment. If (A) the Alternative Amendment does not receive Registrar Approval within thirty (30) days of submission of such Alternative Amendment to the Applicable Registrars (and the Working Group shall notify ICANN of the date of such submission), or (B) the ICANN Board of Directors rejects the Alternative Amendment by such two-thirds vote, the Board Amendment (and not the Alternative Amendment) shall be effective and deemed an amendment to this Agreement on the date that is sixty (60) calendar days following the date ICANN provided notice to Registrar (which effective date shall be deemed the Amendment Effective Date hereunder). If the ICANN Board of Directors rejects an Alternative Amendment, the board shall publish a written rationale setting forth its analysis of the criteria set forth in Sections 6.6.1 through 6.6.3. The ability of the ICANN Board of Directors to reject an Alternative Amendment hereunder does not relieve the Board of the obligation to ensure that any Board Amendment meets the criteria set forth in Section 6.5.1 through 6.5.5.

6.7 In the event that Registrar believes an Approved Amendment does not meet the substantive requirements set out in this Section 6 or has been adopted in contravention of any of the procedural provisions of this Section 6, Registrar may challenge the adoption of such Special Amendment pursuant to the dispute resolution provisions set forth in Section 5.8, except that such arbitration shall be conducted by a three-person arbitration panel. Any such challenge must be brought within sixty (60) calendar days following the date ICANN provided notice to Registrar of the Approved Amendment, and ICANN may consolidate all challenges brought by registrars (including Registrar) into a single proceeding. The Approved Amendment will be deemed not to have amended this Agreement during the pendency of the dispute resolution process.

6.8 Registrar may apply in writing to ICANN for an exemption from the Approved Amendment (each such request submitted by Registrar hereunder, an "Exemption Request") during the thirty (30) calendar day period following the date ICANN provided notice to Registrar of such Approved Amendment.

6.8.1 Each Exemption Request will set forth the basis for such request and provide detailed support for an exemption from the Approved Amendment. An Exemption Request may also include a detailed description and support for any alternatives to, or a variation of, the Approved Amendment proposed by such Registrar.

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6.8.2 An Exemption Request may only be granted upon a clear and convincing showing by Registrar that compliance with the Approved Amendment conflicts with applicable laws or would have a material adverse effect on the long-term financial condition or results of operations of Registrar. No Exemption Request will be granted if ICANN determines, in its reasonable discretion, that granting such Exemption Request would be materially harmful to registrants or result in the denial of a direct benefit to registrants.

6.8.3 Within ninety (90) calendar days of ICANN's receipt of an Exemption Request, ICANN shall either approve (which approval may be conditioned or consist of alternatives to or a variation of the Approved Amendment) or deny the Exemption Request in writing, during which time the Approved Amendment will not amend this Agreement.

6.8.4 If the Exemption Request is approved by ICANN, the Approved Amendment will not amend this Agreement; provided, that any conditions, alternatives or variations of the Approved Amendment required by ICANN shall be effective and, to the extent applicable, will amend this Agreement as of the Amendment Effective Date. If such Exemption Request is denied by ICANN, the Approved Amendment will amend this Agreement as of the Amendment Effective Date (or, if such date has passed, such Approved Amendment shall be deemed effective immediately on the date of such denial), provided that Registrar may, within thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of ICANN's determination, appeal ICANN's decision to deny the Exemption Request pursuant to the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section 5.8.

6.8.5 The Approved Amendment will be deemed not to have amended this Agreement during the pendency of the dispute resolution process. For avoidance of doubt, only Exemption Requests submitted by Registrar that are approved by ICANN pursuant to this Article 6 or through an arbitration decision pursuant to Section 5.8 shall exempt Registrar from any Approved Amendment, and no Exemption Request granted to any other Applicable Registrar (whether by ICANN or through arbitration), shall have any effect under this Agreement or exempt Registrar from any Approved Amendment.

6.9 Except as set forth in Section 4, Subsection 5.3, this Section 6, Section 7.4 and as otherwise set forth in this Agreement and the Specifications hereto, no amendment, supplement or modification of this Agreement or any provision hereof shall be binding unless executed in writing by both parties, and nothing in this Section 6 or Section 7.4 shall restrict ICANN and Registrar from entering into bilateral amendments and modifications to this Agreement negotiated solely between the two parties. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be binding unless evidenced by a writing signed by the party waiving compliance with such provision. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement or failure to

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enforce any of the provisions hereof shall be deemed or shall constitute a waiver of any other provision hereof, nor shall any such waiver constitute a continuing waiver unless otherwise expressly provided. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Section 6 or Section 7.4 shall be deemed to limit Registrar's obligation to comply with Section 4.

6.10 Notwithstanding anything in this Section 6 to the contrary, (a) if Registrar provides evidence to ICANN's reasonable satisfaction that the Approved Amendment would materially increase the cost of providing Registrar Services, then ICANN will allow up to one-hundred eighty (180) calendar days for the Approved Amendment to become effective with respect to Registrar, and (b) no Approved Amendment adopted pursuant to Section 6 shall become effective with respect to Registrar if Registrar provides ICANN with an irrevocable notice of termination pursuant to Section 5.4.

7. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

7.1 Specific Performance. While this Agreement is in effect, either party may seek specific performance of any provision of this Agreement in the manner provided in Section 5.8, provided the party seeking such performance is not in material breach of its obligations.

7.2 Handling by ICANN of Registrar-Supplied Data. Before receiving any Personal Data from Registrar, ICANN shall specify to Registrar in writing the purposes for and conditions under which ICANN intends to use the Personal Data. ICANN may from time to time provide Registrar with a revised specification of such purposes and conditions, which specification shall become effective no fewer than thirty (30) days after it is provided to Registrar. ICANN shall not use Personal Data provided by Registrar for a purpose or under conditions inconsistent with the specification in effect when the Personal Data was provided. ICANN shall take reasonable steps to avoid uses of the Personal Data by third parties inconsistent with the specification.

7.3 Assignment; Change of Ownership or Management.

7.3.1 Except as set forth in this Section 7.3.1, either party may assign or transfer this Agreement only with the prior written consent of the other party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. If ICANN fails to expressly provide or withhold its consent to any requested assignment (an "Assignment Request") of this Agreement by Registrar within thirty (30) calendar days of ICANN's receipt of notice of such Assignment Request (or, if ICANN has requested additional information from Registrar in connection with its review of such request, sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of all requested written information regarding such request) from Registrar, ICANN shall be deemed to have consented to such requested assignment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, (i) ICANN may assign this Agreement without the consent of Registrar upon approval of the ICANN Board of Directors in conjunction with

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a reorganization, reconstitution or re-incorporation of ICANN upon such assignee's express assumption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, (ii) Registrar may assign this Agreement without the consent of ICANN to a wholly-owned subsidiary of Registrar upon such subsidiary's express assumption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and (iii) ICANN shall be deemed to have consented to an Assignment Request in which the assignee associated with such Assignment Request is a party to a Registrar Accreditation Agreement with ICANN on the terms set forth in this Agreement (provided that such assignee is then in compliance with the terms and conditions of such Registrar Accreditation Agreement in all material respects), unless ICANN provides to Registrar a written objection to such Assignment Request within ten (10) calendar days of ICANN's receipt of notice of such Assignment Request pursuant to this Section 7.3.1.

7.3.2 To the extent that an entity acquires a Controlling interest in Registrar's stock, assets or business, Registrar shall provide ICANN notice within seven (7) days of such an acquisition. Such notification shall include a statement that affirms that Registrar meets the Specification or Policy on Accreditation criteria then in effect, and is in compliance with its obligations under this Agreement. Within thirty (30) days of such notification, ICANN may request additional information from the Registrar establishing compliance with this Agreement, in which case Registrar must supply the requested information within fifteen (15) days. Any disputes concerning Registrar's continued Accreditation shall be resolved pursuant to Section 5.8.

7.4 Negotiation Process.

7.4.1 If either the Chief Executive Officer of ICANN ("CEO") or the Chairperson of the Registrar Stakeholder Group ("Chair") desires to discuss any revision(s) to this Agreement, the CEO or Chair, as applicable, shall provide written notice to the other person, which shall set forth in reasonable detail the proposed revisions to this Agreement (a "Negotiation Notice"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither the CEO nor the Chair may (i) propose revisions to this Agreement that modify any Consensus Policy then existing, (ii) propose revisions to this Agreement pursuant to this Section 7.4 on or before June 30, 2014, or (iii) propose revisions or submit a Negotiation Notice more than once during any twelve month period beginning on July 1, 2014.

