Summary of Changes to
Registry Technical Specification
since 21 August 2017

21 September 2017

0. BACKGROUND

.au Domain Administration Limited (**auDA**) (http://www.auda.org.au) released a Draft Registry Technical Specification for public comment on 21 August 2017.

See: https://www.auda.org.au/news/draft-registry-technical-specification-now-available-for-comment/

The purpose of this document is to summarize the changes made to the Draft based on feedback from auDA policy staff, auDA accredited registrars, auDA's Tender Process Committee, auDA's Tender Evaluation committee, respondents to auDA's Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI), and the wider Australian Internet community.

The Final version of the Registry Technical Specification was published as part of auDA Request for Tender (RFT) available at: https://www.auda.org.au/industry-information/registry/registry-transformation-project-2017/

1. INTRODUCTION

5 sections were added to the introduction.

Section 1.1 *Dedicated .au registry* and Section 1.2 *Australian presence* are consistent with the advice provided to potential respondents to the REOI, and provide clarity to the requirements associated with the terms "dedicated .au registry" and "Australian presence".

Section 1.3 *Names under management* provides information on the current number of domain names under management by the registry.

Section 1.4 *Transaction volumes* provides information on the number of EPP and WHOIS transactions received by the *.au* registry.

Section 1.5 *Business rule configuration* was added in recognition that auDA is in the process of reviewing its policy rules (see: https://www.auda.org.au/policies/panels-and-committees/2017-policy-review-panel). Potential rule changes include the period of registration (currently fixed at 2 years) and direct registration in .au (e.g. example.au).   The aim is to allow simple business rule changes via some form of configuration file without requiring additional software development.   This will decrease the time it takes to implement policy changes.

2. FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

Section 2.1.3 (g) was updated to make it a little clearer that EPP connections should time-out after a period of client in-activity.

Section 2.2.6 *Policy Delete Support* was added to reflect current registry functionality, where a registrar can delete a domain name based on a breach of policy.   This allows proper tracking of deletions because of policy compliance

activities, and the WHOIS results also indicate when a domain name has been deleted under these circumstances.

Section 2.2.7 *Registration Data Validation* was added at the request of auDA's policy compliance team. It is new functionality for the .au registry, where data elements such as company names and postal addresses can be validated against publicly available databases.   The aim is to improve the data quality in the .au registry, and assist in managing compliance issues.

Section 2.3 *Authoritative Nameserver Service* was updated with links to the current DNSSEC practice statements for the top level .au, and the second level domains within .au (such as .com.au, .net.au, .org.au).   Note however that these practice statements will need to be updated once the registry operator takes over generation and maintenance of the .au zonefile.

Section 2.3.5 *Wildcard Prohibition* was updated with a link to the auDA interim policy on wildcard DNS records.

Section 2.4.6 *Domain Availability Check* was updated to clarify that the Domain Availability Check service has different levels of rate limiting compared to the regular WHOIS service described in section 2.4.5.

Section 2.4.8 *Domain Name Audit Trail* was added at the request of auDA's policy compliance team.   This allows tracking a history of which registrants have held a particular domain name licence over time.

Section 2.7 *Registrant Domain Name Password Recovery* was updated to clarify that the password corresponds to the authInfo data element in the EPP protocol.

3. SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

No major changes.

4. BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN REQUIREMENTS

No major changes.

5. SOFTWARE REPOSITORY AND DATA REPLICATION

This section was updated to reflect a shift from the registry operator only maintaining an escrow service to a requirement for the registry operator to make

the software and data available to auDA to assist with the project goals of improving security, and supporting more advanced data analytics capability.

Section 5.1 *Frequency of Updates* now requires that data replication should be performed on an hourly basis rather than daily.

Section 5.2 Software Repository now requires that documentation for the software should conform to the ISO 15489 *Information and Documentation – Records Management* standard.

6. DOMAIN NAME EXPIRY AND DELETION REQUIREMENTS

No major changes.

7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Added a requirement in section 7 (a) (ix) to report on the number of domain names using the registry lock service.

Moved a couple of the sub-points under section 7 (b) relating to EPP and nameservers to the relevant sections under 7 (d) and 7 (e).

8. REGISTRAR SUPPORT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

No major changes.

9. ABUSE MITIGATION

No major changes.

10.   DAILY LOG REPORTS

Added a requirement to provide access to Intrusion Detection System (IDS) logs.