.UK EPP Standardisation

Product round table

Product team

- Historically our team focussed on our Registry Services Provider platform and services; engaging our registry clients.

- Expanded team now also includes .UK

- Focus is on delivering either new or updated products that work for registrars, registrants and the registry – to be successful we need wide range of input *early* in the process to steer us, and that is why we are here today.

- We do not set policy, but we can advocate for policy review where existing policy impacts product experience.

- On the call today we have:

  - April Forsyth, Head of Product.

  - Gordon Dick, Registry Services Specialist.

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How did we get here?

- .UK, other ccTLDs and gTLDs have evolved addressing similar issues in differing ways.

- Some .UK implementation aspects remain based on compatibility with the now defunct automaton software dating back to 1996.

- Over the years both registrants and registrars have given a range of feedback to Nominet. Much of which has substantial similarity within it.

- The product team have done a deep dive across all Nominet's registry systems understanding not just registrar and registrant experience, but internally and under the hood.

- In looking at how we could address some aspects of the feedback it became clear that pulling at a thread of one part of our process and lifecycle has knock on unintended policy impacting consequences unless other parts were also addressed at the same time and that to do so we have started by presenting a vision for change.

- This vision is laid out in an initial ***product discussion paper.*** At this stage it is not intended to be exhaustive in the areas that we would propose to be addressed at the same time but to provide one potential vision of a future that would address feedback given in the past - and generate discussion.

- We have had some informal high level feedback from the UKRAC, there has been some discussion on the Nominet community and some registrars have fed back directly.

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What is this session?

- This is a feedback and requirements gathering for **potential product feature changes** for the .UK top level domain.
- We are keen to **understand impacts** to user experiences of both registrars and registrants.
- We want to understand our **operational target** the community would like that policy will need to enable.

What is this session not?

- The product team are **not consulting on policy** during this session, but instead are **assuming a blank canvas** and an acceptable policy may be later agreed to enable the experience our focus is on impacts to registrars and registrant experience.
- We recognise **policy** is **intrinsically linked to implementation** but any policy implications of proposals that make it to the future refined proposal will be subject to separate policy process.

Does that mean policy is off limits?

- No – all aspects that are within the scope of the proposal whether operational or policy are open for feedback in the same way that aspects of operational need to be discussed when planning policy. The recording will be available for policy consideration too.

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Proposals for major change to .UK

These are the most substantial changes proposed to .UK since Nominet was founded in 1996. Parts of these proposals are designed to address long standing registrar feedback.

The aim is to:

- Modernise .UK and enable registrars to better serve their customers.

- Address issues with the current user experience for registrants and registrars.

- Simplify an overly complex environment based on our learnings from being a Registry Services Provider.

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Advocating for a better .UK experience

- This is a new process - not starting with a policy and tailoring to fit within policy, but determining a desired operational model early in thinking.

- We propose this approach at a high level but we've not planned the detail yet and we will not have got everything right *yet* – we need to work in partnership with registrars.

- We will refine the vision based on what we hear and document the detail of an operational approach that could be taken forward.

- We expect this may take a number of sessions to deep dive into the complexity – this session is a first high level review to take a temperature check and start gathering feedback.

- After sufficient input sessions; the output from the product team will be an operational model which will be more granular in detail and highlight any current policy blocks to implementation.

- Assuming that operational model is not compatible with current .UK policy (as is the case of the straw man proposal today), then the policy process will be utilised to determine any future policy which we will have to work within.

- Therefore a feedback loop would need to work through any incompatibilities proposed between the operational model and any recommended policies.

- For this reason we do not know which of the changes will move forward; or on what timelines this process is yet working. Assuming registrar support, as we get into this process the more we can firm this up.

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What are the changes Nominet propose?

- General EPP restrictions
- Use of DELETE command
- AUP removal for Investigation Lock
- .UK Lifecycle
- Inter-Registrar transfer process
- TAG Types
- Terminology

NOTE: Although in many areas of this discussion we will focus on EPP that is because it defines a key part of the registry process and standards – any proposal for product revisions will include the corresponding updates to the web interfaces.