7.4.2 Following receipt of the Negotiation Notice by either the CEO or the Chair, ICANN and the Working Group shall consult in good faith negotiations regarding the form and substance of the proposed revisions to this Agreement, which shall be in the form of a proposed amendment to this Agreement (the "Proposed Revisions"), for a period of at least ninety (90) calendar days (unless a resolution is earlier reached) and attempt to reach a mutually acceptable agreement relating to the Proposed Revisions (the "Discussion Period").

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7.4.3 If, following the conclusion of the Discussion Period, an agreement is reached on the Proposed Revisions, ICANN shall post the mutually agreed Proposed Revisions on its website for public comment for no less than thirty (30) calendar days (the "Posting Period") and provide notice of such revisions to all Applicable Registrars in accordance with Section 7.6. ICANN and the Working Group will consider the public comments submitted on the Proposed Revisions during the Posting Period (including comments submitted by the Applicable Registrars). Following the conclusion of the Posting Period, the Proposed Revisions shall be submitted for Registrar Approval and approval by the ICANN Board of Directors. If such approvals are obtained, the Proposed Revisions shall be deemed an Approved Amendment by the Applicable Registrars and ICANN, and shall be effective and deemed an amendment to this Agreement upon sixty (60) calendar days notice from ICANN to Registrar.

7.4.4 If, following the conclusion of the Discussion Period, an agreement is not reached between ICANN and the Working Group on the Proposed Revisions, either the CEO or the Chair may provide the other person written notice (the "Mediation Notice") requiring each party to attempt to resolve the disagreements related to the Proposed Revisions through impartial, facilitative (non-evaluative) mediation in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth below. In the event that a Mediation Notice is provided, ICANN and the Working Group shall, within fifteen (15) calendar days thereof, simultaneously post the text of their desired version of the Proposed Revisions and a position paper with respect thereto on ICANN's website.

7.4.4.1 The mediation shall be conducted by a single mediator selected by the parties. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator within fifteen (15) calendar days following receipt by the CEO or Chair, as applicable, of the Mediation Notice, the parties will promptly select a mutually acceptable mediation provider entity, which entity shall, as soon as practicable following such entity's selection, designate a mediator, who is a licensed attorney with general knowledge of contract law and, to the extent necessary to mediate the particular dispute, general knowledge of the domain name system. Any mediator must confirm in writing that he or she is not, and will not become during the term of the mediation, an employee, partner, executive officer, director, or security holder of ICANN or an Applicable Registrar. If such confirmation is not provided by the appointed mediator, then a replacement mediator shall be appointed pursuant to this Section 7.4.4.1.

7.4.4.2 The mediator shall conduct the mediation in accordance with the rules and procedures for facilitative mediation that he or she determines following consultation with the parties. The parties shall

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discuss the dispute in good faith and attempt, with the mediator's assistance, to reach an amicable resolution of the dispute.

7.4.4.3 Each party shall bear its own costs in the mediation. The parties shall share equally the fees and expenses of the mediator.

7.4.4.4 If an agreement is reached during the mediation, ICANN shall post the mutually agreed Proposed Revisions on its website for the Posting Period and provide notice to all Applicable Registrars in accordance with Section 7.6. ICANN and the Working Group will consider the public comments submitted on the agreed Proposed Revisions during the Posting Period (including comments submitted by the Applicable Registrars). Following the conclusion of the Posting Period, the Proposed Revisions shall be submitted for Registrar Approval and approval by the ICANN Board of Directors. If such approvals are obtained, the Proposed Revisions shall be deemed an Approved Amendment by the Applicable Registrars and ICANN, and shall be effective and deemed an amendment to this Agreement upon sixty (60) days notice from ICANN to Registrar.

7.4.4.5 If the parties have not resolved the dispute for any reason by the date that is ninety (90) calendar days following receipt by the CEO or Chair, as applicable, of the Mediation Notice, the mediation shall automatically terminate (unless extended by agreement of the parties). The mediator shall deliver to the parties a definition of the issues that could be considered in future arbitration, if invoked. Those issues are subject to the limitations set forth in Section 7.4.5.2 below.

7.4.5 If, following mediation, ICANN and the Working Group have not reached an agreement on the Proposed Revisions, either the CEO or the Chair may provide the other person written notice (an "Arbitration Notice") requiring ICANN and the Applicable Registry Operators to resolve the dispute through binding arbitration in accordance with the arbitration provisions of Section 5.8, subject to the requirements and limitations of this Section 7.4.5.

7.4.5.1 If an Arbitration Notice is sent, the mediator's definition of issues, along with the Proposed Revisions (be those from ICANN, Registrars or both) shall be posted for public comment on ICANN's website for a period of no less than thirty (30) calendar days. ICANN and the Working Group will consider the public comments submitted on the Proposed Revisions during the Posting Period (including comments submitted by the Applicable Registrars), and information regarding such comments and consideration shall be provided to the a three (3) person arbitrator panel. Each party may modify its Proposed Revisions before and after the Posting Period. The arbitration

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proceeding may not commence prior to the closing of such public comment period, and ICANN may consolidate all challenges brought by registrars (including Registrar) into a single proceeding. Except as set forth in this Section 7.4.5.1, the arbitration shall be conducted pursuant to Section 5.8.

7.4.5.2 No dispute regarding the Proposed Revisions may be submitted for arbitration to the extent the subject matter of the Proposed Revisions (i) relates to Consensus Policy, (ii) falls within the subject matter categories set forth in Section 1.2 of the Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies Specification, or (iii) seeks to amend any of the following provisions or Specifications of this Agreement: Sections 2, 4 and 6; subsections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.14, 3.19, 3.21, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3; and the Consensus Policies and Temporary Policies Specification, Data Retention Specification, WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification, Registration Data Directory Service (WHOIS) Specification or the Additional Registrar Operation Specification.

7.4.5.3 The mediator will brief the arbitrator panel regarding ICANN and the Working Group's respective proposals relating to the Proposed Revisions.

7.4.5.4 No amendment to this Agreement relating to the Proposed Revisions may be submitted for arbitration by either the Working Group or ICANN, unless, in the case of the Working Group, the proposed amendment has received Registrar Approval and, in the case of ICANN, the proposed amendment has been approved by the ICANN Board of Directors.

7.4.5.5 In order for the arbitrator panel to approve either ICANN or the Working Group's proposed amendment relating to the Proposed Revisions, the arbitrator panel must conclude that such proposed amendment is consistent with a balanced application of ICANN's core values (as described in ICANN's Bylaws) and reasonable in light of the balancing of the costs and benefits to the business interests of the Applicable Registrars and ICANN (as applicable), and the public benefit sought to be achieved by the Proposed Revisions as set forth in such amendment. If the arbitrator panel concludes that either ICANN or the Working Group's proposed amendment relating to the Proposed Revisions meets the foregoing standard, such amendment shall be effective and deemed an amendment to this Agreement upon sixty (60) calendar days notice from ICANN to Registrar and deemed an Approved Amendment hereunder.

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7.4.6 With respect to an Approved Amendment relating to an amendment proposed by ICANN, Registrar may apply in writing to ICANN for an exemption from such amendment pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.8.

7.4.7 Notwithstanding anything in this Section 7.4 to the contrary, (a) if Registrar provides evidence to ICANN's reasonable satisfaction that the Approved Amendment would materially increase the cost of providing Registrar Services, then ICANN will allow up to one-hundred eighty (180) calendar days for the Approved Amendment to become effective with respect to Registrar, and (b) no Approved Amendment adopted pursuant to Section 7.4 shall become effective with respect to Registrar if Registrar provides ICANN with an irrevocable notice of termination pursuant to Section 5.4.

7.5 No Third-Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement shall not be construed to create any obligation by either ICANN or Registrar to any non-party to this Agreement, including any Registered Name Holder.

