

# Data Restructuring

## 1. Introduction

We are about to embark on a major data restructuring exercise. This is necessary for the following reasons

- We are unable to provide simple joined up services without joining up the underlying data.
- Our current data structure has led to a proliferation of out of date information being stored on the register.
- New international standards being developed are increasingly dependent on a more sophisticated data structure (for example EPP for registering domains and CRISP for an alternative to WHOIS).

The attached paper covers a proposal to restructure our data in full detail. For those who do not wish to read the technical details then Section 1 is an Executive Summary.

## 2. Proposal

This full proposal is very detailed and most likely only of interest to some of our more technically minded tagholders. The more general highlights are as follows

- Each company, organisation or person that deals with Nominet will now receive an account. Onto this account can go any service they take out with us, including being a registrant, a tagholder a PRSS subscriber or one of a number of other services.
- The registrant details will no longer be held on a per-domain basis but on a per-account basis and all of the domains for a particular registrant will go onto the same account.
- The details of contacts held within the system will be joined up and more contacts will be allowed for each particular role than before. For example a tagholder will now be allowed up to nine admin contacts per tag.

## 3. Policy implications

There are no policy changes as a result of this data restructuring, though it does mean significant changes in the interfaces used by tagholders and so needs to go to the PAB for that reason. It will however make it easier to introduce possible policy changes as our current data structure is fairly rigid and inflexible.

This proposal could have implications for the discussions on lock states as new functionality may now be possible that requires the use of a lock state to make it work in an acceptable fashion. This is discussed in Section 6.7 – Lockstates.

## 4. Consultation

Consultation on this proposal will be managed by the Executive with the aim to reach as many tagholders as possible in the process. This will start with an initial consultation with the PAB to provide the first formal publication of this document.

The next step will be the establishment of a mailing list to consult in detail about the proposal. This mailing list will work as follows

- Created as an executive working group, not a PAB policy working group.
- Set to last for a fixed period until the end of February.
- Moderated/Chaired by the Director of IT

- Work items set and progressed by the chair.
- Participation by Nominet staff.

The outcome will then be implemented without further reference to the Board or PAB, unless specific issues arise which make this necessary. A full communications plan will be put in place given the extensive nature of the changes being proposed.

The initial work items are likely to be:

- Review of the requirements/principles/restrictions as discussed in the attached paper
- Review of the details of the attached paper
- Additional methods for simplifying how end users interact with the new data structure
- Pre-implementation data tidy up plan
- Data migration plan

## **5. Implementation**

### **5.1 Pre-implementation tidy up**

There will be a period before the data is restructured when tagholders will be encouraged to tidy up their data on the register with the express intention of reducing the amount of poor quality data that is carried over. This will be done by asking tagholders to do the following:

- Fill in the registrant details where they do not exist on the current template. We may send the tagholders a special notification of all of their names that do not have the registrant details filled in.
- Use the new (but not yet implemented) fields that allow a tagholder to specify if specific contacts should be taken from the tagholder record or are specific contacts for the registrant. This was the subject of a previous PAB paper.
- Possibly we will implement an early deletion of the technical contact field for domains as this does not appear in the new data structure. This will allow the simplification of the other pre-implementation work.

### **5.2 Data migration**

There are some issues with data migration that have not yet been decided upon. For example if the domain has both a registrant contact and an admin contact in the current data structure then should both of them become contacts in the new data structure or just the registrant contact?

A full plan for the data migration will be drawn up and documented and shared through the consultation mechanism detailed above.

### **5.3 Communications**

Whilst every effort has been made to reduce the immediate impact on tagholders by allowing for backward compatibility there will undoubtedly be significant impact in the medium term. The introduction of this change will require a major communications push through multiple channels in order to ensure that as many tagholders as possible are fully prepared for the changes.

## **6. Recommendation**

The PAB is asked to approve the following recommendation in the form of a draft resolution.

“The PAB recommends the introduction of new data structure in line with the proposal presented and the resultant changes in tagholder interfaces. This is to be introduced following an open consultation to finalise the details, through an open mailing list, chaired and managed by the Nominet executive.”