

Registrant Verification

How does ICANN's latest policy effect you?



Registrant Verification

ICANN's latest initiative is now in effect, and aims to bring transparency to public whois data. Find out more here about what registrant verification means for you and how Ascio can help you.

What is Registrant Verification?

In 2013, ICANN changed their Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) for all domain registrars. One key initiative within that agreement is Registrant Verification (RV). In short, the fundamental idea of this policy is to improve the reliability of data on domain owners in the Whois. Therefore, as part of the new process, registrants will be required to verify their contact details that they use to register gTLDs & New gTLDs

What does this mean if you have an ICANN Accreditation?

Effective immediately, you will have to; for any new registrations, transfer-ins, owner changes, or registrant detail updates; support the new process for all ICANN governed TLDs. The onus will be on you to:

- Validate the contact details provided.
- Verify the email or telephone number of the registrant.

In short, from now on, there is an obligation to send an e-mail with a link to domain registrants, from which the contact details should be verified. Failure to do so will result in the domain being parked.

How can Ascio help you?

With extensive experience in the industry we have been able to develop a solution for all of our current partners. Thus, to ensure a compliant RV service, we offer:

- All ICANN governed domains.
- A flexible solution - you can choose to send the e-mails or we can do it for you, when and where you need it.
- White labelled e-mail templates for any language.
- Verification statuses through our portal and AWS.
- Automated name server delegation.
- Virtual registrar: Keep your accreditation, but let us deal with the RV updates.

What are the main challenges?

If you are ICANN accredited with thousands of domains, then ICANN's RV policy can be particularly challenging. This new change in protocol can have an immediate effect across several levels:

- **Administrative burden:** ensuring that all registrant data is verified, and that they update their details in the Whois can be a gigantic task.
- **Unhappy customers:** registrants, who have registered a domain through you, risk that their domain will be parked if they ignore or miss the verification e-mails. Ultimately if their domain goes down, you will be the first point of call.
- **Technological strain:** having the right system in place so that verification e-mails can be sent accurately and automatically can take months to develop as well as substantial resources.
- **Increased risk:** failure to comply with ICANN's terms and conditions can lead to your accreditation being suspended, in turn this could lead to a loss of business as you become unable to register certain top level domains.

RV Timeline Example

To validate registrant contact details, and to ensure ICANN compliancy, three e-mail reminders will be sent out to the domain owner. This can be done by us or by you, and is split across new registrations and updates to existing domain registrations. See more below...

Customer registers for a domain. An e-mail is sent out to the domain owner to be verified. Domain remains parked until verification
DAY 1

Second email verification sent 7 days after initial request. Domain remains parked until verification
DAY 7

Third email verification sent 7 days after initial request. Domain remains parked until verification
DAY 15

Verification link stays active but after 45 days it will no longer be automatically unparked & delegated to the name servers. Unparking the domain will require a manual NS update
DAY 45 +

New domain registration →

Domain is either transferred in, has its e-mail address updated, or has an owner change. An e-mail is sent out to the domain owner to be verified. Domain remains active awaiting verification
DAY 1

Second email verification request sent 7 days after initial request. Domain remains active awaiting verification
DAY 7

Third email verification sent 7 days after initial request. Domain will be parked if not verified after this day
DAY 15

Verification link stays active but after 45 days it will no longer be automated on the name server delegation. Unparking the domain will require a manual NS update
DAY 45 +

Transfer-ins, owner changes, or registrant details update →

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About Ascio

Ascio is a leading expert in domain name management, and offers the full scope of domain names to its clients; be it gTLDs, new gTLDs, or ccTLDs. Founded in 1999 and ICANN accredited ever since, Ascio currently has more than two million domains under management and employs over 350 people in offices throughout the world. Ascio is responsible for the provision of Domain Portfolio Management services to more than 450 partners. These primarily include telecommunication and web hosting companies, internet service providers, and intellectual property law firms.

Ascio is a separate division of Netnames Group Ltd., one of the world's largest corporate brand protection specialists

