ICANN | 52 Singapore

8-12 FEBRUARY 2015

ALL THINGS WHOIS

Monday, 9 February 2015

Agenda

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The WHOIS Roadmap

2

Exploring Identity Validation Checks

3

RAA WHOIS ACCURACY SPECIFICATION REVIEW

4

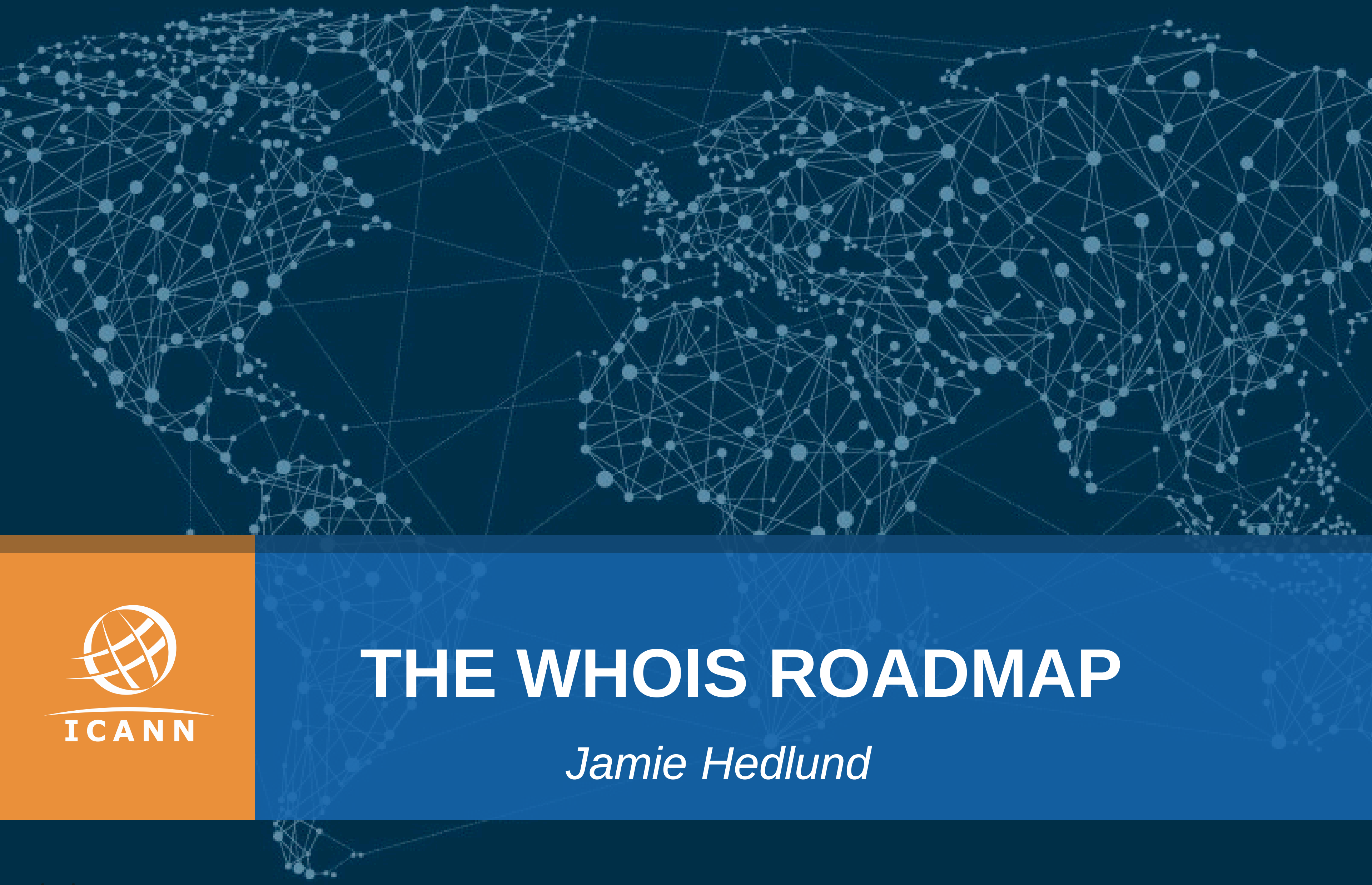
Next Steps for the EWG Report

5

Q&A

Panelists

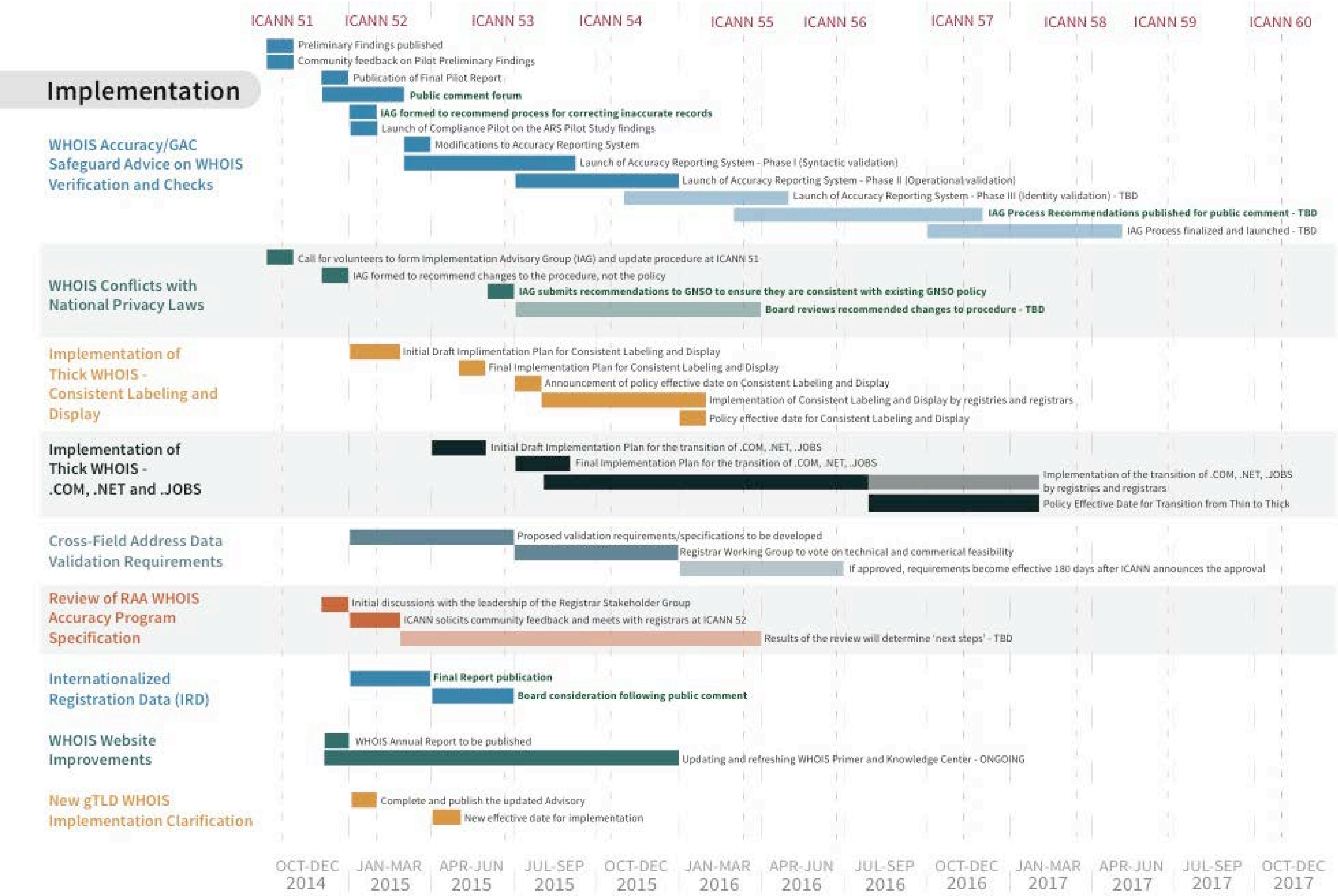
James Bladel GoDaddy	Chris Disspain ICANN Board	Brad Marden Interpol
Susan Kawaguchi Facebook	Avri Doria NCSG	



THE WHOIS ROADMAP

Jamie Hedlund

WHOIS Activities through 2017



Implementation

WHOIS Accuracy/GAC Safeguard Advice on WHOIS Verification and Checks

- Preliminary Findings published
- Community feedback on Pilot Preliminary Findings
- Publication of Final Pilot Report
- **Public comment forum**
- **IAG formed to recommend process for correcting inaccurate records**
- Launch of Compliance Pilot on the ARS Pilot Study findings
- Modifications to Accuracy Reporting System
- Launch of Accuracy Reporting System - Phase I (Syntactic validation)
- Launch of Accuracy Reporting System - Phase II (Operational validation)
- Launch of Accuracy Reporting System - Phase III (Identity validation) - TBD
- **IAG Process Recommendations published for public comment - TBD**
- IAG Process finalized and launched - TBD

WHOIS Conflicts with National Privacy Laws

- Call for volunteers to form Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) and update procedure at ICANN 51
- IAG formed to recommend changes to the procedure, not the policy
- **IAG submits recommendations to GNSO to ensure they are consistent with existing GNSO policy**
- **Board reviews recommended changes to procedure - TBD**

Implementation of Thick WHOIS - Consistent Labeling and Display

- Initial Draft Implimentation Plan for Consistent Labeling and Display
- Final Implementation Plan for Consistent Labeling and Display
- Announcement of policy effective date on Consistent Labeling and Display
- Implementation of Consistent Labeling and Display by registries and registrars
- Policy effective date for Consistent Labeling and Display