7.6 Notices and Designations. Except as provided in Section 4.4 and Section 6, all notices to be given under this Agreement shall be given in writing at the address of the appropriate party as set forth below, unless that party has given a notice of change of address in writing. Each party shall notify the other party within thirty (30) days of any change to its contact information. Any written notice required by this Agreement shall be deemed to have been properly given when delivered in person, when sent by electronic facsimile with receipt of confirmation of delivery, when scheduled for delivery by internationally recognized courier service, or when delivered by electronic means followed by an affirmative confirmation of receipt by the recipient's facsimile machine or email server. For any notice of a new Specification or Policy established in accordance with this Agreement, Registrar shall be afforded a reasonable period of time after notice of the establishment of such Specification or Policy is e-mailed to Registrar and posted on the ICANN website in which to comply with that specification, policy or program, taking into account any urgency involved. Notices and designations by ICANN under this Agreement shall be effective when written notice of them is deemed given to Registrar.

If to ICANN, addressed to:

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, California 90094-2536 USA
Attention: Registrar Accreditation Notices
Telephone: 1/310/823-9358
Facsimile: 1/310/823-8649

If to Registrar, addressed to:

Approved by the ICANN Board on 27 June 2013

[Registrar Name]
[Courier Address]
[Mailing Address]
Attention: [contact person]
Registrar Website URL: [URL]
Telephone: [telephone number]
Facsimile: [fax number]
e-mail: [e-mail address]

7.7 Dates and Times. All dates and times relevant to this Agreement or its performance shall be computed based on the date and time observed in Los Angeles, California, USA.

7.8 Language. All notices, designations, and Specifications or Policies made under this Agreement shall be in the English language.

7.9 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

7.10 Entire Agreement. Except to the extent (a) expressly provided in a written agreement executed by both parties concurrently herewith or (b) of written assurances provided by Registrar to ICANN in connection with its Accreditation, this Agreement (including the specifications, which form part of it) constitutes the entire agreement of the parties pertaining to the Accreditation of Registrar and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, negotiations and discussions, whether oral or written, between the parties on that subject.

7.11 Severability. If one or more provisions of this Agreement are held to be unenforceable under applicable law, the parties agree to renegotiate such provision in good faith. In the event that the parties cannot reach a mutually agreeable and enforceable replacement for such provision, then (a) such provision shall be excluded from this Agreement; (b) the balance of this Agreement shall be interpreted as if such provision were so excluded; and (c) the balance of this Agreement shall be enforceable in accordance with its terms.

[signature page follows]

Approved by the ICANN Board on 27 June 2013

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed in duplicate by their duly authorized representatives.

ICANN

[Registrar]

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Approved by the ICANN Board on 27 June 2013

WHOIS ACCURACY PROGRAM SPECIFICATION

Registrar shall implement and comply with the requirements set forth in this Specification, as well as any commercially practical updates to this Specification that are developed by ICANN and the Registrar Stakeholder Group during the Term of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement.

1. Except as provided for in Section 3 below, within fifteen (15) days of (1) the registration of a Registered Name sponsored by Registrar, (2) the transfer of the sponsorship of a Registered Name to Registrar, or (3) any change in the Registered Name Holder with respect to any Registered Name sponsored by Registrar, Registrar will, with respect to both Whois information and the corresponding customer account holder contact information related to such Registered Name:
 - a. Validate the presence of data for all fields required under Subsection 3.3.1 of the Agreement in a proper format for the applicable country or territory.
 - b. Validate that all email addresses are in the proper format according to RFC 5322 (or its successors).
 - c. Validate that telephone numbers are in the proper format according to the ITU-T E.164 notation for international telephone numbers (or its equivalents or successors).
 - d. Validate that postal addresses are in a proper format for the applicable country or territory as defined in UPU Postal addressing format templates, the S42 address templates (as they may be updated) or other standard formats.
 - e. Validate that all postal address fields are consistent across fields (for example: street exists in city, city exists in state/province, city matches postal code) where such information is technically and commercially feasible for the applicable country or territory.
 - f. Verify:
 - i. the email address of the Registered Name Holder (and, if different, the Account Holder) by sending an email requiring an affirmative response through a tool-based authentication method such as providing a unique code that must be returned in a manner designated by the Registrar, or
 - ii. the telephone number of the Registered Name Holder (and, if different, the Account Holder) by either (A) calling or sending an SMS to the Registered Name Holder's telephone number providing a unique code that must be returned in a manner designated by the Registrar, or (B) calling the Registered Name Holder's telephone number and requiring the Registered Name Holder to provide a unique code that was sent to the

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Registered Name Holder via web, email or postal mail.

In either case, if Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Registered Name Holder, Registrar shall either verify the applicable contact information manually or suspend the registration, until such time as Registrar has verified the applicable contact information. If Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Account Holder), Registrar shall verify the applicable contact information manually, but is not required to suspend any registration.

2. Except as provided in Section 3 below, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any changes to contact information in Whois or the corresponding customer account contact information related to any Registered Name sponsored by Registrar (whether or not Registrar was previously required to perform the validation and verification requirements set forth in this Specification in respect of such Registered Name), Registrar will validate and, to the extent required by Section 1, verify the changed fields in the manner specified in Section 1 above. If Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Registered Name Holder providing the required verification, Registrar shall either verify the applicable contact information manually or suspend the registration, until such time as Registrar has verified the applicable contact information. If Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Account Holder, Registrar shall verify the applicable contact information manually, but is not required to suspend any registration.
3. Except as set forth in paragraph 4 below, Registrar is not required to perform the above validation and verification procedures in Section 1(a) through 1(f) above, if Registrar has already successfully completed the validation and verification procedures on the identical contact information and is not in possession of facts or knowledge of circumstances that suggest that the information is no longer valid.
4. If Registrar has any information suggesting that the contact information specified in Section 1(a) through 1(f) above is incorrect (such as Registrar receiving a bounced email notification or non-delivery notification message in connection with compliance with ICANN's Whois Data Reminder Policy or otherwise) for any Registered Name sponsored by Registrar (whether or not Registrar was previously required to perform the validation and verification requirements set forth in this Specification in respect of such Registered Name), Registrar must verify or re-verify, as applicable, the email address(es) as described in Section 1.f (for example by requiring an affirmative response to a Whois Data Reminder Policy notice). If, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any such information, Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Registered Name Holder providing the required verification, Registrar shall either verify the applicable contact information manually or suspend the registration, until such time as Registrar has verified the applicable contact information. If, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any such information, Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the customer paying for the Registered Name, if applicable, providing the required verification, Registrar shall verify the applicable

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contact information manually, but is not required to suspend any registration.

5. Upon the occurrence of a Registered Name Holder's willful provision of inaccurate or unreliable WHOIS information, its willful failure promptly to update information provided to Registrar, or its failure to respond for over fifteen (15) calendar days to inquiries by Registrar concerning the accuracy of contact details associated with the Registered Name Holder's registration, Registrar shall either terminate or suspend the Registered Name Holder's Registered Name or place such registration on clientHold and clientTransferProhibited, until such time as Registrar has validated the information provided by the Registered Name Holder.
6. The terms and conditions of this Specification shall be reviewed by ICANN in consultation with the Registrar Stakeholder Group on or about the first anniversary of the date that the form of this Agreement is first executed by a registrar.
7. Nothing within this Specification shall be deemed to require Registrar to perform verification or validation of any customer account holder information where the customer account holder does not have any Registered Names under sponsorship of Registrar.

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WHOIS ACCURACY PROGRAM SPECIFICATION

Registrar shall implement and comply with the requirements set forth in this Specification, as well as any commercially practical updates to this Specification that are developed by ICANN and the Registrar Stakeholder Group during the Term of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement.

1. Except as provided for in Section 3 below, within fifteen (15) days of (1) the registration of a Registered Name sponsored by Registrar, (2) the transfer of the sponsorship of a Registered Name to Registrar, or (3) any change in the Registered Name Holder with respect to any Registered Name sponsored by Registrar, Registrar will, with respect to both Whois information and the corresponding customer account holder contact information related to such Registered Name:
 - a. Validate the presence of data for all fields required under Subsection 3.3.1 of the Agreement in a proper format for the applicable country or territory.
 - b. Validate that all email addresses are in the proper format according to RFC 5322 (or its successors).
 - c. Validate that telephone numbers are in the proper format according to the ITU-T E.164 notation for international telephone numbers (or its equivalents or successors).
 - d. Validate that postal addresses are in a proper format for the applicable country or territory as defined in UPU Postal addressing format templates, the S42 address templates (as they may be updated) or other standard formats.
 - e. Validate that all postal address fields are consistent across fields (for example: street exists in city, city exists in state/province, city matches postal code) where such information is technically and commercially feasible for the applicable country or territory.
 - f. Verify:
 - i. the email address of the Registered Name Holder (and, if different, the Account Holder) by sending an email requiring an affirmative response through a tool-based authentication method such as providing a unique code that must be returned in a manner designated by the Registrar, or
 - ii. the telephone number of the Registered Name Holder (and, if different, the Account Holder) by either (A) calling or sending an SMS to the Registered Name Holder's telephone number providing a unique code that must be returned in a manner designated by the Registrar, or (B) calling the Registered Name Holder's telephone number and requiring the Registered Name Holder to provide a unique code that was sent to the

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Registered Name Holder via web, email or postal mail.

