

Nominet's board of directors met on 21 August 2003.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

The board was pleased to receive progress reports from the management team on the areas identified earlier in the year for strategic developments.

Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP)

EPP is a protocol that allows synchronous direct access to the registry database as an addition to the email automaton method of registration. The board approved the implementation plans. Some internal re-structuring of the register database will be needed to accommodate EPP and any significant changes will be discussed with the PAB. The board confirmed that, even when a new EPP interface is provided, the existing e-mail automaton will continue to be supported. The board recognized that EPP is not a priority for all tag holders and agreed that a web-based interface be developed and released at about the same time as EPP.

DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC)

The board approved the start of tentative trials, with the understanding that significant issues are still to be resolved.

IPv6

The board approved the plan to implement IPv6 in phases, starting with support in zone files for referencing IPv6 nameservers.

Internationalized Domain Names (IDN)

Nominet is actively monitoring the initial deployment in other TLDs, particularly other countries within CENTR. There are many operational, legal and managerial issues to be resolved before it would be wise to accept registrations. In recognition of the potential need for support of the languages of many UK communities, the board agreed funding for a programme to evaluate the level of demand, and the policy and legal implications of bringing in IDN support. The policy aspects will be discussed with the PAB.

ENUM

ENUM is a protocol which enables telephone numbers to be mapped onto domain names, enabling users to send and receive communications by a variety of means (phone, fax, email, messaging etc) from a single telephone number. The board noted the forthcoming DTI consultation on a number of issues including the selection process and selection criteria for the single tier 1 registry appointment. It was agreed that Nominet would continue to monitor developments and also be members of both the UK ENUM policy group and the UK ENUM trial group.

POSITIVE RENEWALS

The board was pleased that the positive renewals programme had now begun and wished to remind tag holders to ensure that they are fully aware of the implications for their own operations. See

<http://www.nominet.org.uk/News/NewsStories/PositiveRenewalsSummary.html>

PRICING

The CoM proposed to the last PAB meeting that it retain the same prices for new registrations and renewals, and also provide discounted pricing for bulk transfers and disputed tag changes. The CoM noted the PAB's comments, and in light of these reconfirmed its intentions. The bulk discounts will be implemented subject to technical development.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

There were 2,774 active members as at 1 August 2003. During July, 8 new members were added and 6 members resigned. There were 3,345 active tags and during the month 28 tags were withdrawn and 16 tags were suspended. 75,216 new registrations were made and 69,514 renewals were invoiced.