Implementation of Thick WHOIS - .COM, .NET and .JOBS

- Initial Draft Implementation Plan for the transition of .COM, .NET, .JOBS
- Final Implementation Plan for the transition of .COM, .NET, .JOBS
- Implementation of the transition of .COM, .NET, .JOBS by registries and registrars
- Policy Effective Date for Transition from Thin to Thick

Cross-Field Address Data Validation Requirements

- Proposed validation requirements/specifications to be developed
- Registrar Working Group to vote on technical and commerical feasibility
- If approved, requirements become effective 180 days after ICANN announces the approval

Review of RAA WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification

- Initial discussions with the leadership of the Registrar Stakeholder Group
- ICANN solicits community feedback and meets with registrars at ICANN 52
- Results of the review will determine 'next steps' - TBD

Internationalized Registration Data (IRD)

- **Final Report publication**
- **Board consideration following public comment**

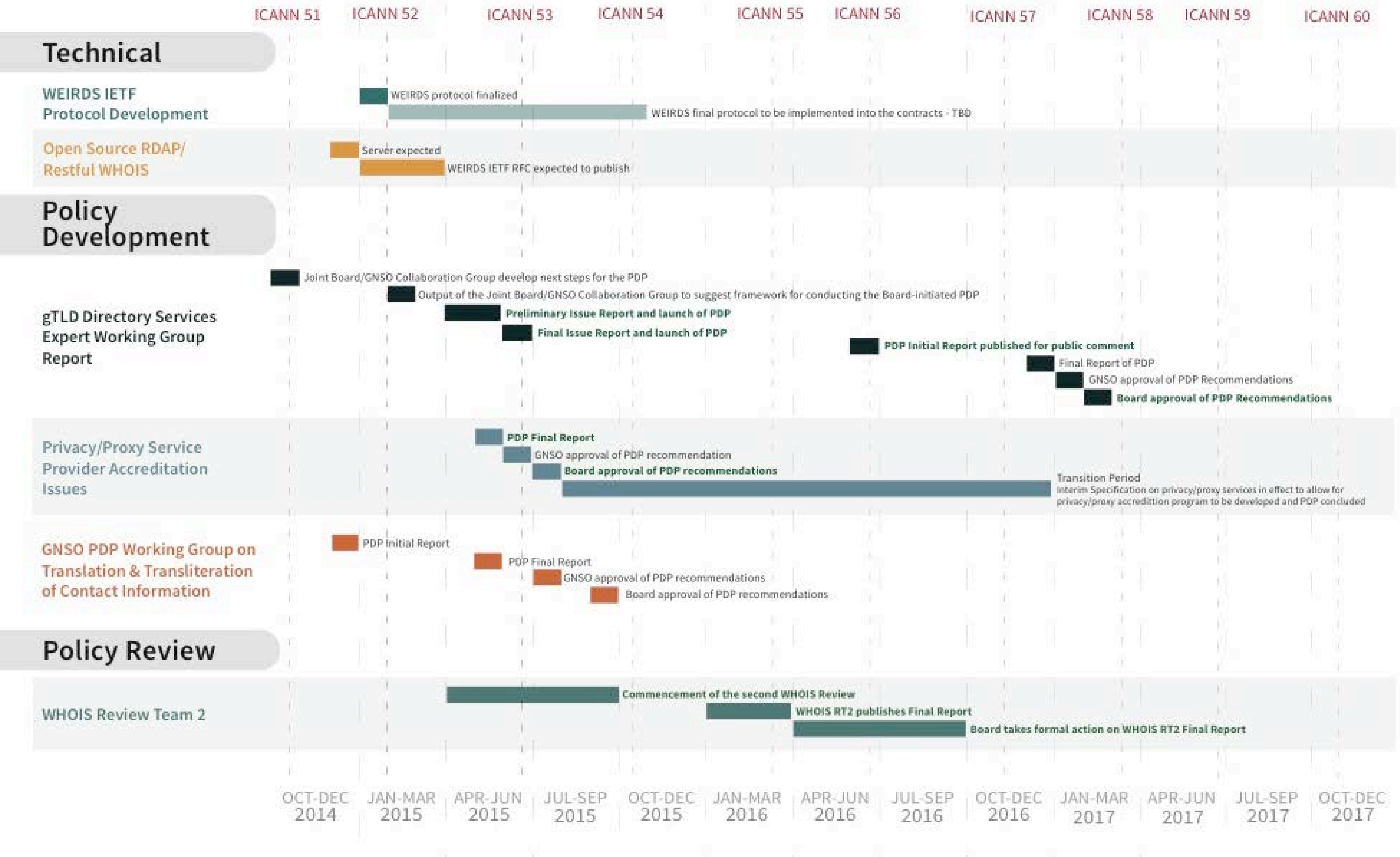
WHOIS Website Improvements

- WHOIS Annual Report to be published
- Updating and refreshing WHOIS Primer and Knowledge Center - ONGOING

New gTLD WHOIS Implementation Clarification

- Complete and publish the updated Advisory
- New effective date for implementation

WHOIS Activities through 2017



WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System Design (ARS)

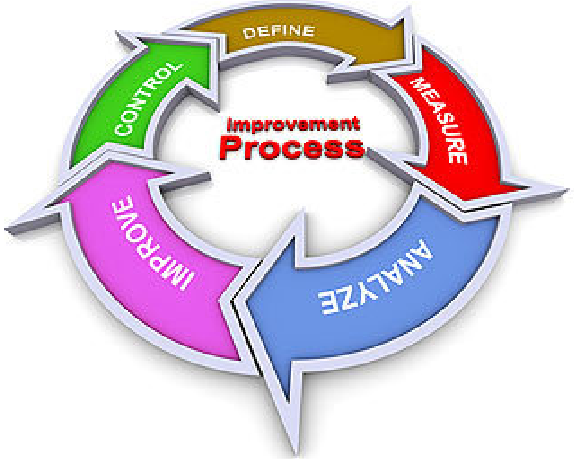
Exploring Identity Checks

Margie Milam

WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System

- Part of 2012 ICANN Board directive to implement WHOIS Review Team-recommended improvements

- Approach
  - Proactively identify inaccurate WHOIS records
  - Explore using automated tools
  - Forward potentially inaccurate records to registrars for action
  - Publicly report on the resulting actions


DEFINE
MEASURE
ANALYZE
IMPROVE
CONTROL
Improvement
Process

WHOIS ARS Pilot Status & Next Steps

Pilot

- Pilot Study completed by NORC tested Methodology using live data
- Findings reflect 2013 RAA contributed to improved accuracy rates
- Compliance Pilot underway to confirm findings & forward possible contractual related issues to registrars

Next Steps

- Public Comment Open until Feb 28 2015
- Feedback to Inform the final Design of the ARS
- **Question:** *Should ARS include identity validation checks?*

WHOIS ARS - Timeline

May 14

- Launch of RFP
- Selection of vendors

Oct. 14 - Feb 15

- Preliminary Findings
- Public Comment on Pilot Report

Mid 2015

Syntactical validation of:

- Email
- Telephone
- Postal address

Late 2015

Operational validation of:

- Email
- Telephone
- Postal address

TBD

- Identity validation?
- Integration of new systems

Exploring Identity Validation

- NORC Accuracy Pilot (2014)
  - **Syntactic and Operational Validation** for sample of
  - Registrant emails, postal addresses, & telephone numbers

- Did not attempt **Identity Validation** due to
  - Complexity and cost concerns
  - What degree of validation is feasible/acceptable?

- In this panel, we will further explore **Identity Validation**:

> *Assessment that the data corresponds to the real world identity of the entity. It involves checking that a data item correctly represents the real world identity for the registrant. In general, identity validation checks are expected to require some manual intervention. – SAC058*

WHOIS Identity Validation RFP Responses

- WHOIS Online Accuracy Reporting System: Request for Proposal issued in May 2014
- Objective: Identify one or more vendors to provide services, software or data to support ICANN's development of the Accuracy Reporting System, including
  - Verification and validation of WHOIS contact data, including postal address, email, telephone and registrant identity
- Six (6) RFP respondents proposed Identity Validation services
  - Research Organization
  - Systems Integrator
  - Credit Bureau
  - Standards Body
  - Industry-specific Verification Providers

Summary of Proposed Services

- No standard, little consistency, but some patterns…
- Common components
    - Database lookups
    - Email validation
    - Phone validation
    - Postal validation
- Most involve some degree of Syntactic and Operational validation, *in addition to identity validation and largely manual processes*
- Possible Approaches:
    - Third Party Database checks vs. Interactive Registrant Validation
    - Dependence on existing registration in external databases (e.g., corporate registration, photo ID, postal address)

Discussion Questions for Panel

- What is required to move beyond Syntactic and Operational Validation to Identity Validation?

- Are third party database checks adequate?
  - What makes a database reliable?
  - How to address inconsistent quality of databases across regions?

- Should registrants be contacted through the ARS to confirm their identity? How do we ensure they will respond?

- Is interactive Identity Validation acceptable or reliable?
  - Are there security concerns raised by reaching out to registrants?

- Given the high costs, smaller sample sizes may be used. How do you ensure reliability?