In either case, if Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Registered Name Holder, Registrar shall either verify the applicable contact information manually or suspend the registration, until such time as Registrar has verified the applicable contact information. If Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Account Holder), Registrar shall verify the applicable contact information manually, but is not required to suspend any registration.

2. Except as provided in Section 3 below, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any changes to contact information in Whois or the corresponding customer account contact information related to any Registered Name sponsored by Registrar (whether or not Registrar was previously required to perform the validation and verification requirements set forth in this Specification in respect of such Registered Name), Registrar will validate and, to the extent required by Section 1, verify the changed fields in the manner specified in Section 1 above. If Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Registered Name Holder providing the required verification, Registrar shall either verify the applicable contact information manually or suspend the registration, until such time as Registrar has verified the applicable contact information. If Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Account Holder, Registrar shall verify the applicable contact information manually, but is not required to suspend any registration.
3. Except as set forth in paragraph 4 below, Registrar is not required to perform the above validation and verification procedures in Section 1(a) through 1(f) above, if Registrar has already successfully completed the validation and verification procedures on the identical contact information and is not in possession of facts or knowledge of circumstances that suggest that the information is no longer valid.
4. If Registrar has any information suggesting that the contact information specified in Section 1(a) through 1(f) above is incorrect (such as Registrar receiving a bounced email notification or non-delivery notification message in connection with compliance with ICANN's Whois Data Reminder Policy or otherwise) for any Registered Name sponsored by Registrar (whether or not Registrar was previously required to perform the validation and verification requirements set forth in this Specification in respect of such Registered Name), Registrar must verify or re-verify, as applicable, the email address(es) as described in Section 1.f (for example by requiring an affirmative response to a Whois Data Reminder Policy notice). If, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any such information, Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the Registered Name Holder providing the required verification, Registrar shall either verify the applicable contact information manually or suspend the registration, until such time as Registrar has verified the applicable contact information. If, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any such information, Registrar does not receive an affirmative response from the customer paying for the Registered Name, if applicable, providing the required verification, Registrar shall verify the applicable

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contact information manually, but is not required to suspend any registration.

5. Upon the occurrence of a Registered Name Holder's willful provision of inaccurate or unreliable WHOIS information, its willful failure promptly to update information provided to Registrar, or its failure to respond for over fifteen (15) calendar days to inquiries by Registrar concerning the accuracy of contact details associated with the Registered Name Holder's registration, Registrar shall either terminate or suspend the Registered Name Holder's Registered Name or place such registration on clientHold and clientTransferProhibited, until such time as Registrar has validated the information provided by the Registered Name Holder.
6. The terms and conditions of this Specification shall be reviewed by ICANN in consultation with the Registrar Stakeholder Group on or about the first anniversary of the date that the form of this Agreement is first executed by a registrar.
7. Nothing within this Specification shall be deemed to require Registrar to perform verification or validation of any customer account holder information where the customer account holder does not have any Registered Names under sponsorship of Registrar.

Approved by the ICANN Board on 27 June 2013

REGISTRATION DATA DIRECTORY SERVICE (WHOIS) SPECIFICATION

1. **Registration Data Directory Services.** Until ICANN requires a different protocol, Registrar will operate a WHOIS service available via port 43 in accordance with RFC 3912, and a web-based Directory Service providing free public query-based access to at least the elements set forth in Section 3.3.1.1 through 3.3.1.8 of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement in the format set forth in Section 1.4 of this Specification. ICANN reserves the right to specify alternative formats and protocols, and upon such specification, the Registrar will implement such alternative specification as soon as reasonably practicable.

Following the publication by the IETF of a Proposed Standard, Draft Standard or Internet Standard and any revisions thereto (as specified in RFC 2026) relating to the web-based directory service as specified in the IETF Web Extensible Internet Registration Data Service working group, Registrar shall implement the directory service specified in any such standard (or any revision thereto) no later than 135 days after such implementation is requested by ICANN. Registrar shall implement internationalized registration data publication guidelines according to the specification published by ICANN following the work of the ICANN Internationalized Registration Data Working Group (IRD-WG) and its subsequent efforts, no later than 135 days after it is approved by the ICANN Board.

- 1.1. The format of responses shall follow a semi-free text format outline below, followed by a blank line and a legal disclaimer specifying the rights of Registrar, and of the user querying the database.
- 1.2. Each data object shall be represented as a set of key/value pairs, with lines beginning with keys, followed by a colon and a space as delimiters, followed by the value.
- 1.3. For fields where more than one value exists, multiple numbered key/value pairs with the same key shall be allowed (for example to list multiple name servers). The first key/value pair after a blank line should be considered the start of a new record, and should be considered as identifying that record, and is used to group data, such as hostnames and IP addresses, or a domain name and registrant information, together.

1.4. Domain Name Data:

1.4.1. **Query format:** whois -h whois.example-registrar.tld EXAMPLE.TLD

1.4.2. **Response format:**

The format of responses shall contain all the elements and follow a semi-free text format outline below. Additional data elements can be added at the end of the text

format outlined below. The data element may, at the option of Registrar, be followed by a blank line and a legal disclaimer specifying the rights of Registrar, and of the user querying the database (provided that any such legal disclaimer must be preceded by such blank line).

Domain Name: EXAMPLE.TLD
Registry Domain ID: D1234567-TLD
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld
Registrar URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld
Updated Date: 2009-05-29T20:13:00Z
Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z
Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC
Registrar IANA ID: 5555555
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: email@registrar.tld
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.1235551234
Reseller: EXAMPLE RESELLER¹
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited²
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
Registry Registrant ID: 5372808-ERL³
Registrant Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT⁴
Registrant Organization: EXAMPLE ORGANIZATION
Registrant Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET
Registrant City: ANYTOWN
Registrant State/Province: AP⁵
Registrant Postal Code: A1A1A1⁶
Registrant Country: AA
Registrant Phone: +1.5555551212
Registrant Phone Ext: 1234⁷
Registrant Fax: +1.5555551213
Registrant Fax Ext: 4321
Registrant Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
Registry Admin ID: 5372809-ERL⁸

¹ Data element may be deleted, provided that if the data element is used, it must appear at this location.

² Note: all applicable statuses must be displayed in the Whois output.

³ May be left blank if not available from Registry.

⁴ For the Registrant, Admin and Tech contact fields requiring a "Name" or "Organization", the output must include either the name or organization (or both, if available).

⁵ All "State/Province" fields may be left blank if not available.

⁶ All "Postal Code" fields may be left blank if not available.

⁷ All "Phone Ext", "Fax" and "Fax Ext" fields may be left blank if not available.

⁸ May be left blank if not available from Registry.

Admin Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ADMINISTRATIVE
 Admin Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ORGANIZATION
 Admin Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET
 Admin City: ANYTOWN
 Admin State/Province: AP
 Admin Postal Code: A1A1A1
 Admin Country: AA
 Admin Phone: +1.5555551212
 Admin Phone Ext: 1234
 Admin Fax: +1.5555551213
 Admin Fax Ext: 1234
 Admin Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
 Registry Tech ID: 5372811-ERL⁹
 Tech Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT TECHNICAL
 Tech Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT LLC
 Tech Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET
 Tech City: ANYTOWN
 Tech State/Province: AP
 Tech Postal Code: A1A1A1
 Tech Country: AA
 Tech Phone: +1.1235551234
 Tech Phone Ext: 1234
 Tech Fax: +1.5555551213
 Tech Fax Ext: 93
 Tech Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
 Name Server: NS01.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD¹⁰
 Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD
 DNSSEC: signedDelegation
 URL of the ICANN WHOIS Data Problem Reporting System:
<http://wdprs.internic.net/>
 >>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<

- 1.5. The format of the following data fields: domain status, individual and organizational names, address, street, city, state/province, postal code, country, telephone and fax numbers, email addresses, date and times must conform to the mappings specified in EPP RFCs 5730-5734 (or its successors), and IPv6 addresses format should conform to RFC 5952 (or its successor), so that the display of this information (or values returned in WHOIS responses) can be uniformly processed and understood.

