

# Automaton Acceptable Use

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## 1. Introduction

This is another paper that aims to agree a set of principles by which Automaton acceptable use policies are determined. Although this is given in the context of Automaton access this will also include new access methods when they become available and it will also affect the business processes that the Automaton implements.

## 2. Principles

### 2.1 Reasonable use of resources

Tag holders are expected not to do things that use an unreasonable amount of system resources.

An example of behaviour that falls outside of this is:

- Sending tens of thousands of change requests instead of a single bulk operation.

### 2.2 Notifications and replies

Tag holders are expected to receive and process the various change notifications and replies that are sent. In future these are made available for retrieval then this should be done in timely fashion.

An example of behaviour that falls outside of this is:

- Ignoring change notifications and repeatedly querying for lists of domains which are then checked for differences.

### 2.3 Non-interference between tags

Tag holders are expected not to make any attempt to change any registration made by another tag holder. (Though the Automaton would not allow this).

An example of behaviour that falls outside of this is:

- Attempting to modify an existing registration on another tag as a way of determining if the subject domain has been registered.

### 2.4 Correction of mistakes

There are certain points in the registration and renewal process where tag holders are able to correct mistakes, such as cancelling a new registration before the first bill is generated. Tag holders are expected to only use these facilities for correcting mistakes.

An example of behaviour that falls outside of this is:

Board  
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Date: 21 June 2005

- Registering a domain name, running site statistics on it for a few days to determine how many type-ins it receives and then cancelling it if that number is insufficient.

### 3. Taking this forward

The set of principles given above will be insufficient for a tag holder to judge accurately what constitutes acceptable use and what does not. A more specific policy will be produced that covers the present limits and includes these principles. However no such policy can cover all of the eventualities and so referral to these principles may be required when new, possibly abusive, behaviour appears.

It is important to point out that if a tag holder engages in activity we believe contravenes these principles then we are not likely to move to immediately suspending their tag or even more severe action. There are a number of courses of action that we might take, largely determined on a case-by-case basis, such as:

- Finding out from the tag holder why they are doing this and seeing if there is a different way they can achieve the same ends without contravening these principles. This may go so far as us introducing new functionality or process changes.
- Asking the tag holder to desist. Possibly giving them time to change their systems or processes.
- Introducing limits on this type of action that are automatically policed. This will normally involve some element on consultation on the appropriateness of those limits and how they are implemented.
- Reducing already implemented limits. Again this will normally have some element of consultation.

Where changes are to be introduced, including new or changing limits, then this information will be widely communicated and sufficient time given to tag holders to change their systems.

Some of these actions are already taken by the executive without consulting. However, to be clear, this document proposes that all of these actions will be taken by the executive as they see fit, without further consultation with the PAB. Where consultation is part of the action taken then this will be done via mailing lists or operational working groups.

### 4. Recommendations

The PAB is asked to consider the following resolution:

“The PAB resolves to recommend that it agrees with the recommended principles for acceptable use of the Automaton (and related systems and processes). It further recommends that the development and implementation of an acceptable use policy to assure these principles is carried out by the Executive without further consultation with the PAB. This is on the understanding that any changes to systems or processes are properly documented and communicated and where appropriate consulted upon.”