Help Shape the Design of the ARS

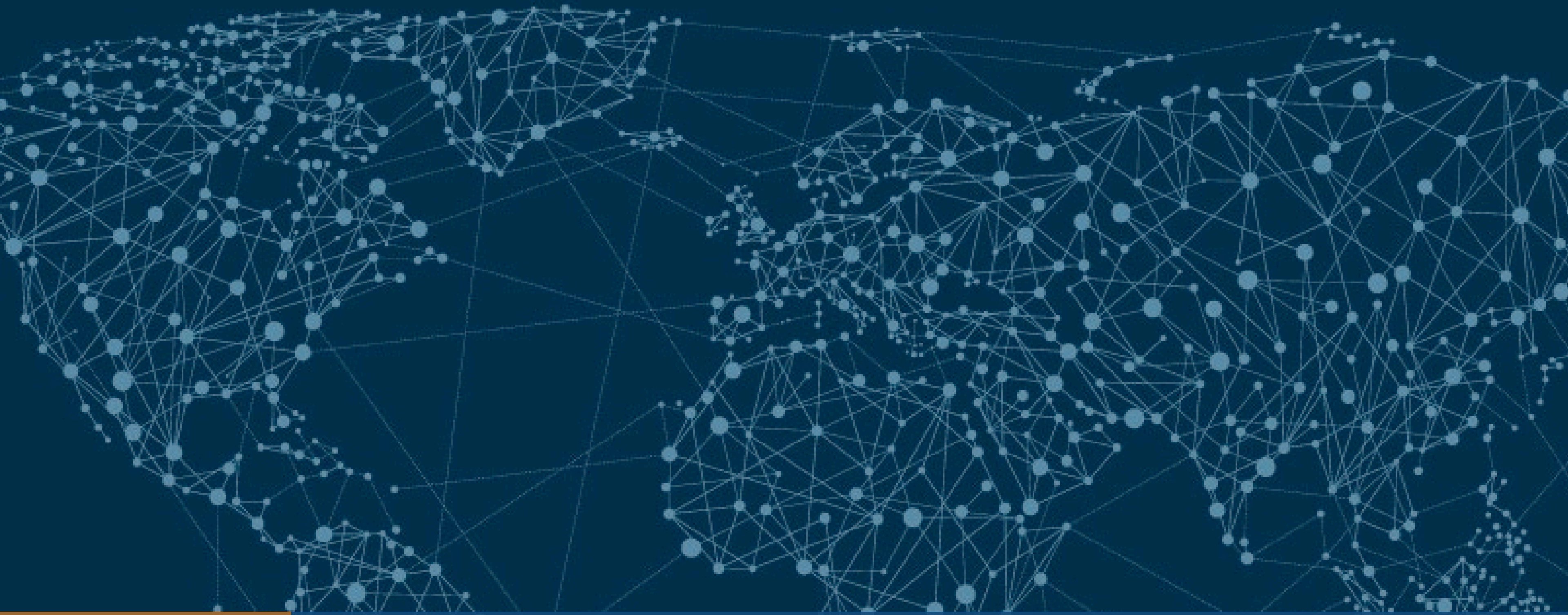
Download Final Report:

http://whois.icann.org/sites/default/files/files/ars-pilot-23dec14-en.pdf

Comment Forum: Open Until 27 February 2015:

https://www.icann.org/public-comments/whois-ars-pilot-2014-12-23-en

Questions on the ARS?



RAA Review of WHOIS Accuracy Obligations

Mike Zupke

WHOIS Accuracy Specification

2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) introduced new requirements:

- **Registrant & Account Holder “validation”:**
  - No empty, required fields
  - Email addresses formed to spec (RFC 5322)
  - Telephone numbers formed to spec (ITU-T E.164)
  - Postal addresses formed to spec (UPU S42)
  - Postal address fields jibe with each other (cross-field validation) – where technically and commercially feasible
- **Verification of either email or telephone number within 15 days**

- **Deletion or suspension of registrations for willful inaccuracies or failure to respond**

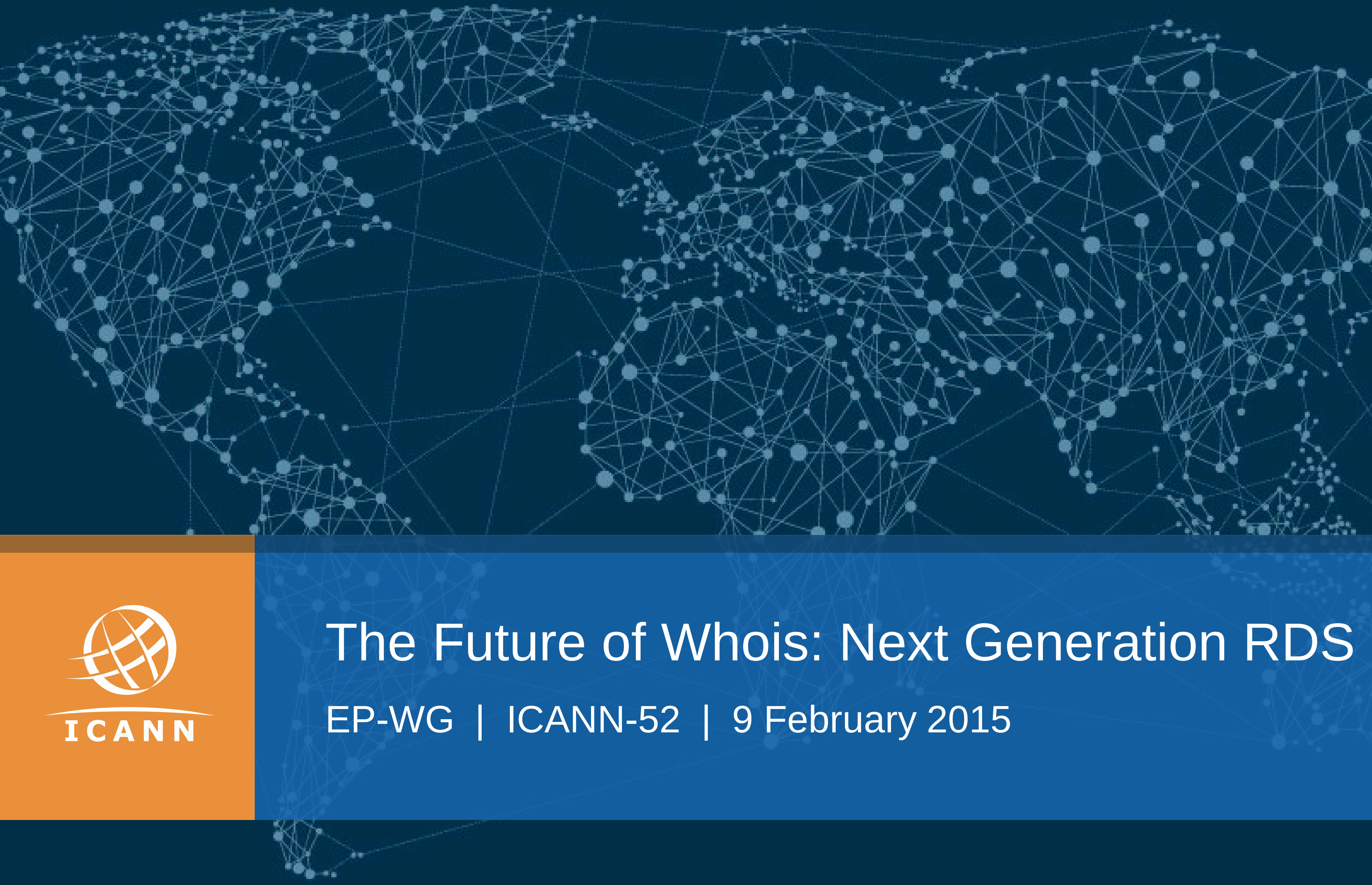
Section 6: Specification is be reviewed 1 year after the new RAA first executed

Discussion Questions for Panel

- How have the newly implemented validation/verification requirements impacted various stakeholders:
    - Registrars
    - Intellectual Property Practitioners
    - Businesses
    - Registrants
    - Law Enforcement Agents
    - Others?

- Should the requirements be updated or refined?
    - Why?
    - How?
    - When?

Questions on the RAA Review?



The Future of Whois: Next Generation RDS

EP-WG | ICANN-52 | 9 February 2015

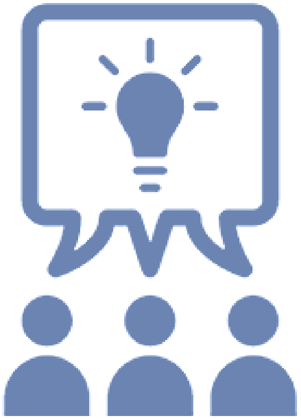
About the EWG Process WG (EP-WG)

- ICANN Board is considering how to use the Expert Working Group (EWG) Final Report on Registration Directory Services (RDS) as input to a GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) WG

- The EP-WG is a collaboration between the GNSO and the Board, formed to recommend how to best structure PDP(s) for success