2. Service Level Agreement for Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS)

2.1 Definitions

⁹ May be left blank if not available from Registry.

¹⁰ All associated nameservers must be listed.

- **IP address.** Refers to IPv4 or IPv6 addresses without making any distinction between the two. When there is need to make a distinction, IPv4 or IPv6 is used.
- **Probes.** Network hosts used to perform tests (see below) that are located at various global locations.
- **RDDS.** Registration Data Directory Services refers to the collective of WHOIS and Web based WHOIS services.
- **RTT.** Round-Trip Time or **RTT** refers to the time measured from the sending of the first bit of the first packet of the sequence of packets needed to make a request until the reception of the last bit of the last packet of the sequence needed to receive the response. If the client does not receive the whole sequence of packets needed to consider the response as received, the request will be considered unanswered.
- **SLR.** Service Level Requirement is the level of service expected for a certain parameter being measured in a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

2.2 Service Level Agreement Matrix

	Parameter	SLR (monthly basis)
RDDS	RDDS availability	less than or equal to 864 min of downtime
	RDDS query RTT	less than or equal to 4000 ms, for at least 95% of the queries
	RDDS update time	less than or equal to 60 min, for at least 95% of the probes

Registrar is encouraged to do maintenance for the different services at the times and dates of statistically lower traffic for each service. Since substantial downtime is already incorporated in the availability metric, planned outages or similar; any downtime, be it for maintenance or due to system failures, will be noted simply as downtime and counted for SLA purposes.

2.2.1 RDDS availability. Refers to the ability of all the RDDS services for the Registrar to respond to queries from an Internet user with appropriate data from the relevant registrar system. If 51% or more of the RDDS testing probes see any of the RDDS services as unavailable during a given time, the RDDS will be considered unavailable.

2.2.2 WHOIS query RTT. Refers to the **RTT** of the sequence of packets from the start of the TCP connection to its end, including the reception of the WHOIS response. If the **RTT** is 5-times or more the corresponding SLR, the **RTT** will be considered undefined.

2.2.3 Web-based-WHOIS query RTT. Refers to the **RTT** of the sequence of packets from the start of the TCP connection to its end, including the

reception of the HTTP response for only one HTTP request. If Registrar implements a multiple-step process to get to the information, only the last step shall be measured. If the **RTT** is 5-times or more the corresponding SLR, the **RTT** will be considered undefined.

2.2.4 RDDS query RTT. Refers to the collective of “**WHOIS query RTT**” and “**Web-based- WHOIS query RTT**”.

2.2.5 RDDS update time. Refers to the time measured from the receipt of an EPP confirmation to a transform command on a domain name, host or contact, up until the servers of the RDDS services reflect the changes made.

2.2.6 RDDS test. Means one query sent to a particular “**IP address**” of one of the servers of one of the RDDS services. Queries shall be about existing objects in the registrar system and the responses must contain the corresponding information otherwise the query will be considered unanswered. Queries with an **RTT** 5 times higher than the corresponding SLR will be considered as unanswered. The possible results to an RDDS test are: a number in milliseconds corresponding to the **RTT** or undefined/unanswered.

2.2.7 Measuring RDDS parameters. Every 5 minutes, RDDS probes will select one IP address from all the public-DNS registered “**IP addresses**” of the servers for each RDDS service of the Registrar being monitored and make an “**RDDS test**” to each one. If an “**RDDS test**” result is undefined/unanswered, the corresponding RDDS service will be considered as unavailable from that probe until it is time to make a new test.

2.2.8 Collating the results from RDDS probes. The minimum number of active testing probes to consider a measurement valid is 10 at any given measurement period, otherwise the measurements will be discarded and will be considered inconclusive; during this situation no fault will be flagged against the SLRs.

2.2.9 Placement of RDDS probes. Probes for measuring RDDS parameters shall be placed inside the networks with the most users across the different geographic regions; care shall be taken not to deploy probes behind high propagation-delay links, such as satellite links.

2.3 Covenants of Performance Measurement

Registrar shall not interfere with measurement **Probes**, including any form of preferential treatment of the requests for the monitored services. Registrar shall respond to the measurement tests described in this Specification as it would do with any other request from Internet users (for RDDS).

CONSENSUS POLICIES AND TEMPORARY POLICIES SPECIFICATION

1. Consensus Policies.

1.1. "**Consensus Policies**" are those policies established (1) pursuant to the procedure set forth in ICANN's Bylaws and due process, and (2) covering those topics listed in Section 1.2 of this document. The Consensus Policy development process and procedure set forth in ICANN's Bylaws may be revised from time to time in accordance with the process set forth therein.

1.2. Consensus Policies and the procedures by which they are developed shall be designed to produce, to the extent possible, a consensus of Internet stakeholders, including registrars. Consensus Policies shall relate to one or more of the following:

- 1.2.1. issues for which uniform or coordinated resolution is reasonably necessary to facilitate interoperability, security and/or stability of the Internet, Registrar Services, Registry Services, or the Domain Name System ("DNS");
- 1.2.2. functional and performance specifications for the provision of Registrar Services;
- 1.2.3. registrar policies reasonably necessary to implement Consensus Policies relating to a gTLD registry;
- 1.2.4. resolution of disputes regarding the registration of domain names (as opposed to the use of such domain names, but including where such policies take into account use of the domain names); or
- 1.2.5. restrictions on cross-ownership of registry operators and registrars or Resellers and regulations and restrictions with respect to registrar and registry operations and the use of registry and registrar data in the event that a registry operator and a registrar or Reseller are affiliated.

1.3. Such categories of issues referred to in Section 1.2 shall include, without limitation:

- 1.3.1. principles for allocation of registered names in a TLD (e.g., first-come/first-served, timely renewal, holding period after expiration);
- 1.3.2. prohibitions on warehousing of or speculation in domain names by registries or registrars;
- 1.3.3. reservation of registered names in a TLD that may not be registered initially or that may not be renewed due to reasons reasonably related to (i) avoidance of confusion among or misleading of users, (ii) intellectual property, or (iii) the technical management of the DNS or the Internet (e.g., establishment of reservations of names from registration);
- 1.3.4. maintenance of and access to accurate and up-to-date information concerning Registered Names and name servers;
- 1.3.5. procedures to avoid disruptions of domain name registrations due to suspension or termination of operations by a registry operator or a registrar, including procedures for allocation of responsibility among continuing registrars of the Registered Names sponsored in a TLD by a registrar losing accreditation; and
- 1.3.6. the transfer of registration data upon a change in registrar sponsoring one or more Registered Names.

1.4. In addition to the other limitations on Consensus Policies, they shall not:

- 1.4.1. prescribe or limit the price of Registrar Services;
- 1.4.2. modify the limitations on Temporary Policies (defined below) or Consensus Policies;
- 1.4.3. modify the provisions in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement regarding terms or conditions for the renewal, termination or amendment of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement or fees paid by Registrar to ICANN; or
- 1.4.4. modify ICANN's obligations to not apply standards, policies, procedures or practices arbitrarily, unjustifiably, or inequitably and to not single out Registrar for disparate treatment unless justified by substantial and reasonable cause, and exercise its responsibilities in an open and transparent manner.

2. **Temporary Policies.** Registrar shall comply with and implement all specifications or policies established by the ICANN Board of Directors (the "**Board**") on a temporary basis, if adopted by the Board by a vote of at least two-thirds of its members, so long as the Board reasonably determines that such modifications or amendments are justified and that immediate temporary establishment of a specification or policy on the subject is necessary to maintain the stability or security of Registrar Services, Registry Services or the DNS or the Internet ("**Temporary Policies**").

2.1. Such proposed specification or policy shall be as narrowly tailored as feasible to achieve those objectives. In establishing any Temporary Policy, the Board shall state the period of time for which the Temporary Policy is adopted and shall immediately implement the Consensus Policy development process set forth in ICANN's Bylaws.

2.1.1. ICANN shall also issue an advisory statement containing a detailed explanation of its reasons for adopting the Temporary Policy and why the Board believes such Temporary Policy should receive the consensus support of Internet stakeholders.

