

SPECIFICATION 6

REGISTRY INTEROPERABILITY, CONTINUITY, AND PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Standards Compliance

Registry Operator shall implement and comply with ~~all~~relevant existing RFCs and those published in the future by the Internet Engineering Task including all successor standards, modifications or additions thereto relating to (i) Internet protocol (including Extensible Provisioning Protocol), the DNS and nameserver operations including without limitation RFCs ~~3730, 3731, 3732, 3734,~~ 3735, ~~and~~ 3915, and 4390-4394; and (ii) registration data publication operations for top-level domain registries in conformance with RFCs 1033, 1034, 1035, and 2182.

If Registry Operator implements Domain Name System Security Extensions ("DNSSEC"), it shall comply with RFCs 4033, 4034, and 4035 and their successors; and should follow the best practices described in RFC 4641. If Registry Operator implements Hashed Authenticated Denial of Existence for DNS Security Extensions, it shall comply with RFC 5155 and its successors. If the Registry Operator offers Internationalized Domain Names ("IDNs"), it shall comply with RFCs 3490, 3491, and 3492 and their successors and the ICANN IDN Guidelines at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/implementation-guidelines.htm>, as they may be amended, modified, or superseded from time to time.

2. Registry Services and Continuity

Registry services are, for purposes of the Registry Agreement, defined as the following: (a) those services that are operations of the registry critical to the following tasks: the receipt of data from registrars concerning registrations of domain names and name servers; provision to registrars of status information relating to the zone servers for the TLD; dissemination of TLD zone files; operation of the registry zone servers; and dissemination of contact and other information concerning domain name server registrations in the TLD as required by this Agreement; (b) other products or services that the Registry Operator is required to provide because of the establishment of a Consensus Policy as defined in Specification 1; (c) any other products or services that only a registry operator is capable of providing, by reason of its designation as the registry operator; and (d) material changes to any Registry Service within the scope of (a), (b) or (c) above.

Registry Operator will conduct its operations using geographically diverse, redundant servers (including network-level redundancy, end-node level redundancy and the implementation of a load balancing scheme) to ensure quality service in the case of technical failure (widespread or local), business insolvency or an extraordinary occurrence or circumstance beyond the control of the Registry Operator.

Registry Operator will use commercially reasonable efforts to restore the critical functions of the registry within 24 hours after the termination of an extraordinary event beyond the control of the Registry Operator and restore full system functionality within a maximum of 48 hours following such event, depending on the type of critical function involved. Outages due to such an event will not be considered a lack of service availability.

Registry Operator shall have a contingency plan including the designation of a registry services continuity provider, and must inform ICANN of the designated provider.

In the case of extraordinary event beyond the control of the Registry Operator where the Registry Operator cannot be reached, Registry Operator consents that ICANN may contact the designated registry services continuity provider.

Registry Operator shall conduct registry services continuity testing at least once per year.

3. Supported Initial and Renewal Registration Periods

Initial registrations of registered names may be made in the registry in one (1) year increments for up to a maximum of ten (10) years.

Renewal registrations of registered names may be made in one (1) year increments for up to a maximum of ten (10) years.

4. Performance Specifications

DNS Service Availability. Service availability as it applies to the DNS service refers to the ability of the nameservers, as a group, to resolve a DNS query from an Internet user. The committed performance specification is 99.999% measured on a monthly basis, **and must respond within 1.5 seconds for 95% of queries each month.**

Registration Data Publication Service. The registration data publication service (WHOIS) shall be updated at least once every 15 minutes and must respond within 1.5 seconds to at least 99.5% of queries each month.