Board Members

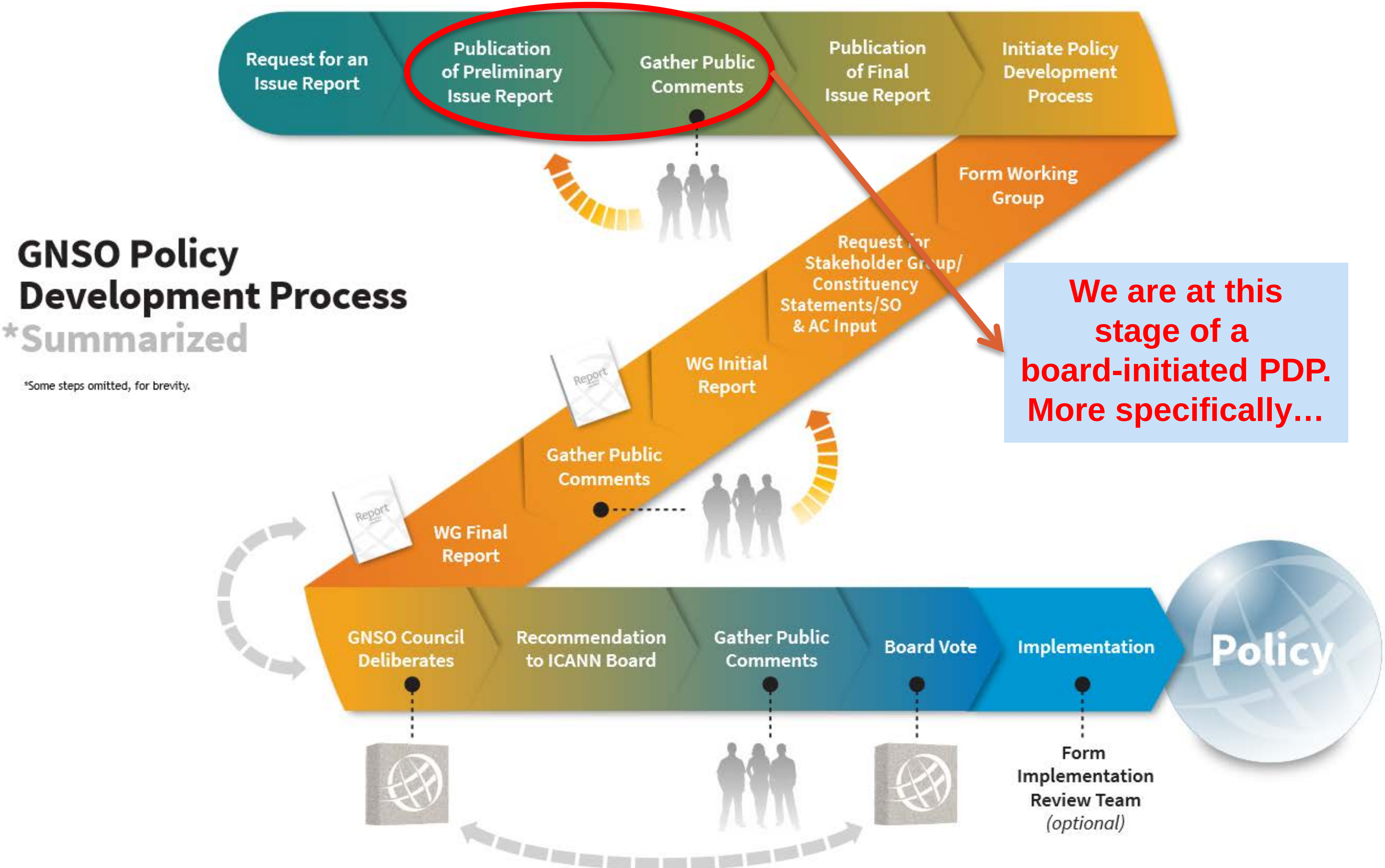
- Cherine Chalaby
- Steve Crocker
- Chris Disspain
- Ram Mohan
- Ray Plzak
- Bruce Tonkin



GNSO Members

- James Bladel, RrSG
- Don Blumenthal, RySG
- Ching Chiao, RySG
- Avri Doria, NCSG
- Susan Kawaguchi, BC
- Dan Reed, Nom Com Appointee
- Jonathan Robinson, GNSO Chair

Where Are We in the PDP Process?



GNSO Policy Development Process
*Summarized

*Some steps omitted, for brevity.

Request for an Issue Report
Publication of Preliminary Issue Report
Gather Public Comments
Publication of Final Issue Report
Initiate Policy Development Process
Form Working Group
Request for Stakeholder Group/ Constituency Statements/SO & AC Input
WG Initial Report
Gather Public Comments
WG Final Report
GNSO Council Deliberates
Recommendation to ICANN Board
Gather Public Comments
Board Vote
Implementation
Form Implementation Review Team *(optional)*
Policy

We are at this stage of a board-initiated PDP. More specifically…

GNSO PDP Materials: http://gnso.icann.org/en/node/31379/

Where Are We in the PDP Process?

Nov 2012	Board	☒ Direct preparation of a (PDP) Issue Report
Nov 2012	Board	☒ Launch the EWG
Mar 2013	Staff	☒ PDP - Preliminary Issue Report
Mar-Apr 2013	Community	☒ Public Comment Forum (on above)
Jun 2013	EWG	☒ EWG Initial Report
Jun-Aug 2013	Community	☒ Public Comment Forum, Consultations (on above)
Nov 2013	EWG	☒ EWG Update Report
Dec-Feb 2014	Community	☒ Public Comment Forum, Consultations (on above)
Jun 2014	EWG	☒ EWG Final Report
Oct 2014- Feb 2015	EP-WG	☒ Develop Recommendations on PDP WG Process and Charter Guidance
Mar 2015	Staff	☐ New Preliminary Issue Report reflecting EP-WG output
May-Jun 2015	Community	☐ Public Comment Period on New Issue Report
July 2015	Staff	☐ Final Issue Report reflecting Public Comments
Aug-Sep 2015	GNSO Council	☐ Refine Charter for PDP Working Group
	GNSO Council	☐ Adopt Charter (start of PDP WG process)

EP-WG Recommendations for RDS PDP WG

- The EP-WG recommends a 3-Phase PDP WG approach: https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/49359624/RDS-PDP-Process-v8.pdf

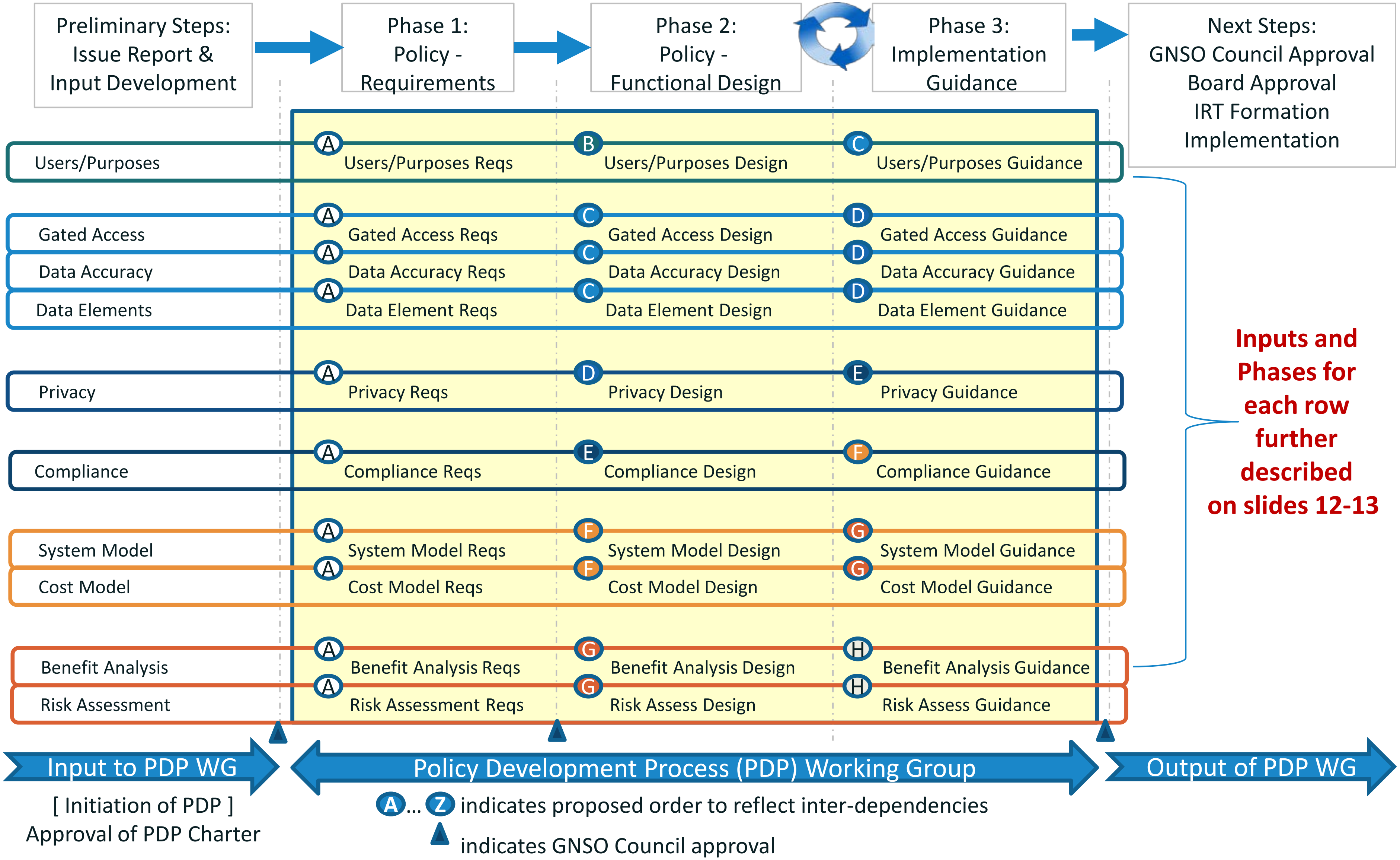
- Groups and sequences principles in the EWG's Final Report
  - Phase 1: Policy Requirements Definition (WHY)
  - Phase 2: Policy Functional Design (WHAT)
  - Phase 3: Implementation Guidance (HOW)

Flow Charts

- Pre-WG Steps: New Issue Report (including needed inputs and draft PDP WG Charter); Public Comment; Final Issue Report; GNSO Council consideration; PDP WG formation.