2.1.2. If the period of time for which the Temporary Policy is adopted exceeds 90 days, the Board shall reaffirm its temporary adoption every 90 days for a total period not to exceed one year, in order to maintain such Temporary Policy in effect until such time as it becomes a Consensus Policy. If the one year period expires or, if during such one year period, the Temporary Policy does not become a Consensus Policy and is not reaffirmed by the Board, Registrar shall no longer be required to comply with or implement such Temporary Policy.

3. **Notice and Conflicts.** Registrar shall be afforded a reasonable period of time following notice of the establishment of a Consensus Policy or Temporary Policy in which to comply with such policy or specification, taking into account any urgency involved. In the event of a conflict between Registrar Services and Consensus Policies or any Temporary Policy, the Consensus Policies or Temporary Policy shall control, but only with respect to subject matter in conflict. For the avoidance of doubt, Consensus Policies that meet the requirements of this Specification may supplement or supersede provisions of the agreements between Registrar and ICANN, but only to the extent that such Consensus Policies relate to the matters set forth in Section 1.2 and 1.3 of this Specification.

SPECIFICATION ON PRIVACY AND PROXY REGISTRATIONS

Until the earlier to occur of (i) January 1, 2017, and (ii) the date ICANN establishes and implements a Privacy and Proxy Accreditation Program as referenced in Section 3.14 of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement, Registrar agrees to comply, and to require its Affiliates and Resellers to comply, with the terms of this Specification, provided that ICANN and the Working Group may mutually agree to extend the term of this Specification. This Specification may not be modified by ICANN or Registrar.

1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Specification, the following definitions shall apply.
 - 1.1 "P/P Customer" means, regardless of the terminology used by the P/P Provider, the licensee, customer, beneficial user, beneficiary, or other recipient of Privacy Services and Proxy Services.
 - 1.2 "Privacy Service" is a service by which a Registered Name is registered to its beneficial user as the Registered Name Holder, but for which alternative, reliable contact information is provided by the P/P Provider for display of the Registered Name Holder's contact information in the Registration Data Service (Whois) or equivalent services.
 - 1.3 "Proxy Service" is a service through which a Registered Name Holder licenses use of a Registered Name to the P/P Customer in order to provide the P/P Customer use of the domain name, and the Registered Name Holder's contact information is displayed in the Registration Data Service (Whois) or equivalent services rather than the P/P Customer's contact information.
 - 1.4 "P/P Provider" or "Service Provider" is the provider of Privacy/Proxy Services, including Registrar and its Affiliates, as applicable.
2. **Obligations of Registrar.** For any Proxy Service or Privacy Service offered by the Registrar or its Affiliates, including any of Registrar's or its Affiliates' P/P services distributed through Resellers, and used in connection with Registered Names Sponsored by the Registrar, the Registrar and its Affiliates must require all P/P Providers to follow the requirements described in this Specification and to abide by the terms and procedures published pursuant to this Specification.
 - 2.1 **Disclosure of Service Terms.** P/P Provider shall publish the terms and conditions of its service (including pricing), on its website and/or Registrar's website.

- 2.2 **Abuse/Infringement Point of Contact.** P/P Provider shall publish a point of contact for third parties wishing to report abuse or infringement of trademarks (or other rights).
- 2.3 **Disclosure of Identity of P/P Provider.** P/P Provider shall publish its business contact information on its website and/or Registrar's website.
- 2.4 **Terms of service and description of procedures.** The P/P Provider shall publish on its website and/or Registrar's website a copy of the P/P Provider service agreement and description of P/P Provider's procedures for handling the following:
 - 2.4.1 The process or facilities to report abuse of a domain name registration managed by the P/P Provider;
 - 2.4.2 The process or facilities to report infringement of trademarks or other rights of third parties;
 - 2.4.3 The circumstances under which the P/P Provider will relay communications from third parties to the P/P Customer;
 - 2.4.4 The circumstances under which the P/P Provider will terminate service to the P/P Customer;
 - 2.4.5 The circumstances under which the P/P Provider will reveal and/or publish in the Registration Data Service (Whois) or equivalent service the P/P Customer's identity and/or contact data; and
 - 2.4.6 A description of the support services offered by P/P Providers to P/P Customers, and how to access these services.
- 2.5 **Escrow of P/P Customer Information.** Registrar shall include P/P Customer contact information in its Registration Data Escrow deposits required by Section 3.6 of the Agreement. P/P Customer Information escrowed pursuant to this Section 2.5 of this Specification may only be accessed by ICANN in the event of the termination of the Agreement or in the event Registrar ceases business operations.
3. **Exemptions.** Registrar is under no obligation to comply with the requirements of this specification if it can be shown that:
 - 3.1 Registered Name Holder employed the services of a P/P Provider that is not provided by Registrar, or any of its Affiliates;

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- 3.2 Registered Name Holder licensed a Registered Name to another party (i.e., is acting as a Proxy Service) without Registrar's knowledge; or
- 3.3 Registered Name Holder has used P/P Provider contact data without subscribing to the service or accepting the P/P Provider terms and conditions.

DATA RETENTION SPECIFICATION

1. During the Term of this Agreement, for each Registered Name sponsored by Registrar within a gTLD, Registrar shall collect and securely maintain in its own electronic database (as updated from time to time) the data specified below:
 - 1.1. Registrar shall collect the following information from registrants at the time of registration of a domain name (a "Registration") and shall maintain that information for the duration of Registrar's sponsorship of the Registration and for a period of two additional years thereafter:
 - 1.1.1. First and last name or full legal name of registrant;
 - 1.1.2. First and last name or, in the event registrant is a legal person, the title of the registrant's administrative contact, technical contact, and billing contact;
 - 1.1.3. Postal address of registrant, administrative contact, technical contact, and billing contact;
 - 1.1.4. Email address of registrant, administrative contact, technical contact, and billing contact;
 - 1.1.5. Telephone contact for registrant, administrative contact, technical contact, and billing contact;
 - 1.1.6. WHOIS information, as set forth in the WHOIS Specification;
 - 1.1.7. Types of domain name services purchased for use in connection with the Registration; and
 - 1.1.8. To the extent collected by Registrar, "card on file," current period third party transaction number, or other recurring payment data.
 - 1.2. Registrar shall collect the following information and maintain that information for no less than one hundred and eighty (180) days following the relevant interaction:
 - 1.2.1. Information regarding the means and source of payment reasonably necessary for the Registrar to process the Registration transaction, or a transaction number provided by a third party payment processor;
 - 1.2.2. Log files, billing records and, to the extent collection and maintenance of such records is commercially practicable or consistent with industry-wide generally accepted standard practices within the industries in which Registrar operates, other

records containing communications source and destination information, including, depending on the method of transmission and without limitation: (1) Source IP address, HTTP headers, (2) the telephone, text, or fax number; and (3) email address, Skype handle, or instant messaging identifier, associated with communications between Registrar and the registrant about the Registration; and

- 1.2.3. Log files and, to the extent collection and maintenance of such records is commercially practicable or consistent with industry-wide generally accepted standard practices within the industries in which Registrar operates, other records associated with the Registration containing dates, times, and time zones of communications and sessions, including initial registration.
2. If, based on the receipt of either (i) a written legal opinion from a nationally recognized law firm in the applicable jurisdiction that states that the collection and/or retention of any data element specified herein by Registrar is reasonably likely to violate applicable law (the "Opinion") or (ii) a ruling of, or written guidance from, a governmental body of competent jurisdiction providing that compliance with the data collection and/or retention requirements of this Specification violates applicable law, Registrar determines in good faith that the collection and/or retention of any data element specified in this Specification violates applicable law, Registrar may provide written notice of such determination to ICANN and request a waiver from compliance with specific terms and conditions of this Specification (a "Waiver Request"). Such written notice shall: (i) specify the relevant applicable law, the allegedly offending data collection and retention elements, the manner in which the collection and/or retention of such data violates applicable law, and a reasonable description of such determination and any other facts and circumstances related thereto, (ii) be accompanied by a copy of the Opinion and governmental ruling or guidance, as applicable, and (iii) be accompanied by any documentation received by Registrar from any governmental authority, in each case, related to such determination, and such other documentation reasonably requested by ICANN. Following receipt of such notice, ICANN and Registrar shall discuss the matter in good faith in an effort to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the matter. Until such time as ICANN's Procedure for Handling Whois Conflicts with Privacy Law is modified to include conflicts relating to the requirements of this Specification and if ICANN agrees with Registrar's determination, ICANN's office of general counsel may temporarily or permanently suspend compliance and enforcement of the affected provisions of this Specification and grant the Wavier Request. Prior to granting any exemption hereunder, ICANN will post its determination on its website for a period of thirty (30) calendar days. Following such modification of ICANN's Procedure for Handling Whois Conflicts with Privacy Law, all Wavier Requests (whether granted or denied) shall be resolved pursuant to such modified procedures.

