

Proposal for establishment of common tag holder email addresses

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Abstract

This is a neutral proposal for the establishment of an easy way to contact a tagholder by using a common format e-mail address. It is based on ideas raised on nom-steer some months ago and again by Steve Taylor on February 26, 2002.

The Problem

There is currently no direct way to contact the person(s) responsible for management of domains on a tag. There are ways of guessing the address through company web sites or whois last-modified information however this is likely to cause mistakes.

This was initially raised as a matter for inter-tagholder communications, especially when in the past one did not receive notices of domains released to one's tag. Whilst this particular issue is now resolved, there are other administrative matters where some tagholders will wish to communicate with others, so a system needs to be in place to provide the contact information.

In the author's opinion, a system which is restricted to, or distinguishes intertagholder communication from other types (e.g. registrant or third party messages), is more likely to provide value. Clive Feather further suggested on 27 Feb that tagholders could choose to treat these kinds of messages differently and this is reflected in the proposal. The only disadvantage is the likelihood of unsolicited messages being sent to tagholders as it would be easy to form e-mail addresses for all tagholders.

Proposed Solution

The proposal put forward for the PAB's consideration is as follows:

1. Nominet should obtain two e-mail addresses from tagholders for forwarding messages:
 - a. inter-tagholder address (e.g. `hostmaster@myisp.net.uk`), and
 - b. public address (e.g. `support@myisp.net.uk`)
2. Nominet will forward messages sent to `@th.nic.uk` to the inter-tagholder address where messages are correctly signed by a private PGP key belonging to the sender. Any messages without a PGP signature should be forwarded to the public address.
3. The supply of these e-mail addresses should be optional but encouraged. It is up to each tagholder to decide how to deal with any messages received.

Other Issues

In this area, another potential benefit would be to map tags to specific web sites. This could be achieved by the use of a CNAME record as follows:

myisp.th.nic.uk IN A CNAME www.myisp.net.uk (where the tag MYISP belongs to a company with its web site at www.myisp.net.uk)