- Post-WG Steps: GNSO Council and Board Approval; IRT Formation; Implementation informed by PDP WG guidance

Recommended 3-phase Process Flow



Preliminary Steps: Issue Report & Input Development	Phase 1: Policy - Requirements	Phase 2: Policy - Functional Design	Phase 3: Implementation Guidance
Users/Purposes	Ⓐ Users/Purposes Reqs	Ⓑ Users/Purposes Design	Ⓒ Users/Purposes Guidance
Gated Access	Ⓐ Gated Access Reqs	Ⓒ Gated Access Design	Ⓓ Gated Access Guidance
Data Accuracy	Ⓐ Data Accuracy Reqs	Ⓒ Data Accuracy Design	Ⓓ Data Accuracy Guidance
Data Elements	Ⓐ Data Element Reqs	Ⓒ Data Element Design	Ⓓ Data Element Guidance
Privacy	Ⓐ Privacy Reqs	Ⓓ Privacy Design	Ⓔ Privacy Guidance
Compliance	Ⓐ Compliance Reqs	Ⓔ Compliance Design	Ⓕ Compliance Guidance
System Model	Ⓐ System Model Reqs	Ⓕ System Model Design	Ⓖ System Model Guidance
Cost Model	Ⓐ Cost Model Reqs	Ⓕ Cost Model Design	Ⓖ Cost Model Guidance
Benefit Analysis	Ⓐ Benefit Analysis Reqs	Ⓖ Benefit Analysis Design	Ⓗ Benefit Analysis Guidance
Risk Assessment	Ⓐ Risk Assessment Reqs	Ⓖ Risk Assess Design	Ⓗ Risk Assess Guidance

Next Steps:
GNSO Council Approval
Board Approval
IRT Formation
Implementation

Inputs and Phases for each row further described on slides 12-13

Input to PDP WG

[Initiation of PDP]
Approval of PDP Charter

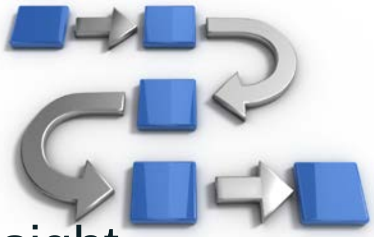
Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group

Output of PDP WG

Ⓐ… Ⓩ indicates proposed order to reflect inter-dependencies

▲ indicates GNSO Council approval

Recommended Methodology and Timeline



- Oversight
  - GNSO Council should **approve Phase 1 outputs** before the PDP WG proceeds to Phase 2
  - To ensure alignment with Phase 1 requirements, oversight should be provided by **GNSO PDP WG coordination team**

- Timeline
  - To foster sustained progress and timely completion, the WG should work towards a **defined timeline and targets**
  - Phases 2-3 contain opportunities for parallel progress, sequenced for **inter-dependencies**, subject to **resourcing**

- Methodology
  - In addition to regular calls, PDP WG may hold **periodic face-to-face meetings**, including subteam and plenary meetings

Next Step: Issue Report, Handoff to GNSO

- Informal community feedback on EP-WG's process recommendations welcomed at **ICANN-52 "All Things Whois"**

- At the ICANN Board's request, Staff will use EP-WG's output to draft a **new Preliminary Issue Report in March 2015**, including EP-WG's recommended process and a draft charter that will factor in this recommended process

- Formal community feedback invited on this new Preliminary Issue Report during **public comment period (April-May 2015)**

- **Final Issue Report** reflecting comments expected in July

- GNSO Council will consider Final Issue Report and proposed Charter for PDP WG, followed by formation of PDP WG

To Learn More About the EP-WG and RDS

Visit the EP-WG's Public Wiki:

https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=49359349

Download EWG's Final Report:

https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=48343061

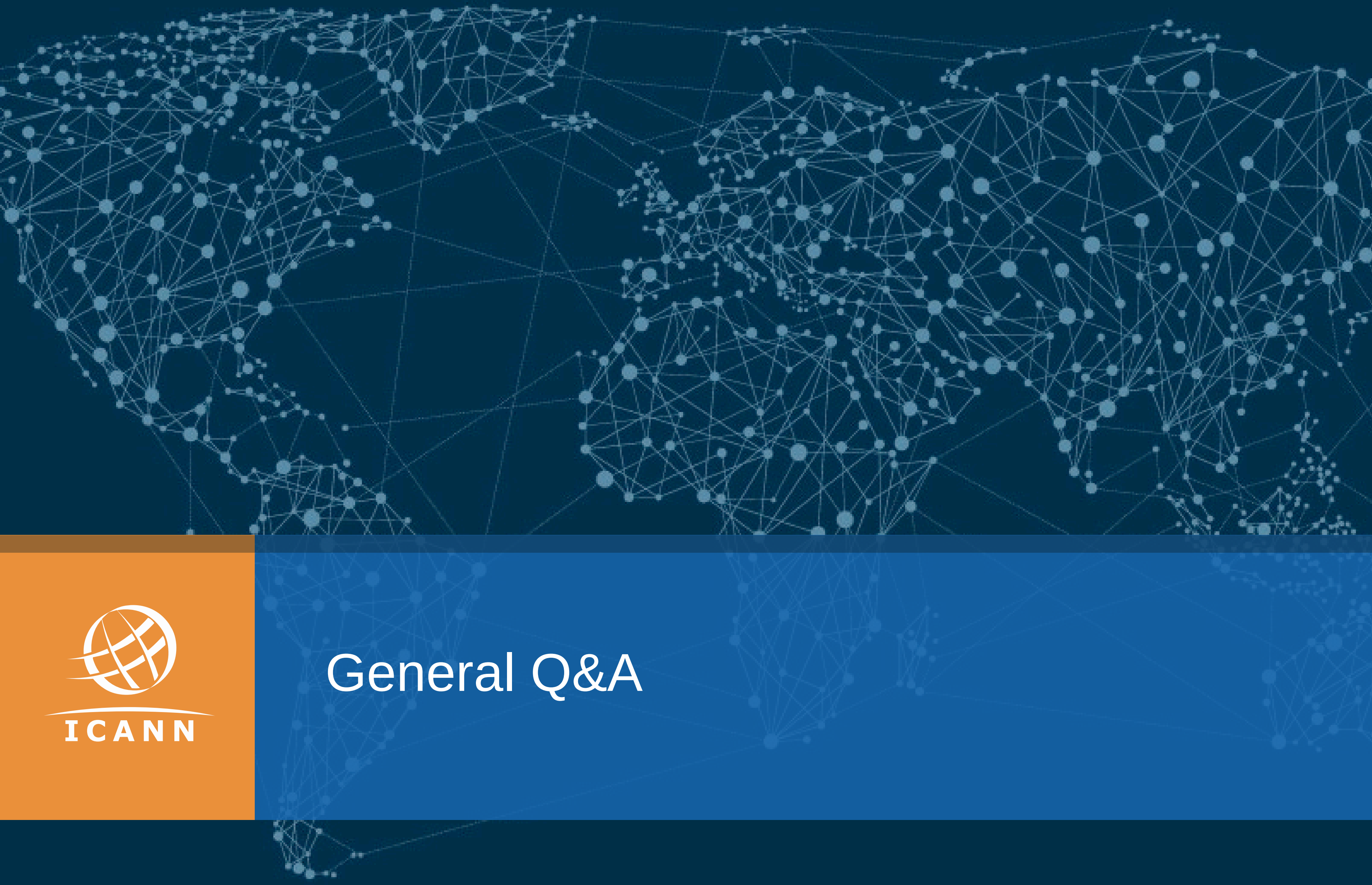
Read EWG's RDS FAQs:

https://community.icann.org/display/WG/EWG+FAQs

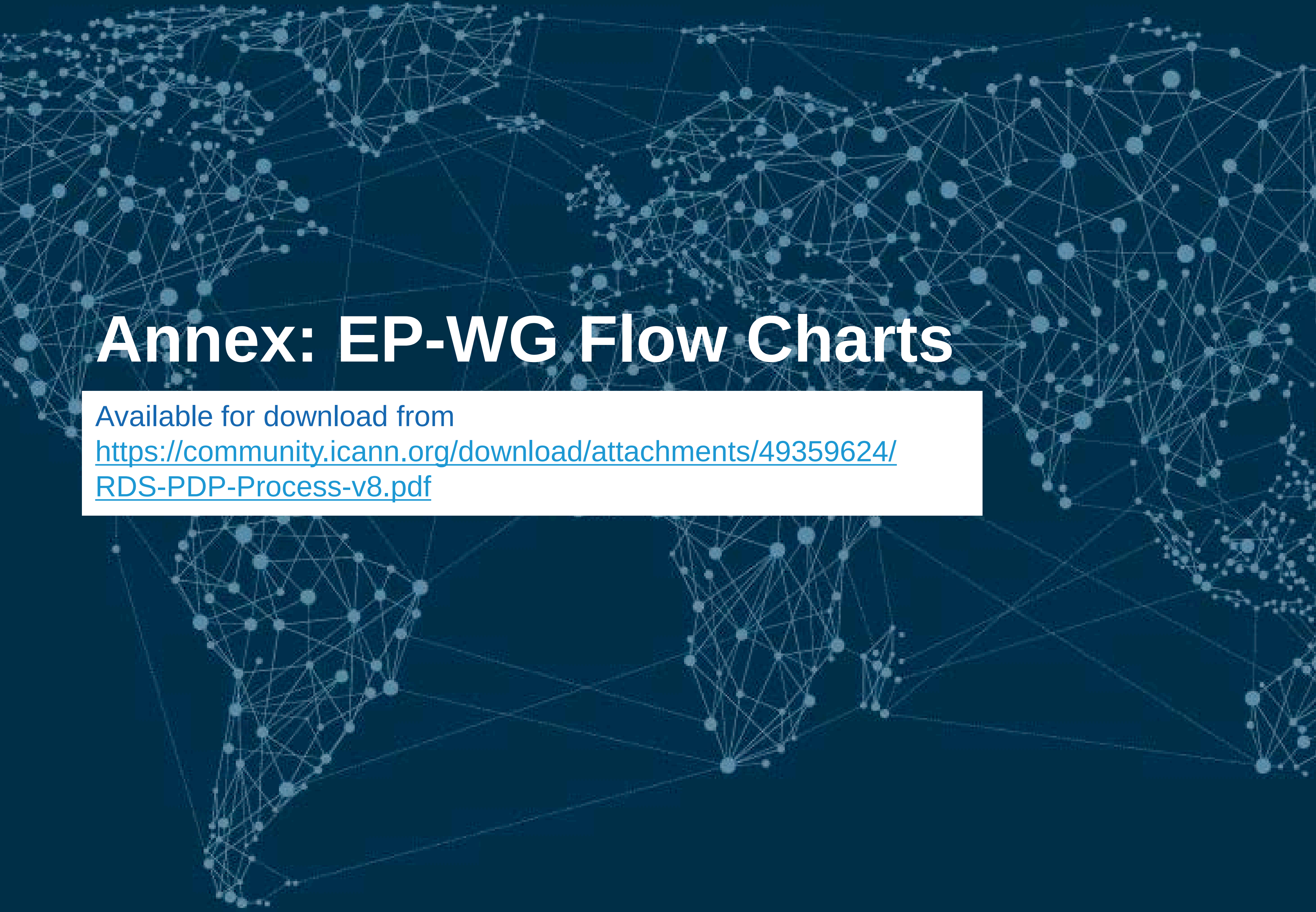
Watch EWG's RDS Video FAQs:

https://community.icann.org/display/WG/EWG+Multimedia+Frequently+Asked+Questions

Questions on the EWG Next Steps?



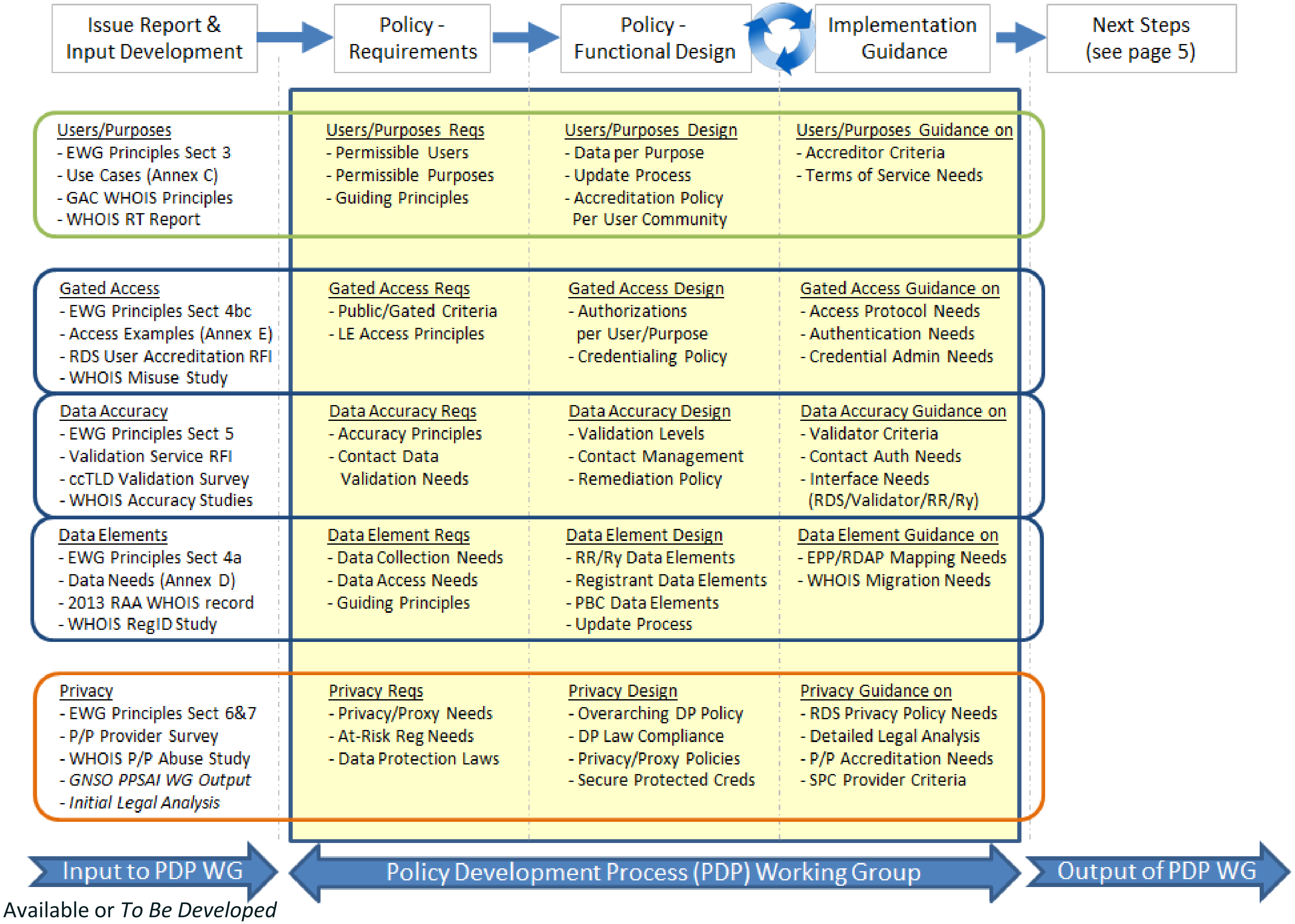
General Q&A



Annex: EP-WG Flow Charts

Available for download from
https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/49359624/
RDS-PDP-Process-v8.pdf

RDS PDP WG: Phased Flow Chart – Part 1 of 2



Issue Report & Input Development	Policy - Requirements	Policy - Functional Design	Implementation Guidance	Next Steps (see page 5)
Users/Purposes - EWG Principles Sect 3 - Use Cases (Annex C) - GAC WHOIS Principles - WHOIS RT Report	Users/Purposes Reqs - Permissible Users - Permissible Purposes - Guiding Principles	Users/Purposes Design - Data per Purpose - Update Process - Accreditation Policy Per User Community	Users/Purposes Guidance on - Accreditor Criteria - Terms of Service Needs	
Gated Access - EWG Principles Sect 4bc - Access Examples (Annex E) - RDS User Accreditation RFI - WHOIS Misuse Study	Gated Access Reqs - Public/Gated Criteria - LE Access Principles	Gated Access Design - Authorizations per User/Purpose - Credentialing Policy	Gated Access Guidance on - Access Protocol Needs - Authentication Needs - Credential Admin Needs	
Data Accuracy - EWG Principles Sect 5 - Validation Service RFI - ccTLD Validation Survey - WHOIS Accuracy Studies	Data Accuracy Reqs - Accuracy Principles - Contact Data Validation Needs	Data Accuracy Design - Validation Levels - Contact Management - Remediation Policy	Data Accuracy Guidance on - Validator Criteria - Contact Auth Needs - Interface Needs (RDS/Validator/RR/Ry)	
Data Elements - EWG Principles Sect 4a - Data Needs (Annex D) - 2013 RAA WHOIS record - WHOIS RegID Study	Data Element Reqs - Data Collection Needs - Data Access Needs - Guiding Principles	Data Element Design - RR/Ry Data Elements - Registrant Data Elements - PBC Data Elements - Update Process	Data Element Guidance on - EPP/RDAP Mapping Needs - WHOIS Migration Needs	
Privacy - EWG Principles Sect 6&7 - P/P Provider Survey - WHOIS P/P Abuse Study - *GNSO PPSAI WG Output* - *Initial Legal Analysis*	Privacy Reqs - Privacy/Proxy Needs - At-Risk Reg Needs - Data Protection Laws	Privacy Design - Overarching DP Policy - DP Law Compliance - Privacy/Proxy Policies - Secure Protected Creds	Privacy Guidance on - RDS Privacy Policy Needs - Detailed Legal Analysis - P/P Accreditation Needs - SPC Provider Criteria	