3. If (i) ICANN has previously waived compliance with the requirements of any requirement of this Data Retention Specification in response to a Waiver Request from a registrar that is located in the same jurisdiction as Registrar and (ii) Registrar is subject to the same applicable law that gave rise to ICANN's agreement to grant such waiver, Registrar may request that ICANN to grant a similar waiver, which request shall be approved by ICANN, unless ICANN provides Registrar with a reasonable justification for not approving such request, in which case Registrar may thereafter make an Waiver Request pursuant to Section 2 of this Data Retention Specification.
4. Any modification of this Data Retention Specification to address violations of applicable law shall only apply during the period of time that the specific provisions of the applicable law giving rise to such violations remain in effect. If the applicable law is repealed or modified (or preempted) in a manner that would no longer prohibit the collection and/or retention of data and information as originally specified in this Data Retention Specification, Registrar agrees that the original version of this Specification will apply to the maximum extent permitted by such modified applicable law.

REGISTRAR INFORMATION SPECIFICATION

Registrar shall provide to ICANN the information specified below, which shall be maintained in accordance with Section 3.17 of the Agreement. With regard to information identified below, ICANN will hold such information pursuant to the disclosure requirements set forth in Section 3.15 of the Agreement.

General Information

1. Full legal name of Registrar.
2. Legal form of the Registrar (e.g., LLC, Corporation, Government Body, Intergovernmental Organization, etc.).
3. The jurisdiction in which the Registrar's business is registered for legal and financial purposes.
4. The Registrar's business registration number and the name of the authority that issued this number.
5. Every business name and/or trade name used by the Registrar.
6. Provide current documentation demonstrating that the Registrar entity is legally established and in good standing. For proof of establishment, provide charter documents or other equivalent document (e.g., membership agreement) of the entity. If the Registrar is a government body or organization, provide a certified copy of the relevant statute, governmental decision or other instrument under which the government body or organization has been established. With respect to an entity other than a government body or organization, where no such certificates or documents are available in the Registrar's jurisdiction, an affidavit drafted and signed by a notary public or a legal practitioner duly qualified in the courts of the Registrar's jurisdiction, declaring that the organization is established and in good standing, must be provided.
7. Correspondence address for the Registrar.* This address will be used for contractual purposes, and the Registrar must be able to accept notices and service of legal process at this address. No Post Office boxes are allowed.
8. Primary phone number where the Registrar can be reached for contractual purposes.
9. Primary Fax number where the Registrar can be reached for contractual purposes.
10. Primary Email address where the Registrar can be reached for contractual purposes.

11. If the location or address of Registrar's principal place of business is different from the address provided in 7, provide details including address, phone number, fax number and email address.* Provide ICANN with current documentation demonstrating that the Registrar is legally entitled to do business in the principal place of business.

12. Any other addresses where the Registrar will be operated or managed, if different from either its principal place of business or correspondence address provided above. (If so, please explain.) Provide ICANN with current documentation demonstrating that the Registrar is legally entitled to do business in each location identified.

13. Primary contact name:

Title
Address
Phone number
Fax number
Email address

14. URL and Location of Port 43 WHOIS server.

Ownership, Directors and Officers Information

15. Full name, contact information, and position of any persons or entities owning at least 5% of the ownership interest in Registrar's current business entity. For each person listed, please specify such person's percentage ownership.

16. Full name, contact information, and position of all directors of the Registrar.

17. Full name, contact information, and position of all officers of the Registrar.* (Officer names and positions must be publicly displayed.)

18. Full name, contact information, and position of all senior management and other key personnel overseeing the provision of Registrar Services.

19. For every person or entity mentioned in the answers to questions 15 to 18, indicate if that person or entity:

a) within the past ten years, has been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor related to financial activities, or has been judged by a court to have committed fraud or breach of fiduciary duty, or has been the subject of a judicial determination that is similar or related to any of these;

b) within the past ten years, has been disciplined by any government or industry regulatory body for conduct involving dishonesty or misuse of funds or others;

c) is currently involved in any judicial or regulatory proceeding that could result in a conviction, judgment, determination, or discipline of the type specified in items 19(a) or 19(b); or

d) is the subject of a disqualification imposed by ICANN.

Provide details if any of the above events in (a)-(d) have occurred.

- 20. List all Affiliated Registrars, if any, and briefly describe the Affiliation.
- 21. For any entities listed in item 20, must provide information required in items 1-14 above.
- 22. List the ultimate parent entity of the Registrar, if applicable.*

Other

- 23. Does the Registrar or any of its Affiliates offer any Privacy Service or Proxy Service (as such terms on defined in the Specification on Privacy and Proxy Registrations)? If yes, list the entities or individuals providing the Privacy Service or Proxy Service.
- 24. For any entities listed in item 20, provide information required in 1-14 above.
- 25. Does the Registrar utilize or benefit from the services of Resellers?
- 26. If yes, provide a list of all such Resellers known to Registrar. The information specified in this item 26 shall be made available to ICANN upon request. At such time as ICANN develops a secure method for the receipt and retention of such information, such information shall thereafter be provided to ICANN in accordance with Section 3.17 of the Agreement.

ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR OPERATION SPECIFICATION

This Specification may be modified by ICANN from time to time after consultation with the Registrar Stakeholder Group (or its successor), provided that such updates are commercially practical with respect to the registrar industry, taken as a whole.

1. DNSSEC

Registrar must allow its customers to use DNSSEC upon request by relaying orders to add, remove or change public key material (e.g., DNSKEY or DS resource records) on behalf of customers to the Registries that support DNSSEC. Such requests shall be accepted and processed in a secure manner and according to industry best practices. Registrars shall accept any public key algorithm and digest type that is supported by the TLD of interest and appears in the registries posted at: <<http://www.iana.org/assignments/dns-sec-alg-numbers/dns-sec-alg-numbers.xml>> and <<http://www.iana.org/assignments/ds-rr-types/ds-rr-types.xml>>. All such requests shall be transmitted to registries using the EPP extensions specified in RFC 5910 or its successors.

2. IPv6

To the extent that Registrar offers registrants the ability to register nameserver addresses, Registrar must allow both IPv4 addresses and IPv6 addresses to be specified.

3. IDN

If the Registrar offers Internationalized Domain Name ("IDN") registrations, all new registrations must comply with RFCs 5890, 5891, 5892, 5893 and their successors. Registrar shall also comply with the IDN Guidelines at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/implementation-guidelines.htm> which may be amended, modified, or superseded from time to time. Registrar must use the IDN tables published by the relevant registry.

Registrants' Benefits and Responsibilities

Domain Name Registrants' Rights:

1. Your domain name registration and any privacy/proxy services you may use in conjunction with it must be subject to a Registration Agreement with an ICANN Accredited Registrar.
 - You are entitled to review this Registration Agreement at any time, and download a copy for your records.
2. You are entitled to accurate and accessible information about:
 - The identity of your ICANN Accredited Registrar;
 - The identity of any proxy or privacy service provider affiliated with your Registrar;
 - Your Registrar's terms and conditions, including pricing information, applicable to domain name registrations;
 - The terms and conditions, including pricing information, applicable to any privacy services offered by your Registrar;
 - The customer support services offered by your Registrar and the privacy services provider, and how to access them;
 - How to raise concerns and resolve disputes with your Registrar and any privacy services offered by them; and
 - Instructions that explain your Registrar's processes for registering, managing, transferring, renewing, and restoring your domain name registrations, including through any proxy or privacy services made available by your Registrar.
3. You shall not be subject to false advertising or deceptive practices by your Registrar or through any proxy or privacy services made available by your Registrar. This includes deceptive notices, hidden fees, and any practices that are illegal under the consumer protection law of your residence.

Domain Name Registrants' Responsibilities:

1. You must comply with the terms and conditions posted by your Registrar, including applicable policies from your Registrar, the Registry and ICANN.
2. You must review your Registrar's current Registration Agreement, along with any updates.

