

Access Limits Policy

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1. Introduction

This paper tackles outstanding issues relating to access limits and recommends a new policy that tidies up all previous policy statements on access limits. These issues are

- What principles are used to decide the purpose of limits and the maximum levels of those limits.
- What principles are used to decide the relative levels of limits between different customers.
- Who decides what levels are set for what systems and what consultation takes place.

2. The purpose of access limits and maximum level of those limits

The PAB has already agreed¹, for some individual systems, principles that determine why access limits are set and what purpose they fulfil. Whilst the language used for each system has been different, the intent has been the same.

2.1 Proposed policy

The proposal is for a single statement of the policy principles that determine the purpose of access limits and is thereby used to determine the maximum level to which they can be set. These principles are as follows:

- Database protection.
- System protection.
- Non-interference between users.
- Intended use.

3. Relative levels of limits between different customers

We have never had a written or consistent policy when setting access limits for our services, that determines whether all customers get equal limits, or whether the limits are differentiated.

For example:

- All tag holders get the same limits on attempts to register an already registered name, which is 1,000 in any 24 hour period.
- However, the limit on domains that can be cancelled because they were registered in error is set at 5 % of domains registered in the last billing period.

¹ PAB paper for July 2005 meeting – Automaton acceptable use
& PAB paper for April 2004 meeting – Amendments to abuse policies

3.1 Proposed policy

The proposal is for a clear statement of the policy principles that determine the level at which access limits are set per customer. These principles are as follows:

- Individual systems may have equal limits, differentiated limits or a combination of both.
- The level of limits should be set per system according to one or more of the following principles:
 - No differentiated limits
 - Additional limits can be purchased
 - Limits are calculated based on the number of domain per tag/tag holder
 - Limits are calculated based on the number of new registrations per tag/tag holder.
- Where differentiated access limits are set then this should apply consistently to all customers.

4. What levels are set for what systems and what consultation takes place.

Again, the PAB has already agreed², for some individual systems, that limits should be set by the Executive following the appropriate policy principles with provisos on how these changes are communicated.

4.1 Proposed policy

The proposal is that this same policy should apply to all systems and all limits. So that, for all systems, limits should be set by the Executive following the appropriate policy principles and that any changes are properly documented and communicated and where appropriate, consulted upon

5. Recommendations

The PAB are asked to approve the following recommendation:

“The PAB resolves to recommend that the policy principles and policy statements of sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 be adopted as the new policy governing access limits replacing all previous policy recommendations in this area.”

² Ibid.