.au Policy
Review Panel

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Minutes

13th October 2017 at 9:30AM

Present: John Swinson (Chair) – Videoconference, Paul Zawa, Professor Andrew Christie, Narelle Clark- Videoconference, Brett Fenton – Videoconference, Ned O'Meara – Videoconference.

Meeting commenced at 9:30am

John welcomed Panel members to the meeting. The key issues discussed were:

1. Fundamental Principles

(1) **Peak business body representative**: John Swinson canvased Panel members opinions about the additional Panel representative and the best type of candidate (Lawyer, Brand owner etc)

The Panel noted the issues raised and agreed to have a brand representative on the Panel.

   Action: John Swinson asked Panel members to upload their recommendations onto confluence. Suggestions of Small to Medium business enterprises will be accepted.

(2) **What are the Fundamental Principles:** John Swinson emailed suggestions and sought feedback from Panel members about guiding principles. Principles taken from the current policies included:

- Domain names are registered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- All registrants must have an Australian connection or nexus.
- There are no proprietary rights in a domain name. The registrant receives a license to the domain name.
- There should be more than one registrar, and competition between registrars is to be encouraged.
- Registrars can appoint resellers.
- No preference to trademark owners over business name owners and between 2lds.

Brett Fenton expressed concern that auDA should have the ability to directly deal with the reseller. auDA noted that the maintenance and accuracy of the reseller list is up to the registrars.

Narelle Clark discussed the importance of including a statement of accordance with Australian Consumer Protection. The Panel noted that polices must promote consumer protection, fair trading, competition, transparent and accountable processes and be inclusive of all members

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of the Australian Internet Constitution. Narelle requested including reference to 3.2 of The Constitution in future discussion papers and policies, the Panel agreed.

John Swinson noted that rules around the Australian connection need to be defined. John advised that details of the rules were up for discussion, the Panel agreed.

Action: John Swinson to formalise statement of principles and provide a copy to the secretariat for distribution to the auDA board.

2. Media/strategy for public consultation

The Panel noted comments for the Direct Registration Implementation Policy are due in mid-November. The Panel agreed that the Direct Registration Panel Preferred Option for Implementing Direct Registration, and the Registrant policy discussion paper will be released after Australia day 2018. The Panel noted that all members of the Australian Internet Community need to be engaged.

Ned O'Meara suggested that all .au registrants should be notified by auDA of proposed changes to the .au namespace. As an absolute minimum, the 200,000 registrants that were surveyed in the market research campaign earlier this year should be contacted.

The Panel agreed that public forums, social media, webinars and SEO meetups in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, would be beneficial in the promotion of future discussion papers.

Narelle Clark raised concerns that the auDA twitter account is "almost inactive". Narelle stated that a presence on social media is required to increase the level of engagement.

Action: Ned O'Meara to send details of SEO and other relevant meetups to Panel members through confluence.

Action: Secretariat to upload media release to Confluence for Panel members.

Action: John to work with the Secretariat and auDA on the next media strategy.

3. Key Registrant Policy issues

John Swinson noted that the Registrant policy is currently being drafted. Issues include:

- Eligibility/allocation rules, how we validate who is in space
- pending trademark applications – proposing exact match or service for the use of a trademark

The Panel noted the issues. The Panel agreed to meet via videoconference in November to discuss the Direct Registration submissions.

Given the complexity of the Registrant Policy the Panel will meet in December.

Action: Secretariat to confirm dates and send meeting invites to Panel members.

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4. Christmas closedown

It was noted that the Policy Review Panel will break over the Christmas period from the 22 December 2017 to 8 January 2018.

5. Other business/Next meeting and close

Ned O'Meara reiterated his position that submissions for the Direct Registration Implementation Policy should be published on the auDA website as they are received. He believes that submissions encourage other submissions; and that transparency in this process is vital. John Swinson noted Ned's concerns and will respond accordingly.

The next meeting will be via video conference on 17 November 2017. Secretariat to confirm time and video conference details.

Meeting Closed 11:30am