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Room Temperature Check

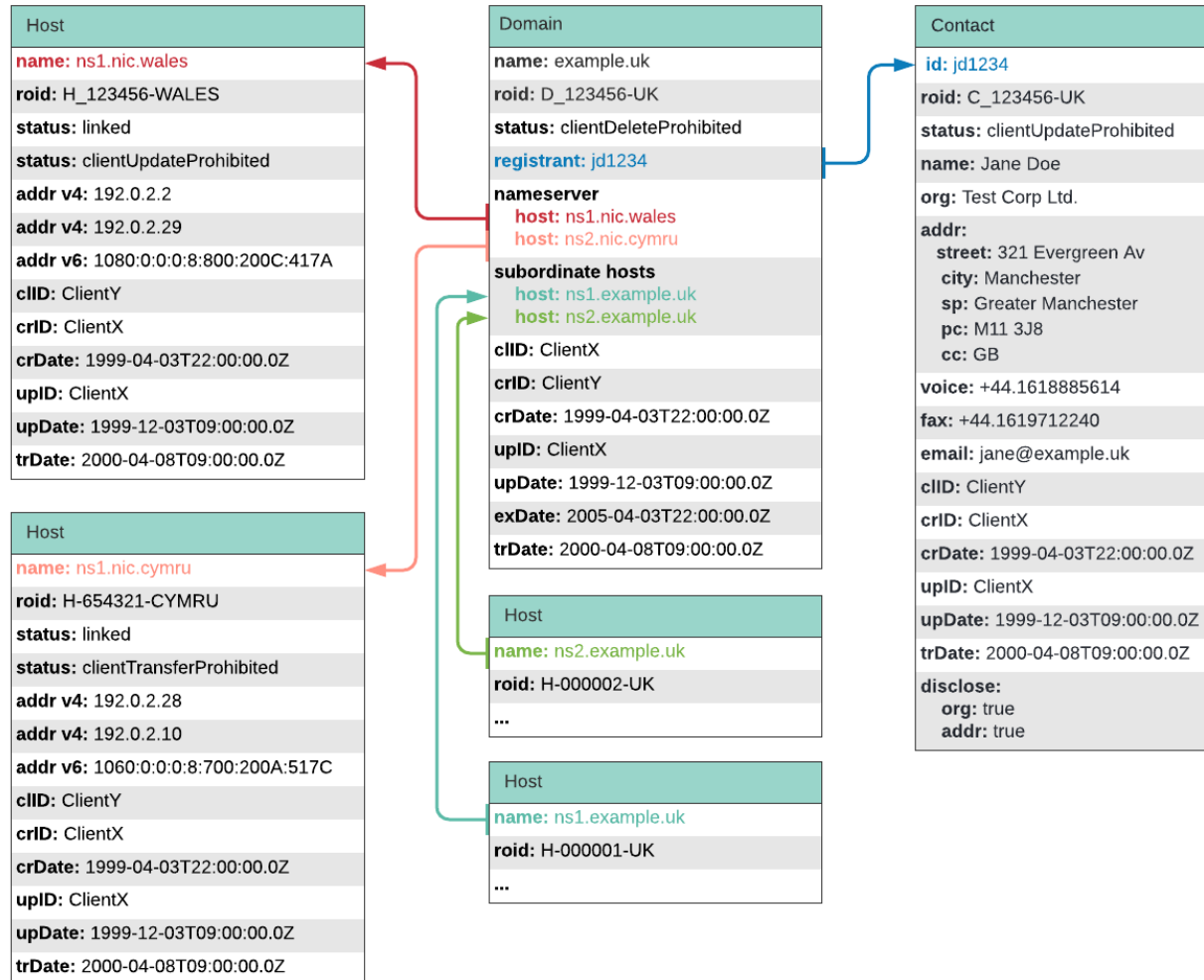Straw poll

STRAW POLL – have you read the document?

Did you have a chance to read the discussion document?

- Yes, and I think I understood it all.

- Yes, but some parts are unclear to me.

- Yes, and I am confused.

- Not yet.