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3. You will assume sole responsibility for the registration and use of your domain name.
4. You must provide accurate information for publication in directories such as WHOIS, and promptly update this to reflect any changes.
5. You must respond to inquiries from your Registrar within fifteen (15) days, and keep your Registrar account data current. If you choose to have your domain name registration renew automatically, you must also keep your payment information current.



LOGO LICENSE SPECIFICATION to RAA

LOGO LICENSE SPECIFICATION

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a California non-profit, public benefit corporation ("ICANN"), and [Registrar Name], a [organization type and jurisdiction] ("Registrar") have entered into a Registrar Accreditation Agreement ("Registrar Accreditation Agreement"), of which this appendix ("Logo License Specification") is a part. Definitions in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement apply in this Logo License Specification.

Registrar wishes to acquire from ICANN, and ICANN wishes to grant to Registrar, a license to use the trademarks listed below the signature block of this Logo License Specification ("Trademarks") in connection with Registrar's role as an ICANN-accredited registrar. Pursuant to and subject to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement, Registrar and ICANN hereby agree as follows:

LICENSE

1. **Grant of License.** ICANN grants to Registrar a non-exclusive, worldwide right and license to use the Trademarks, during the term of this specification and solely in connection with the provision and marketing of Registrar Services in order to indicate that Registrar is accredited as a registrar of domain names by ICANN. Except as provided in this subsection and Subsection 2.2 of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement, Registrar shall not use the Trademarks, any term, phrase, or design which is confusingly similar to the Trademarks or any portion of the Trademarks in any manner whatsoever.

2. **Ownership of Trademarks.** Any and all rights in the Trademarks that may be acquired by Registrar shall inure to the benefit of, and are hereby assigned to, ICANN. Registrar shall not assert ownership of the Trademarks or any associated goodwill.

3. **No Sublicense.** Registrar shall not sublicense any of its rights under this specification to any other person or entity (including any of Registrar's resellers) without the prior written approval of ICANN.

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REGISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

1. **Registration.** Registration and any other form of protection for the Trademarks shall only be obtained by ICANN in its name and at its expense.

2. **Enforcement.** Registrar shall promptly notify ICANN of any actual or suspected infringement of the Trademarks by third parties, including Registrar's resellers or affiliates. ICANN shall have the sole discretion to initiate and maintain any legal proceedings against such third parties; Registrar shall not take any such actions without the prior written approval of ICANN; and ICANN shall retain any and all recoveries from such actions.

3. **Further Assurances.** Registrar agrees to execute such other documents and to take all such actions as ICANN may request to effect the terms of this specification, including providing such materials (for example URLs and samples of any promotional materials bearing the Trademarks), cooperation, and assistance as may be reasonably required to assist ICANN in obtaining, maintaining, and enforcing trademark registration(s) and any other form of protection for the Trademarks.

TERM AND TERMINATION

This Logo License Specification shall be effective from the date it is signed below by both parties until the Expiration Date, unless this specification or the Registrar Accreditation Agreement is earlier terminated. Each party shall have the right to terminate this specification at any time by giving the other party written notice. Upon expiration or termination of this specification, Registrar shall immediately discontinue all use of the Trademarks.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Logo License Specification to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

ICANN

[Registrar Name]

By: _____

By: _____

Name:

Title:

Dated: _____, 200__

TRADEMARKS:

1. ICANN Accredited Registrar

2.

Approved by the ICANN Board on 27 June 2013



COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

_____, 20__

Pursuant to Section 3.15 of Registrar Accreditation Agreement (the "Agreement"), dated _____, 20__, by and between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a California non-profit, public benefit corporation ("ICANN"), and [Registrar Name], a [Organization type and jurisdiction] ("Registrar"), the undersigned certifies, in his/her capacity as an officer of the Registrar and not in his/her individual capacity, on behalf of Registrar as follows:

1. The undersigned is the [Chief Executive Officer/President/Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer or functional equivalent thereof] of Registrar.

2. Registrar has in place processes and procedures intended to establish, maintain, review, test, and modify registrar policies and procedures reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the Agreement.

3. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, Registrar has performed and complied with all covenants, agreements, obligations and conditions contained in the Agreement that are required to be performed or complied with by it for the calendar year 20__.

The undersigned signs this certificate as of the date indicated under the title.

[REGISTRAR]

By: _____
Name:
Title:

Transition Addendum to Registrar Accreditation Agreement

This Transition Addendum (this "Addendum") to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (the "Agreement") by and between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a California non-profit, public benefit corporation ("ICANN"), and [Registrar Name], a [Organization type and jurisdiction] ("Registrar"), is dated as of _____, 2013.

WHEREAS, ICANN and Registrar entered into the Agreement as of the date hereof; and

WHEREAS, ICANN acknowledges that implementation by Registrar of certain operational provisions of the Agreement is not possible on the date hereof and will require a reasonable grace period.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. ICANN will not enforce the following provisions and specifications of the Agreement until January 1, 2014: Sections 3.4.1.1, 3.4.1.5, 3.7.10, 3.7.11, 3.12.4, 3.12.7, 3.14, 3.18 and 3.19 of the Agreement; the first sentence of Section 3.7.8 of the Agreement; the WHOIS Accuracy Specification; the Data Retention Specification; and the service level agreements set forth in Section 2.2 of the Registration Data Directory Service (WHOIS) Specification (collectively, the "Transition Provisions").
2. In addition, if immediately prior to the execution of this Addendum Registrar was party to the form registrar accreditation agreement adopted by ICANN in 2009 (the "2009 RAA"), Registrar may use its existing form of registrant registration agreement until January 1, 2014, provided that such agreement complies with Section 3.7.7 of the 2009 RAA.
3. For the calendar year ended December 31, 2013, any certification required pursuant to Section 3.15 shall not require certification as to compliance with the Transition Provisions and may acknowledge the permissible use of the registrant registration agreement under Section 2 hereof.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Registrar agrees to use commercially reasonable efforts to comply with the obligations set forth in the Transition Provisions and transition to a registrant registration agreement that complies with the terms of the Agreement prior to January 1, 2014.
5. Registrar must be fully compliant with the Transition Provisions and Section 3.7.7 of the Agreement as of January 1, 2014, at which date this Addendum shall automatically terminate without action by any party, except as it relates to Section 4 hereof.
6. ICANN and the Registrar Whois Validation Working Group (as defined below) will work together to identify and specify an appropriate set of tools to enable Registrar to complete the across field validation specified in Section 1(e) of the Whois Accuracy Program Specification to the Agreement (the "Across Field Validation"). When such tools are mutually agreed between ICANN and the Registrar Whois Validation Working Group,

ICANN shall provide Registrar written notice of such agreement (which notice shall specify and describe the agreed upon tools). Effective on the one hundred eightieth (180th) calendar day following delivery of such notice by ICANN, Registrar shall comply with the obligations specified in Section 1(e) of the Whois Accuracy Program. Until such time, ICANN will not enforce compliance with such obligations.

For purposes of this Section 6, the Registrar Whois Validation Working Group shall be deemed to have agreed to such Across Field Validation tools when Approval (as defined below) of the then serving members of the group is obtained through a vote of the group (which vote may be conducted through any verifiable means determined by the group, including through electronic means).

The "Registrar Whois Validation Working Group" means that existing working group whose membership has been tasked with identifying and specifying a set of tools to enable registrars to complete the Across Field Validation. The membership of the Registrar Whois Validation Working Group shall be made up of volunteering representatives of ICANN-accredited registrars, and shall initially consist of the members currently serving on the existing working group.

"Approval" is obtained following a vote of the Registrar Whois Validation Working Group, if the votes cast in favor of adoption of the proposed Across Field Validations tools by the then serving members of the group are at least two-thirds of the votes cast by such members, with abstentions or non-votes not being counted as either votes in favor or against adoption of such tools. For purposes of the vote of the group as referenced above, (i) only persons appointed by an ICANN-accredited registrar shall be deemed members of the group and eligible to cast a vote as described above and (ii) no ICANN-accredited registrar nor group of Affiliated Registrars represented in the Registrar Whois Validation Working Group shall have more than one vote.

7. Except as set forth in this Addendum, the Agreement shall be in full force and effect, enforceable by the parties in accordance with its terms.

[signature page follows]

Approved by the ICANN Board on 27 June 2013

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Addendum to be executed in duplicate by their duly authorized representatives.

ICANN

[Registrar]

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____