



GNSO Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process Working Group

**Roger Carney
PDP WG Chair**

Agenda

1. Chair Welcome
2. About the PDP and Status Update
3. Discussion of Charter Topics
4. AOB

About the PDP

About the Transfer Policy

ICANN consensus policy governing the procedure and requirements for **registrants to transfer their domain names from one registrar to another.**

- Formerly called the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP)
- Went into effect in November 2004
- GNSO reviewed the policy once before, shortly after implementation

Mission and Scope: PDP to conduct a **holistic review of the Transfer Policy** and determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers.

- Conducted in 2 Phases under a single [Charter](#) & covering 8 topics.
- PDP began Phase 1(a) in May 2021:
 - ➔ Phase 1(a) Topics: Forms of Authorization and AuthInfo Codes
- The working group has now conducted initial deliberations on each of the Phase 1(a) topics and has begun to develop “candidate recommendations” and draft responses to charter questions.
- While members and alternates are limited to representatives designated by SO/AC/SG/Cs, anyone can sign up to observe.

Health	Primary Task	Current Start	Current Finish	% Complete	Status	2021				2022				2023						
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
	PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1	02/18/21	12/28/23	25%	In Progress													PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1		
	PROJECT CONTROL	02/18/21	12/28/23	35%	In Progress													PROJECT CONTROL		
	GROUP DELIBERATIONS	05/13/21	02/22/23	41%	In Progress													GROUP DELIBERATIONS		
	Phase 1A Policy Topics	06/02/21	05/11/22	36%	In Progress													Phase 1A Policy Topics		
	Phase 1B Policy Topics	06/15/22	02/22/23															Phase 1B Policy Topics		
	INITIAL REPORT	06/24/21	05/17/23	13%	In Progress													INITIAL REPORT		
	Publish Initial Report	06/15/22	06/15/22															Publish Initial Report		
	Publish Initial Report	03/29/23	03/29/23															Publish Initial Report		
	FINAL REPORT	08/04/22	08/16/23		Not Started													FINAL REPORT		
	Review of public comments - Phase 1A	08/04/22	09/14/22															Review of public comments - Phase 1A		
	Review of public comments - Phase 1B	05/18/23	06/28/23															Review of public comments - Phase 1B		
	Submission of Final Report to the GNSO Council	08/16/23	08/16/23															Submission of Final Report to the GNSO Council		

Phase 1(a) Topics

AuthInfo Code Management: Inter-Registrar Transfers

What is the AuthInfo Code?

Unique code created by a registrar on a per-domain basis to identify the registrant of the domain name.*

How is it used in transfers?

AuthInfo Code needs to be provided to the gaining registrar as part of the inter-registrar transfer process.

How is it provided?

Losing registrar may provide AuthInfo Code via control panel, or by other means within 5 calendar days (email, SMS, etc).

Gaining & Losing Registrar Form of Authorization (FOA)



Gaining Registrar: The registrar to which the registrant is transferring the domain name.



Losing Registrar: The registrar from which the registrant is transferring the domain name.



Gaining Form of Authorization: A required form sent by the Gaining Registrar to the Registered Name Holder to confirm the Registered Name Holder's intent to transfer the domain name.

- Typically an email to Registered Name Holder to confirm intent by clicking a designated link. Before GDPR, the transfer could not occur without this confirmation.



Losing Form of Authorization: Losing Registrar sends the Registered Name Holder a notice to confirm Registered Name Holder's intent to transfer. Absent objection to the transfer within 5 calendar days, the Losing Registrar processes request.

FOA: Further Work Needed

- **EPDP** included the **workaround from the Temporary Specification in its recommendations**, which were **adopted by the ICANN Board**.
- Registrars identified challenges in ICANN org's position that a Gaining Registrar is required to send a Gaining FOA where the email address "is available", as there is no guarantee that the email goes directly to the registrant.
- ICANN Board passed a resolution to **defer contractual compliance enforcement of the Gaining FOA requirement** pending further work in this area.
- Contracted Party House Tech Ops Subcommittee has developed a proposal for a proposed transfer process.

Status

Potential Recommendations Under Consideration

- Eliminate requirement for the Gaining Registrar to send the Gaining FOA and obtain consent from the Registered Name Holder before it may proceed with the transfer.
- Eliminate requirement for the Losing Registrar to send the Losing FOA to the Registered Name Holder.
- New notifications from the Losing Registrar to the Registered Name Holder when key changes are made to the account, some mandatory for the Losing Registrar to send, others optional.
- Additional security for the AuthInfo Code, which the group is recommending be called the “Transfer Authorization Code” (TAC). Highlights:
 - Minimum requirements for TAC syntax/complexity, adherence to requirements confirmed by registry
 - Losing Registrar generates TAC upon request
 - TAC may only be used once
 - TAC is valid for a limited period of time (Time to Live)
 - Registry must securely store the TAC using a one-way hash that protects the TAC from disclosure