ICANN Registry Request Service

Ticket ID: T3J8J-7W9T4
Registry Name: Public Interest Registry
gTLD: .org .xn--i1b6b1a6a2e
Status: Approved, Pending Contract Amendment
Status Date: 2014-04-19 05:40:42
Print Date: 2014-04-25 00:19:41

Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

Registry Lock

Technical description of Proposed Service:

Registrars have periodically requested that PIR place certain domain names on registry lock status codes to help protect against accidental or inadvertent modifications or deletions that would affect their customer's most high profile or valuable domain names. PIR now wants to make this service available to its registrars. Making Registry Lock available in the .ORG domain will enable registrars to offer their .ORG registrants concerned with identity thief a new service to protect their domain name and host.

The Extensible Provisioning Protocol ("EPP") specifies both client (registrar) and server (registry) status codes that are consistent with the intent to prevent registry changes (i.e., a Delete, Transfer and/or Update) that were not intended by the registrant. Many registrars currently use the client status codes and have requested the ability to add server status codes as an additional layer of protection.

The EPP server status codes that would be applicable for domain names include (i) serverUpdateProhibited, (ii) serverDeleteProhibited, and (iii) serverTransferProhibited. These statuses may be applied individually or in combination.

The EPP also enables setting Host (name server) status codes to prevent deleting or renaming a host or modifying its IP addresses. Setting Host status codes at the registry would reduce the risk of inadvertent disruption of the DNS resolution for domain names associated with locked name servers.

Consultation

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

PIR discussed the concept for the Registry Lock Service with several registrars who represent diverse market segments.

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

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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?:

PIR discussed the concept for the Registry Lock Service with several registrars who represent diverse market segments.

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

No. Not applicable.

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

No. Not applicable.

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

Registrars and their registrants with domain names that are concerned with identity theft would endorse the introduction of the Registry Lock Service.

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 objected to the introduction of the Registry Lock Service. It is unlikely that any objections would be

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raised since this service is already being offered to all registrars as an optional, value-add service.

Timeline

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

Following approval by the ICANN Board, PIR intends to implement the Registry Lock Service within three (3) months.

Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

The Extensible Provisioning Protocol ("EPP") specifies both client (registrar) and server (registry) status codes that are consistent with the intent to prevent registry changes (i.e., a Delete, Transfer and/or Update) that were not intended by the registrant. This means that today, a registrar may place a series of EPP client status codes on the domain name record for various purposes such as restricting access to make updates, transfers, and deletes.

As previously described, the Registry Lock Service will allow registrars to offer server-level protection to the domain name and/or Name Server records for their registrants.

The Registry Lock Service is designed to be a low volume/high value service that will be used in conjunction with a Registrar's proprietary security measures to bring a greater level of security to registrants' domain names and help mitigate the potential for domain name hijacking, inadvertent or unintended deletions, transfers and/or updates.

Fees:

PIR intends to charge registrars based on the market value of the Registry Lock Service. PIR expects to offer a tiered pricing model with each tier having an annual fee based on per domain/host and the number of domain names to be placed on server status code(s).

Here is an example of potential pricing tiers:

1 - 99 domain names and/or hosts: $100 per domain name per year

100 - 499 domain names and/or hosts: $70 per domain name per/year

500 - 2,499 domains and/or hosts: $50per domain name per year

>2,500 domains and/or hosts: fees to be negotiated by PIR and registrar.

The Registry Lock Service is made up of two components:

1. A registrar must provide PIR with a list of the domain names to be placed on any/all of the server status codes. During the term of the service agreement, a Registrar may add domain names to be placed on any/all of the server status codes and/or remove domain names currently placed on any/all of the server status codes. Through a manual process, PIR will then authenticate that the registrar submitting the list of domain names to be placed on any/all of the server status codes is the

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registrar-of-record for such domain names.

2. If changes (including updates, deletes, transfers) are required on a domain name(s) placed on a server status code(s), PIR will follow a secure, authenticated process which includes, among other things, a request from an authorized individual at the registrar for PIR to remove the specific registry status code(s), validation of the authorized individual by PIR, removal of the specified server status code(s), completion by registrar of the desired chang(e), and a request from the authorized individual at the registrar to reinstate the server status code(s) on the domain name(s). This process is designed to complement the automated transaction processing through the Shared Registration System using independent authentication by trusted registry experts.

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

PIR has demonstrated the ability to deliver scalable and reliable registry services. The lessons learned are being applied to the testing/scalability requirements for the commercial offering for .ORG, including the processes described above.

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

Subsequent to the initial registration process, the provisioning protocols currently implemented will apply.

RFC 4931- Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Domain Name Mapping and RFC 4932 - Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Host Mapping will describe the EPP Statuses utilized in the Registry Lock Service.

All RFC's that apply include:

RFC 4930 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP)

RFC 4931 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Domain Name Mapping

RFC 4932 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Host Mapping

RFC 4934 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Transport over TCP

Contractual Provisions

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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:

None.

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

None.

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 Registry Lock Service is intended to meet the needs of registrars and their registrants who would like to receive the highest level of domain name and host record protection.

Competition

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

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The Registry Lock Service would have no negative effects on competition. To the contrary, PIR believes that this service will enhance the protection services currently offered in the market place, allow registrars to market a new service related to domain name and host protection, better enable registrars 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?:

The market is all current and future .ORG accredited registrars and potential registrants.

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

The Registry Lock Service will complement existing protection services currently offered by registrars, which is described above, and will enable these registrars to enhance their service offerings.
Other TLD's currently offer this service to their customers.

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. Registrars may continue to develop their own protection services and may continue to offer such services with or without the proposed Registry Lock Protect Service. The Registry Lock Service is intended to complement registrars' protection services.

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.:

PIR has communicated with registrars as described in Consultation, sub-section (b) above. Many registrars have indicated that the Registry Lock Service will enhance current account and domain protection efforts, and potentially allow them to create new services to offer to their registrants.

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).:

We have no documents to submit.

Security and Stability

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

No.

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

The Service will have no impact on throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of the responses to Internet 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.

Other Issues

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

PIR 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 PIR and/or subject to trade secret protection.
(4) PIR 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:

PIR intends to include industry standard disclaimers, such as a disclaimer of all warranties, in the service agreement.

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

None.