



## Quarterly Report of the usTLD Stakeholder Council – Q2 2016

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## Overview

In Q2 2016, the usTLD Stakeholder Council began by continuing the work of the Privacy and Proxy Subcommittee. The Council created the Subcommittee to discuss all privacy and proxy issues and ultimately draft a policy proposal. During the first Subcommittee meetings, the members expressed support for the implementation of privacy and proxy services within the .US domain with the exception of representatives from law enforcement. The Subcommittee experienced deadlock so it was agreed that law enforcement would provide the Subcommittee with a list of concerns so that these concerns could be properly discussed and addressed within the proposal. Following several delays, law enforcement stated that it did not see a need to provide a written list of concerns with privacy and proxy services. Without the list of law enforcement concerns, the Subcommittee will move forward to develop a proposal that will address known concerns of law enforcement and present it to the full Council for discussion.

Neustar introduced to the Council an additional proposal, the launch of premium domain names, including one and two-character domains. This plan would make available to the public at a premium price certain high-value, highly visible, premium .US domains, some of which are currently reserved. The release of such attention-getting domains will raise awareness of the .US domain and will help to make .US more competitive with other leading TLDs. Additionally, it will provide businesses and organizations new premium naming options to brand their online presence with a United States centric .US domain name. Neustar plans to present a proposal to the Council for its review.

## Council Recommendations

The usTLD Stakeholder Council did not provide any formal recommendations to Neustar or the Department of Commerce during Q2 2016.

## Other Informal Input Provided

The usTLD Stakeholder Council did not provide any other informal input to Neustar or the Department of Commerce during Q2 2016.

## Membership Update

No membership changes were made to the usTLD Stakeholder Council during Q2 2016.

## Summary of Public Comments

The usTLD Stakeholder Council did not open any public comment periods during Q2 2016.

## Summary of Topics under Council Consideration

### Privacy and Proxy

Continuing the work that began last year at the Town Hall with the public voicing concerns about P/P services within the usTLD, the Council has created the Privacy and Proxy Subcommittee. The goal for which is to discuss all issues regarding privacy and proxy service implementation and ultimately draft a proposal for consideration by the entire Council, and eventually, the Department of Commerce.

### Premium Domain Names

After receiving a written request from a potential registrant and other registrant inquiries regarding their efforts to purchase a two character domain, which currently is not permissible under existing policy, Neustar agreed to evaluate the current Reserved Domain Name Policy. Neustar introduced this issue to the Council during this quarter and plans to present a proposal for releasing certain reserved domains to the Council in the third quarter.

### Town Hall

The Council discussed plans regarding timing, content and promotion for the 2016 usTLD Town Hall. The Town Hall will be held during the fourth quarter with a specific date to be voted on by the Council during the next Council meeting.

### Blogs and Media

In Q2 2016 there were no blogs or media published in relation to the usTLD Stakeholder Council.

## Summary of Meetings

### April 2016 Meeting:

No meeting was held in April due to scheduling conflicts.

### May 25, 2016 Meeting:

The Council held its first P/P Subcommittee Meeting. While most council members were in favor of allowing accredited P/P services for registrants within the usTLD, the Department of Justice voiced objections. The concern was that the Registry must be able to proactively police the space and accurately respond to law enforcement requests for information. The other members of the subcommittee agreed but request detailed information from the law enforcement representative, Anitha Ibrahim. Ms. Ibrahim agreed to circulate a memo outlining all of the Department of Justice's concerns. The subcommittee agreed to await law enforcement's memo and reconvene after there had been appropriate time to review.

### June 22, 2016 Meeting:

The Council continued to await literature from the Department of Justice as the next steps for the subcommittee were dependent on what that literature conveys and when that information would be received by the Council.

The Premium Domain Names Policy issue was introduced and the Registry Policy team announced that it is in the process of putting together a proposal for releasing one and two character domains, which have previously been reserved for states. At this same time, the team is considering how to manage domain names that would be considered premium, but may already be released to registrants. The goal was to present that proposal at the July Council Meeting.

