



ICANN Registry Request Service

Ticket ID: Z5K11-4P7Z6
Registry Name: VeriSign, Inc,
gTLD: .COM, .NET, .NAME
Status: ICANN Review
Status Date: 2009-07-01 13:53:45
Print Date: 2009-07-01 13:55:15

Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

Domain Name Who Was - com/net

Technical description of Proposed Service:

Background:

VeriSign periodically receives requests for historical domain name registration data, including information on domain names which have been deleted. These requests are made in order to address a wide range of needs, such as a request from registrars who may need for a more complete registration history of a particular domain name or a request related to investigations or legal action related to trademark infringement claims, or other investigations of potential nefarious uses.

Once a domain name deletion request has been completed, the domain name is removed from the registry Whois service and the Whois data associated with such domain name is no longer publicly available. This occurs at the time the deletion transaction is processed for a domain name within the Add Grace Period, or for domain names that are deleted outside of the Add Grace Period following the Pending Delete period.

By implementing the Domain Name WhoWas Service, VeriSign will provide an automated capability for a customer (which may be either a registrar or non-registrar) to look up a domain name and receive a response with the registration history for the entire life of such domain name which will include the domain name, registration dates and registrar of record for each period of time (i.e., until the current expiration, until it was transferred to another registrar, or until it was deleted). This will provide the information most frequently requested but will not modify the existing Whois service nor will it disclose the full registration transaction history (e.g., modifications, renewals, status changes), which will continue to be available through special request to the registry. The response data will only include registry data contained in the .com and .net registry databases and would not include registrant or other contact data maintained by registrars.

For example, a request for history of "example.com" would return:

Domain Name: Example.com

Domain ID: vrsn-123

Registrar: Current Registrar, Inc.

Create Date: 1-jan-2009



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Expiration Date: 21-dec 2011

Domain Name: Example.com

Domain ID: vrsn-003

Registrar: Xyz registrar, Inc.

Transfer Date: 15-apr-2003

Deletion Date: 17-apr-2006

Domain Name: Example.com

Domain ID: vrsn-003

Registrar: Abc Registrar, Inc.

Create Date: 21-nov-1994

Transfer Date: 15-apr-2003

This example shows a domain name with two distinct registration periods, indicated by the gap from the deletion date to the next creation date and the change in the Domain ID. The two listings with the same Domain ID show a continuous registration period, with a transfer from Abc Registrar, Inc. to Xyz Registrar, LLC that was executed on April 15, 2003.

Consultation

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

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

Not applicable.

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

VeriSign is currently discussing the Domain Name WhoWas concept with both registrars and non-registrars.



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

VeriSign has discussed this concept with members of the Intellectual Property Constituency and Registrar Constituency. VeriSign received positive feedback from these initial discussions, especially with respect to the registry providing an authoritative source of historical registration data.

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

Not applicable.

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

We believe that this service would be endorsed by registrars, the Intellectual Property Constituencies, and law enforcement. This may also be a beneficial service for registrars to provide potential registrants with registration history for a name that they are considering for registration.

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

To date, no one has raised objections to the introduction of the Domain Name WhoWas concept. A small number of end users may object to the transparency of some domain name histories, especially those individuals who delete domain names in order to avoid detection.

Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:



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VeriSign is discussing the Domain Name WhoWas concept with the communities described in (b) above. VeriSign intends to refine the data format and user interface concepts based, in part, on these discussions. VeriSign intends to begin development and testing of the Domain Name WhoWas concept within three (3) months of RSEP approval. Deployment and commercial availability of the Domain Name WhoWas Service will be dependent upon completion of development and testing.

Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

VeriSign intends for the Domain Name WhoWas Service to be offered through a secure web-based interface. Future releases may include the ability to support automated activity through an Application Program Interface.

VeriSign will offer the Domain Name WhoWas Service under a subscription-based model to both registrars and non-registrars. Customers who would like to subscribe to the Domain Name WhoWas Service must execute a service agreement which will contain, among other things, a license grant and appropriate restrictions on use of the data.

FEES:

Qualified customers may subscribe to the service for a term of 90-days with an auto renewal clause. There will be a nominal fee in order to offset the implementation, maintenance and operational costs for providing the service.

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

VeriSign has demonstrated the ability to deliver scalable and reliable registry services. VeriSign will develop the Domain Name WhoWas Service in accordance with its standard software development lifecycle process, including development of detailed test plans with unit, functional and performance and scalability testing. Such testing will be used to confirm that the service is performing as defined without impacting the performance or functionality of other registry services. Testing will also include user testing in a pre-production environment with users who would like to participate in the user interface testing.

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



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Not applicable.

Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

No contractual provisions will be impacted

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

The service will not change the reporting of data to ICANN.

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

The service will not change the functionality, performance, or availability of Whois.

Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:

No contractual amendments will be required.

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

The Domain Name WhoWas Service will benefit the Internet community by providing transparency into the history of domain name registrations, especially for deleted and/or transferred domain names. In particular, the proposed service will benefit the Intellectual Property community, law enforcement, registrars and registrants.



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Competition

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

The Domain Name WhoWas Service would have no negative effects on competition. To the contrary, VeriSign believes that this service will encourage innovation in the industry, enhance service offerings by providing registrants with historical information about a potential domain name, enable providers to differentiate their services and compete more effectively, and give consumers more choices

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

As previously described, the market for this service is intended to meet the needs of registrars, the intellectual property community and law enforcement

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

Other TLD registry operators may choose to offer services which are similar to the Domain Name WhoWas Service.

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

No. As described above, other TLD registry operators may choose to offer services which are similar to the Domain Name WhoWas Service. Similarly, registrars may choose to offer a similar service or augment this service by providing historical domain name data based on the registration data for which they are authoritative.

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



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No.

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

VeriSign is currently discussing the Domain Name WhoWas Service with registrars, non-registrars and the Intellectual Property Constituency.

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

VeriSign has no additional documents to submit.

Security and Stability

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

No, there is no impact to the data storage requirements. The requirements for this service rely on historical data existing within the .com and .net registries.

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

The Domain Name WhoWas Service will have no impact on throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of the responses to DNS servers or end systems.

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



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No technical concerns have been raised.

Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

VeriSign is not aware of any intellectual property considerations.

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

(1) Trademark or similar rights may exist or arise with respect to trade names or terminology used in connection with the proposed service. (2) Copyright protection may exist or arise in connection with code written or materials created in connection with the proposed service. (3) Certain information or processes related to the service may be confidential to VeriSign and/or subject to trade secrete protection. (4) VeriSign is not aware of the issuance of any patents by any party with respect to the service.

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

VeriSign intends to include industry standard disclaimers, such as a disclaimer of all warranties with respect to the data, in the service agreement.

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

None.