

GNSO COUNCIL SMALL TEAM – WORK ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

<p>Subject Background</p>	<p>DNS Abuse</p> <p>The topic of DNS Abuse was revisited during ICANN82 as a potential area for future policy work. It had previously been addressed by a DNS Abuse Small Team, which had produced a set of four recommendations and identified a gap in enforcement mechanisms under current contracts. Contract amendments between ICANN and contracted parties were negotiated to clarify mitigation obligations. Now that those amendments have taken effect and related data from ICANN Compliance is available, the Council proposed to revisit the issue.</p> <p>Key Inputs and Developments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contractual Amendments & Compliance Report: ICANN Compliance presented data assessing the effectiveness of the new amendments that enhanced enforcement of DNS Abuse responsibilities in registry and registrar agreements. 2. INFERMAL Study: A study (Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains) offered insight into attacker behavior in domain name abuse and was considered a valuable input. 3. Small Team Recommendations: In November 2022, the Council passed a motion accepting the recommendations as outlined in the DNS Abuse Small Team report. These had been previously adopted by Council with a motion specifying that Recommendation 1 (discussing a potential issue report on malicious registrations) would proceed only after completing Recommendations 2–4 (focused on collaboration, outreach, and engagement). 4. ICANN Domain Metrica: A Measurement Platform: Six years ago, ICANN launched the Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) system. It was intended to stimulate discussion around Domain Name System (DNS) abuse and serve as a reliable and reproducible measurement methodology to help registrar and registry operators to monitor DNS abuse. ICANN Metrica was built as a follow-up system that does a lot more with the data ICANN has available; it forms a new framework and a measurement platform that meets ICANN needs and the needs of the wider community. The first module will include aggregated and non-aggregated data on DNS abuse concentrations as listed on a set of Reputation Block Lists (RBLs), similar to what DAAR had, but this time for both registrars and registries. This should give users access to more detailed and relevant information about DNS abuse concentration patterns.
<p>Assignment</p>	<p>The Small Team is tasked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate broader DNS Abuse mitigation efforts across ICANN (e.g., by the CPH, other community groups, and potentially industry firms focusing on DNS abuse). Consider whether briefings from such groups would aid the small team. Similar to the first iteration

of the DNS abuse small team, conduct outreach to the community, seeking their input on items specifically suitable for policy development.

- Assess the impact of the Contract amendments on DNS abuse mitigation efforts.
 - Is more information/data needed from compliance when discussing the next steps?
 - Are the current mitigation efforts addressing DNS abuse sufficiently? If not, seek to identify gaps that would be best addressed via policy development.
- Discuss and provide a summary on the insights from the INFERMAL study and how these insights can help inform next steps on DNS abuse.

Expected Outcome:

- A report to GNSO Council including:
 - Findings from review of available data sources;
 - List of gaps the Small Team may have identified;
 - Recommendations to GNSO Council on next steps on what other work (policy, further research, etc.) might be needed to address DNS abuse.

Timing 6-8 months to 1) Review existing data available 2) Perform outreach to the community 3) Consider that input and identify next steps 4) Draft report for the Council.

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Documents [DNS abuse small team final report](#)
[INFERMAL Study](#)
[ICANN Compliance 6-months report on DNS abuse mitigation requirements](#)

Notes See background section

Next Steps

- GNSO Council to consider the assignment.