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Reminder: registry data structure from EPP

EPP Objects Example - .uk

V1.1 - 04 February 2022

Host
name: ns1.nic.wales
roid: H_123456-WALES
status: linked
status: clientUpdateProhibited
addr v4: 192.0.2.2
addr v4: 192.0.2.29
addr v6: 1080:0:0:0:8:800:200C:417A
clID: ClientY
crID: ClientX
crDate: 1999-04-03T22:00:00.0Z
upID: ClientX
upDate: 1999-12-03T09:00:00.0Z
trDate: 2000-04-08T09:00:00.0Z

Host
name: ns1.nic.cymru
roid: H-654321-CYMRU
status: linked
status: clientTransferProhibited
addr v4: 192.0.2.28
addr v4: 192.0.2.10
addr v6: 1060:0:0:0:8:700:200A:517C
clID: ClientY
crID: ClientX
crDate: 1999-04-03T22:00:00.0Z
upID: ClientX
upDate: 1999-12-03T09:00:00.0Z
trDate: 2000-04-08T09:00:00.0Z

Domain
name: example.uk
roid: D_123456-UK
status: clientDeleteProhibited
registrant: jd1234
nameserver
  host: ns1.nic.wales
  host: ns2.nic.cymru
subordinate hosts
  host: ns1.example.uk
  host: ns2.example.uk
clID: ClientX
crID: ClientY
crDate: 1999-04-03T22:00:00.0Z
upID: ClientX
upDate: 1999-12-03T09:00:00.0Z
exDate: 2005-04-03T22:00:00.0Z
trDate: 2000-04-08T09:00:00.0Z

Host
name: ns2.example.uk
roid: H-000002-UK
...

Host
name: ns1.example.uk
roid: H-000001-UK
...

Contact
id: jd1234
roid: C_123456-UK
status: clientUpdateProhibited
name: Jane Doe
org: Test Corp Ltd.
addr:
  street: 321 Evergreen Av
  city: Manchester
  sp: Greater Manchester
  pc: M11 3J8
  cc: GB
voice: +44.1618885614
fax: +44.1619712240
email: jane@example.uk
clID: ClientY
crID: ClientX
crDate: 1999-04-03T22:00:00.0Z
upID: ClientX
upDate: 1999-12-03T09:00:00.0Z
trDate: 2000-04-08T09:00:00.0Z
disclose:
  org: true
  addr: true

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General EPP restrictions

- Historic policy choices around the domain expiry process meant that restrictions were needed on the use of some EPP commands to avoid gaming of the drop processes.

- For example, .UK EPP domain:info commands are restricted to only be utilised on the accreditation that controls the domain to avoid discovery of drop times by alternative means.

- The new drop process publishes the time of availability and the information that standard EPP would provide would no longer be usable in gaming the new policy.

➢ Proposal: update .UK to follow EPP standards defined by RFC5730 (EPP), RFC5731 (EPP Domain mapping), RFC5732 (EPP Host mapping) and RFC5733 (EPP Contact mapping) for .UK.

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What we have heard so far:

- Generally those who have fed back have been supportive of conforming to RFC5730->RFC5733 standards as it enables the usage of industry standard EPP clients.

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STRAW POLL – comply with RFC5730 to RFC5733

We recognise any API changes have a negative impact in the short term.

Beyond any initial update, how would the adhering to RFC5730 to RFC5733 impact on your business?

1. Positively
2. Negatively
3. Not at all
4. Not sure

Do you think Nominet should adhere to RFC5730 to RFC5733 EPP standards?

1. Yes
2. No
3. No opinion

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General EPP restrictions: Registrant contact objects

- EPP Contact objects are like an entry in your address book, they contain the details of a person and/or an organisation.

- EPP Contact objects (including those created by Web Domain Manager) are still implemented in a manner that enabled compatibility with Nominet's now defunct automaton which dates from 1996.

- For interoperability with Nominet's now defunct automaton, Nominet interpreted the usage of the EPP contact 'Organisation' field to match that of the former automaton field representing the registrants legal name (even if the registrant was a person).

- Where an EPP contact create only contains a name field and not an organisation field, Nominet's systems duplicate the data in the name field to the organisation field.

➢ Proposal: Nominet will stop auto-populating the EPP contact organisation field where it does not exist and will instead take an understanding of the legal entity that is the registrant through the complete contact object data as supplied by the registrar.