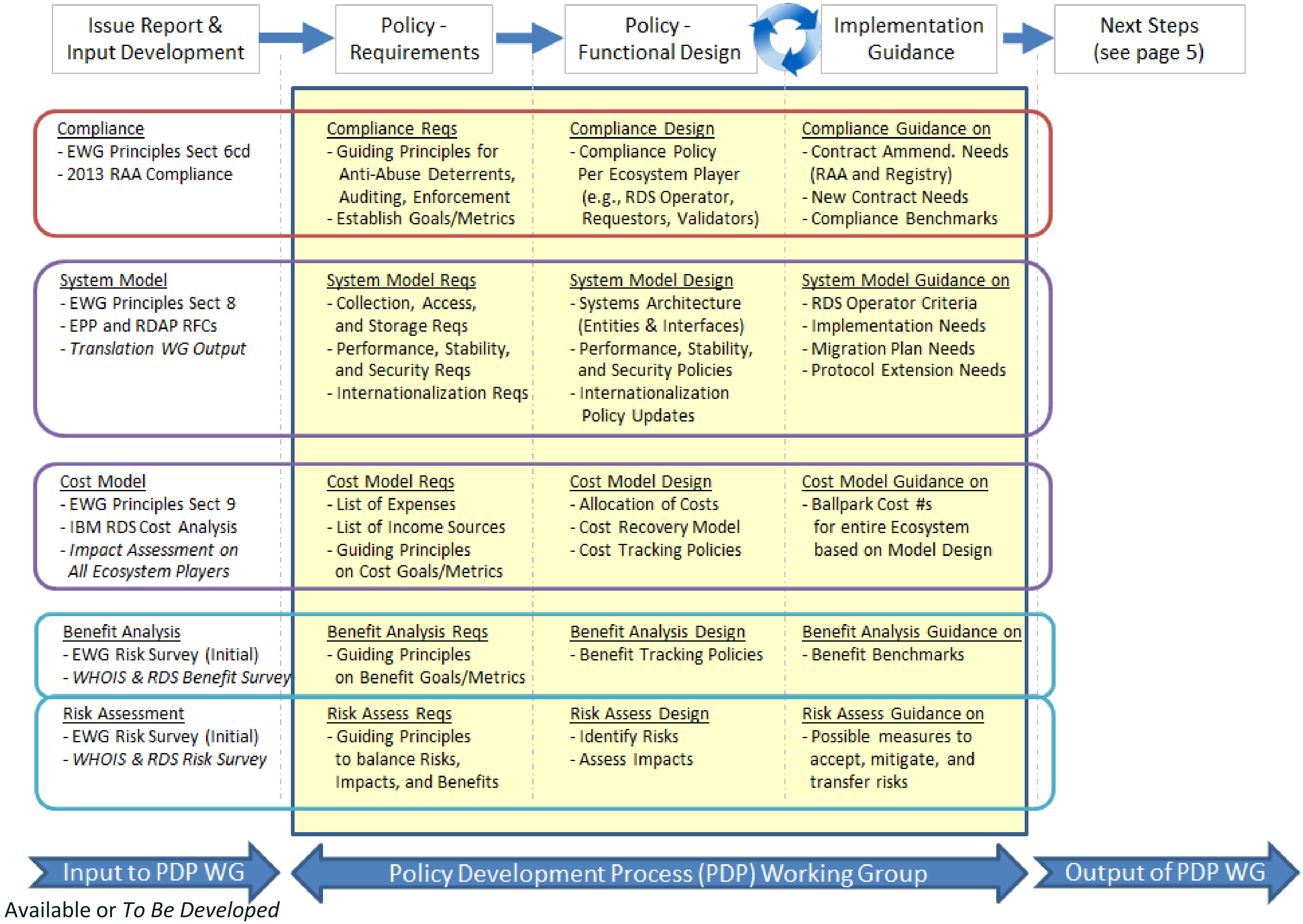
Input to PDP WG

Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group

Output of PDP WG

Available or *To Be Developed*

RDS PDP WG: Phased Flow Chart – Part 2 of 2



Issue Report & Input Development	Policy - Requirements	Policy - Functional Design	Implementation Guidance	Next Steps (see page 5)
Compliance - EWG Principles Sect 6cd - 2013 RAA Compliance	Compliance Reqs - Guiding Principles for Anti-Abuse Deterrents, Auditing, Enforcement - Establish Goals/Metrics	Compliance Design - Compliance Policy Per Ecosystem Player (e.g., RDS Operator, Requestors, Validators)	Compliance Guidance on - Contract Ammend. Needs (RAA and Registry) - New Contract Needs - Compliance Benchmarks	
System Model - EWG Principles Sect 8 - EPP and RDAP RFCs - *Translation WG Output*	System Model Reqs - Collection, Access, and Storage Reqs - Performance, Stability, and Security Reqs - Internationalization Reqs	System Model Design - Systems Architecture (Entities & Interfaces) - Performance, Stability, and Security Policies - Internationalization Policy Updates	System Model Guidance on - RDS Operator Criteria - Implementation Needs - Migration Plan Needs - Protocol Extension Needs	
Cost Model - EWG Principles Sect 9 - IBM RDS Cost Analysis - *Impact Assessment on All Ecosystem Players*	Cost Model Reqs - List of Expenses - List of Income Sources - Guiding Principles on Cost Goals/Metrics	Cost Model Design - Allocation of Costs - Cost Recovery Model - Cost Tracking Policies	Cost Model Guidance on - Ballpark Cost #s for entire Ecosystem based on Model Design	
Benefit Analysis - EWG Risk Survey (Initial) - *WHOIS & RDS Benefit Survey*	Benefit Analysis Reqs - Guiding Principles on Benefit Goals/Metrics	Benefit Analysis Design - Benefit Tracking Policies	Benefit Analysis Guidance on - Benefit Benchmarks	
Risk Assessment - EWG Risk Survey (Initial) - *WHOIS & RDS Risk Survey*	Risk Assess Reqs - Guiding Principles to balance Risks, Impacts, and Benefits	Risk Assess Design - Identify Risks - Assess Impacts	Risk Assess Guidance on - Possible measures to accept, mitigate, and transfer risks	

Input to PDP WG

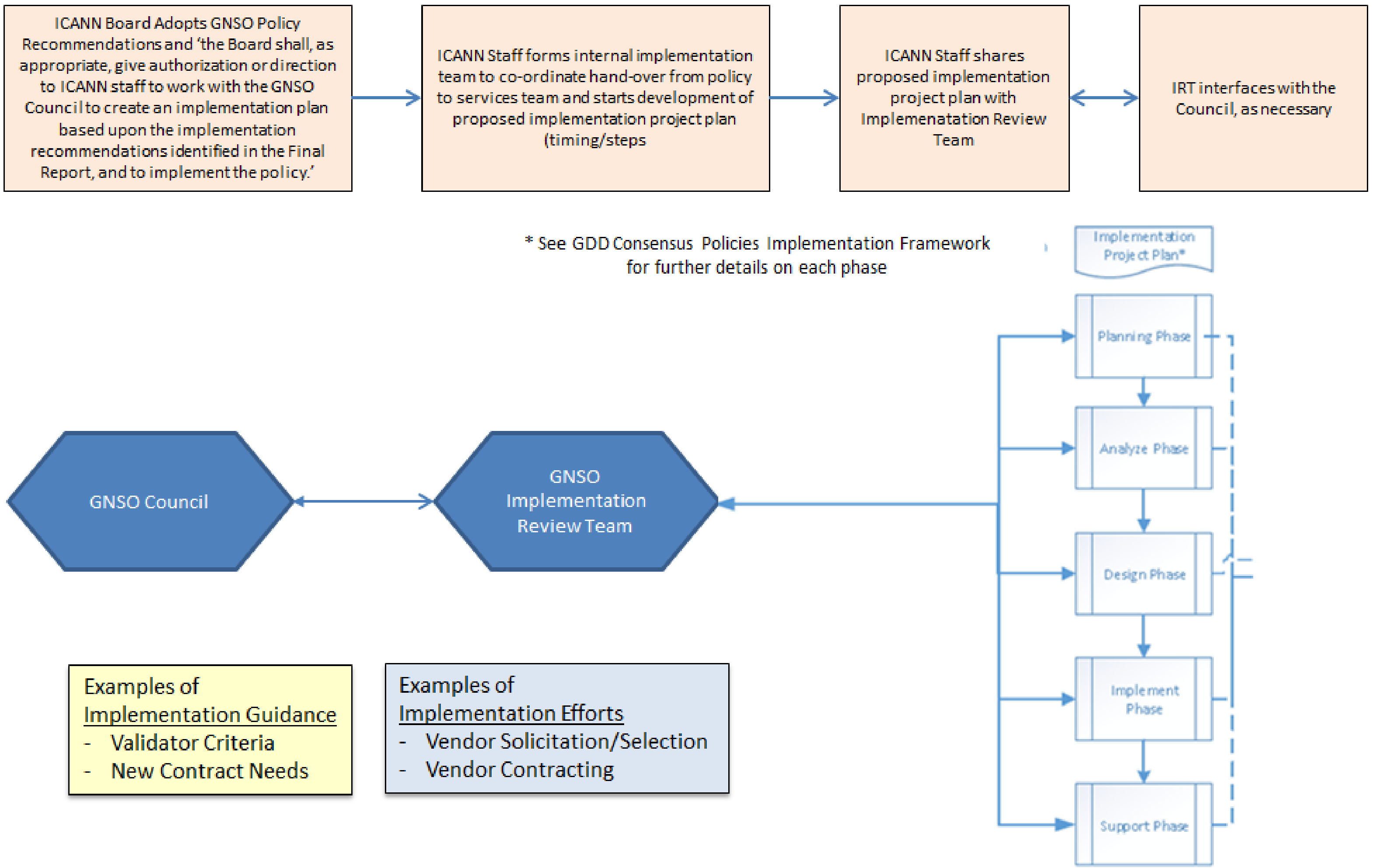
Available or *To Be Developed*

Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group

Output of PDP WG

RDS PDP WG: Post-PDP WG Steps

Next Steps
(using PDP WG's output)



ICANN Board Adopts GNSO Policy Recommendations and 'the Board shall, as appropriate, give authorization or direction to ICANN staff to work with the GNSO Council to create an implementation plan based upon the implementation recommendations identified in the Final Report, and to implement the policy.'