Additionally, the Council agreed to vote on a date for the 2016 Town Hall.

### Deadlines for Q3 2016

1. The Secretariat to submit the Q3 Quarterly Report to the Council.
2. The Registry Policy Team to present the Premium Domain Names Policy Proposal to the Council.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: usTLD Stakeholder Council Minutes May 25, 2016

The March Stakeholder Council meeting concluded with most council members in favor of allowing accredited privacy or proxy services for registrants within .US with Council members representing law enforcement voicing the only objections. Therefore, interested Council member created a subcommittee with the purpose of discussing all issues with regard to privacy and proxy service implementation and ultimately drafting a proposal for consideration by the full Council and ultimately, the Department of Commerce. The initial meeting of the Subcommittee was held on May 25, 2016.

The law enforcement representative from the Department of Justice, Anitha Ibrahim, expressed concerns regarding privacy and proxy abuse. She stated that the Registry must be able to proactively police the space and accurately respond to law enforcement requests for information. The other members of the subcommittee agreed but requested detailed information from Ms. Ibrahim so that the subcommittee could more specifically address the concerns of law enforcement. Ms. Ibrahim agreed to circulate a memo outlining all of the Department of Justice's concerns by June 13th, later clarified to be the week of the 13th.

The Subcommittee agreed to await law enforcement's memo and then reconvene after there has been appropriate time to review.

#### **Action Items:**

- Anitha Ibrahim to circulate a memo detailing the law enforcement's concerns in regards to implementing privacy and proxy services in the US TLD.

## Appendix 2: usTLD Stakeholder Council Minutes June 22, 2016

The Secretariat welcomed the Council and took roll.

The Co-Chair announced several general business items: the May Monthly Progress Report was submitted to the Department of Commerce, Neustar's announcement to split into two different companies, and scheduling for the Town Hall. Chris Hemmerlein and Kim Miller agreed to publicly post the Monthly Report online. Becky Burr explained Neustar's decision to split into two separate publicly traded companies. The goal of the separation is to create two companies with sharper strategic and managerial focus. One company will consist of the majority of our Information Services, and will provide Marketing, Security and related Data Services. This information services company will be led by Neustar's current President and CEO Lisa Hook. The other company will focus on Order Management & Numbering Services and will be led by Neustar's Senior Vice President and CFO Paul Lalljie. This process is likely to take approximately 12 months. All of Neustar's registry business, including employees who currently work on the .US TLD, will be managed by the Information Services entity. Finally, the Council agreed that the best way to decide on a Town Hall date is by taking a poll via survey.

The Secretariat then introduced the policy issues: Privacy/Proxy and Premium Domain Names. The Privacy/Proxy Subcommittee is waiting to receive literature from the Department of Justice outlining law enforcement's concerns for allowing privacy and proxy services within the usTLD. The next steps for the subcommittee are dependent on what that literature conveys and when that information is received. As of the Council call, the next Subcommittee meeting will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>, with DOJ having distributed this literature giving this Subcommittee adequate time to review and intelligently discuss.

Next, Crystal Peterson introduced the Premium Domain Names policy issue. The Registry Policy team is in the process of putting together a proposal for releasing one and two character domains, which have previously been reserved for states. At this same time, the team is considering how to manage domain names that would be considered premium, but may already be released to registrants. Ms. Peterson concluded by stating that the goal is to present that proposal at the July Council meeting.

The Co-Chair reviewed the action items and reminded the Council that the next call is scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

The Council concluded the call.

**Action Items:**

- Anitha Ibrahim to distribute literature outlining the Department of Justice's concerns for allowing privacy and proxy services in .US.
- Privacy/Proxy Subcommittee to review Department of Justice literature and schedule its next meeting.
- Premium Domain Names Policy Team to create a proposal for Council review.
- Council to decide on a Town Hall date via doodle poll.