

Data Restructuring Consultation Report

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1. Introduction

This is the final report on the data restructuring, following completion of the consultation. We are now fully engaged in implementing the changes proposed. This paper is presented for information only and contains no recommendations.

2. Consultation

An initial paper went to the PAB in December 2004, with a full copy of the first version of the proposal, which produced the following agreed resolution

“The PAB resolved to recommend the introduction of a new data structure, in line with the proposal presented by the executive and the resultant changes in tag holder interfaces; this is to be introduced subject to an open consultation to finalise the details, through an open mailing list, chaired and managed by the Nominet executive.”

The proposal has now been through a long consultation process with an operational working group. This has had strong involvement from a few tag holders who have clearly articulated their concerns. The proposal has also been discussed at meetings with tag holders and the member lunches. In addition to this external consultation the proposal has had very thorough internal review.

As a result the proposal has been through a number of iterations and is now ready to implement.

2.1 Summary of changes

The following key points should be noted

- Nothing in the proposal is a change of policy.
- There are a number of interface changes available to those who wish to take advantage of them.
- Full backwards compatibility is maintained with existing interfaces and processes. A tag holder can continue to work as they have done now and migrate to this new data structure in a reasonable time.
- The groundwork has been set for providing new and enhanced functionality.

The main functional changes are

- An increased number of contacts can now be specified. Up to three rather than just one as before.
- Rather than store data that will never be used it is now discarded (e.g. billing address where we do not have a direct billing relationship with the registrant).
- Those who wish to deal with our data in terms of linked objects (as per EPP) are now able to do so.

- Where a customer has multiple service relationships with us (e.g. tag holder, registrant and PRSS user) they would be joined within our internal systems.
- New Automaton templates and Automaton notifications are required to support the new functionality.

3. Next Steps

Work began several months ago on designing a new underlying schema to accommodate this data structure. Following the consultation some changes are required, but these are relatively minor as the scheme was designed to absorb many anticipated changes.

The first deliverable to use the new data structure will be the new PRSS system, closely followed by the online system for tag holders. After that will come the larger task of migrating the registrant data over to this new system and switching over to a new version of the Automaton that uses the new data structure.