ICANN Staff forms internal implementation team to co-ordinate hand-over from policy to services team and starts development of proposed implementation project plan (timing/steps

ICANN Staff shares proposed implementation project plan with Implemenatation Review Team

IRT interfaces with the Council, as necessary

* See GDD Consensus Policies Implementation Framework for further details on each phase

Implementation Project Plan*

Planning Phase

Analyze Phase

Design Phase

Implement Phase

Support Phase

GNSO Council

GNSO Implementation Review Team

Examples of Implementation Guidance
- Validator Criteria
- New Contract Needs

Examples of Implementation Efforts
- Vendor Solicitation/Selection
- Vendor Contracting

Annex: WHOIS Activity by Category

I. IMPLEMENTATION

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
WHOIS Accuracy/GAC Safeguard Advice on WHOIS Verification and Checks	The new WHOIS Online Accuracy Reporting System is a key project linked to ICANN's strategic initiative to improve the overall effectiveness and accuracy of the WHOIS system. In response to the recommendations of the WHOIS Review Team, the system is designed to produce statistical reports on WHOIS accuracy rates. These reports will be made available on the WHOIS website on a periodic basis, providing visibility and transparency into whether accuracy levels are improving over time. ICANN will also rely on this system to comply with the GAC Beijing Advice regarding WHOIS verification and checks.	Contract implementation; WHOIS Review Team Recommendation implementation	• Pilot Program RFP published, May 2014 • Contracts executed, Aug. 2014 • Preliminary Findings published, Oct. 2014 • Community feedback on Pilot Preliminary Findings, Oct. 2014 • Publication of Final Pilot Report, Dec. 2014 • Public Comment Forum, Dec. 2014 – Feb. 2015 • IAG to be formed to recommend process for the follow-up procedure, Jan. 2015 • Launch of Compliance Pilot on the ARS Pilot Study findings, Jan. 2015 • Initiate modifications to Accuracy Reporting System, Mar. 2015 • Launch of Accuracy Reporting System – Phase I (Syntactic validation), mid 2015 • Launch of Accuracy Reporting System – Phase II (Operational validation), late 2015 • Launch of Accuracy Reporting System – Phase III (Identity validation), TBD • IAG Process Recommendations published for public comment, TBD • IAG Process finalized & launched, TBD	

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
WHOIS Conflicts with National Privacy Laws	Mandatory review of the effectiveness of the procedure under which registries and registrars may seek modification of their contractual WHOIS requirements in light of a conflict with national law. Currently, the process may only be invoked by the contracted party upon receiving notification of an investigation, litigation, regulatory proceeding or other government or civil action that might affect its compliance with the provisions of the RAA or other contractual agreement with ICANN dealing with the collection, display or distribution of personally identifiable data via WHOIS.	Contract implementation	• Staff paper posted for public comment, May 2014 • Comment period open, May – Aug. 2014 • Analysis/proposed next steps provided to GNSO; call for volunteers to form Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) and update procedure, ICANN 51/LA, Oct. 2014 • IAG formed to recommend changes to the procedure, not the policy, Dec. 2014 • IAG submits recommendations to GNSO to ensure they are consistent with existing GNSO policy, June 2015 • Board reviews recommended changes to procedure, TBD	

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
Implementation of Thick WHOIS – Consistent Labeling and Display of WHOIS across all current thick gTLDs	Implement recommendation #1 from the Final Report of the Thick WHOIS Policy Development Process for all current thick gTLDs	Policy implementation	• Initial Draft Implementation Plan for Consistent Labeling and Display, Jan. –Feb. 2015 • Final Implementation Plan for Consistent Labeling and Display, May 2015 • Announcement of Policy Effective Date on Consistent Labeling and Display, July 2015 • Implementation of Consistent Labeling and Display by Registries and Registrars, Aug. 2015 – Jan. 2016 • Policy Effective Date for Consistent Labeling and Display, Jan. 2016	
Implementation of Thick WHOIS – Transition form thin to thick WHOIS for .COM, .NET and .JOBS	Implement recommendation #1 and #3 from the Final Report of the Thick WHOIS Policy Development Process for the thin WHOIS gTLDS (.COM, .NET and .JOBS)	Policy Implementation	• Initial Draft Implementation Plan for transition of .COM, .NET, .JOBS, April – May 2015 • Final Implementation Plan for the transition, July – Aug. 2015 • Implementation of the transition of .COM, .NET, .JOBS by Registries and Registrars, Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2016/Jan. 2017 • Policy Effective Date for Transition from Thin to Thick, Aug. 2016 – Jan. 2017	

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
Cross-Field Address Data Validation Requirements	The WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification of the 2013 RAA requires registrars to 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.	Contract specification	• Registrar working group was formed to ascertain the availability of technically and commercially feasible tools for cross-field validation. • The group was dormant during the rollout of the 2013 RAA but is currently being reinitiated. • Proposed validation requirements/ specifications to be developed by mid-2015. Registrar Working Group to vote on technical and commercial feasibility in mid-to-late 2015. If approved, requirements become effective 180 days after ICANN announces the approval.	
Review of RAA WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification	Terms and conditions of the WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification to be reviewed by ICANN in consultation with the Registrar Stakeholder Group on or about the first anniversary of the date that the RAA is first executed by a registrar.	Contract implementation	• ICANN is planning the approach and proposed methodology for the review • Initial discussions with the leadership of the Registrar Stakeholder Group began in December 2014 • ICANN plans to solicit community feedback beginning in January 2015 and meet with registrars in Singapore in February 2015 • Results of the review will determine 'next steps'	

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
Internationalized Registration Data (IRD)	WHOIS RT made recommendations to charter a new IRD group to look at requirements holistically and to make recommendations in this area.	Recommenda-tions to form basis for further policy work and contract discussions; WHOIS Review Team Recom-mendation implementation.	• Announcement for IRD Team, including call for applicants, July 2013 • IRD Team selected, Sept. 2013 • Preliminary Report published, June 2014 • Interim Report from the Expert Working Group on Internationalized Registration Data published, April 2014 • Interim Report posted for public comment, April – July 2014 • Report of Public Comments on Interim Report published, 2 September 2014 • Final Report publication, 1Q2015 • Board consideration following public comment, 2Q2015	GNSO PDP Working Group on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Expert Working Group on Next Generation gTLD Directory Services IETF WEIRDS work
WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
WHOIS Website Improvements	The WHOIS Website is to be refined & updated	Policy implementation	• Online Search Tool enhancements • WHOIS Annual Report to be published, Dec. 2014 • Updating & Refreshing WHOIS Primer and the Knowledge Center, ongoing	
New gTLD WHOIS Implementation Clarification	Advisory - Clarifications to New gTLD Registry Agree-ment, Spec. 4 and the 2013 RAA WHOIS Specification	Contract Implementation	• Complete and publish the updated Advisory by Jan. 31 • New effective date for implementation moved from mid-February to mid-April	

II. TECHNICAL

WEIRDS IETF Protocol development	**Development of new replacement of WHOIS protocol, RFC process underway in IETF**	**Technical**	• **WEIRDS IETF Working Group formed, April 2012** • **WEIRDS protocol finalized, 1Q 2015** • **WEIRDS final protocol implemented into contracts, TBD**	**RDAP/Restful WHOIS**
Open Source RDAP/Restful WHOIS	Develop a RESTful WHOIS open-source server for domain name registries that can be used by registries or registrars. The server will use the specifications developed in the IETF WEIRDS WG.	Technical	• Server expected, Dec. 2014 • WEIRDS IETF RFC expected to publish, 1Q 2015	Dependent on development of WEIRDS protocol

III. POLICY

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
gTLD Directory Services Expert Working Group Report	Final Report from the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG) details recommendations for a next-generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) to replace the current WHOIS system.	Policy development; WHOIS Review Team Recommenda-tion implementation	• EWG formed, Dec. 2012 • Publication of Initial Report, Frequently Asked Questions, and online questionnaire, June 2013, kicking off an extensive consultation process within the ICANN community on the initial recommendations. • Final Report published and delivered for consideration by the ICANN Board at ICANN50 in London, June 2014 • Following discussions in London on the interplay between the EWG Final Report and the Board-initiated PDP requested by the Board in Nov. 2012 (which had been put on hold pending the EWG work), the Board and GNSO agreed to form a joint GNSO – Board collaboration group to develop next steps for the PDP, Oct. 2014 • Output of the Joint Board/GNSO Collaboration Group to suggest framework for conducting the Board-initiated PDP, expected Feb. 2015 • Preliminary Issue Report & Public Comment Forum, April-May 2015 • Final Issue Report & Launch of PDP, June 2015 • PDP Initial Report published for public comment, June 2016 • Final Report of PDP, Dec. 2016 • GNSO Approval of PDP Recommendations, Jan. 2017 • Board Approval of PDP Recs 2/17	Pending GNSO PDP

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
Privacy/Proxy Service Provider Accreditation issues	Board-initiated GNSO PDP to develop policy recommendations to guide ICANN's implementation of an accreditation program for privacy and proxy service providers. This topic was identified during the 2013 RAA negotiations and recommended for community policy development.	Policy development; WHOIS Review Team Recommendation implementation	• GNSO launched PDP, Oct. 2013 • WG charter adopted, Oct. 2013 • PDP Final Report, estimated May 2015 • GNSO approval of PDP recommendation, estimated June 2015 • Board Approval of PDP recommendations, estimated July 2015 • Transition Period – Interim Specification on privacy/proxy services in effect until 1/1/17 to allow for privacy/proxy accreditation program to be developed and PDP to be concluded. (See Specification on Privacy & Proxy Registrations in the 2013 RAA) • Staff has begun pre-implementation preparations in consultation with the Working Group	

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
GNSO PDP Working Group on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information	The PDP WG is tasked with developing a policy recommendation regarding the translation and transliteration of registration contact information. Among other things, the WG was to consider whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script. They were also expected to consider the question who should decide who should bear the burden of translating contact information to a single common language or transliterating contact information to a single common script. The PDP includes study on the commercial feasibility of translation and transliteration systems for internationalized contact data	Policy development	• GNSO Council requested an Issue Report, Oct. 2012 • GNSO initiates PDP, June 2013 • PDP Initial Report submitted 15 Dec. 2014 • PDP Final Report, estimated May 2015 • GNSO approval of PDP recommendations, estimated July 2015 • Board Approval of PDP recommendations, estimated Sept. 2015	Expert Working Group on Internationalized Registration Data (IRD)

POLICY REVIEW

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
WHOIS Review Team 2	The Affirmation of Commitments requires a review of ICANN’s WHOIS policy and requirements every three years.	Policy review	• Commencement of second WHOIS Review, mid-2015. • WHOIS RT2 publishes final report, early 2016 • Board takes formal action on WHOIS RT2 Final Report, mid-2016	