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What we have heard so far:

- **Not aware of any feedback directed at this part of the proposal.**

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STRAW POLL – remove automaton registrant compatibility

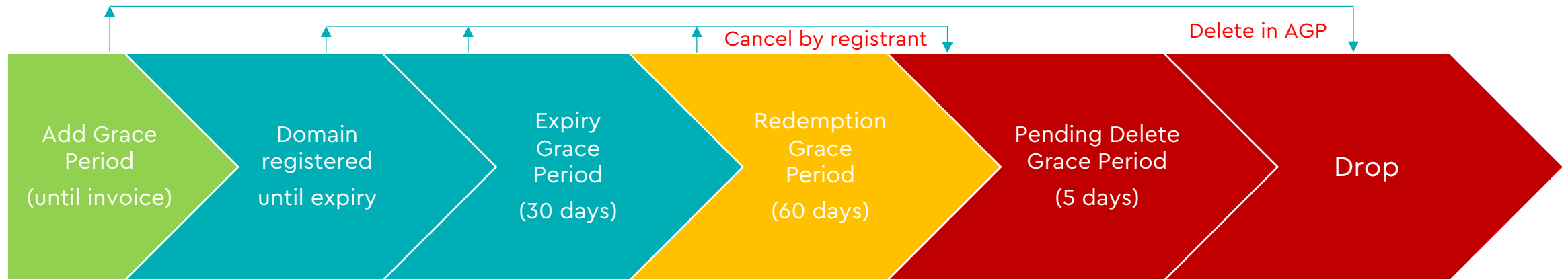We recognise any API changes have a negative impact in the short term.

Beyond any initial update, how would the removal of compatibility with the defunct automaton (i.e. the auto-population of the 'Organisation' field of a contact by Nominet's systems) impact on your business?

1.   Positively
2.   Negatively
3.   Not at all
4.   Not sure

Do you think Nominet should remove compatibility with the now defunct automaton auto-population of the Organisation field in .UK and utilise EPP contacts as other registry operators do?

1.   Yes
2.   No
3.   No opinion

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.UK delete command

Diagram flow (left to right):

- **Add Grace Period** (until invoice)
- **Domain registered** until expiry
- **Expiry Grace Period** (30 days)
- **Redemption Grace Period** (60 days) — Cancel by registrant
- **Pending Delete Grace Period** (5 days)
- **Drop** — Delete in AGP

- REGISTRARS can DELETE a domain during Add Grace Period.

- REGISTRANTS can DELETE a domain by cancelling the domain at any other time.

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Use of Delete command

- We have had several requests from registrars for the ability to use the 'Delete' command on domains to support their customer's needs.

- Current .UK policy recognises a registrar as having agency for a registrant in creating and making most changes to a domain (however critical to its functioning), but limits their agency when it comes to deleting domains except in some specific circumstances, such as prior to first invoicing.

- The limitation of this agency is rooted in the historic 'immediate' irrecoverable status of domains which are deleted and the potential impact if a third party re-registered.

- The number of deletions prior to invoicing are restricted to minimise domain tasting.

- In general, for a domain to be deleted at any time other than the end of its lifecycle a registrant must contact Nominet directly and utilise Nominet's Online Services to cancel the domain. Currently the registrant cancelling the domain directly with Nominet results in the domain entering the last 5 days of the expiry process and then dropped.

- gTLD standard lifecycle have resolved this problem with the concept of a "redemption grace period" where the original registrant can still recover a deleted domain for a limited period of time. The process for this is covered by RFC3915.

- .UK limits the usage of the delete command in the add grace period; gTLDs allow the usage of the delete command but constrain the cancellation of fees associated to prevent domain tasting.

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➤ Proposal: New Delete/Restore process required. (1/2)

Enabling the delete command on its own would provide a poor product experience for registrants; we therefore propose a wider process.

1. Registrars may delete a domain that is not subject to any registry mandated 'delete prohibited' lock at any time on the:

   1. explicit request of the registrant.

   2. failure of the registrant to request and pay for the renewal of the domain that is in a registry auto-renew period. (N.B. auto-renew does not currently exist, see Lifecycle proposal.)

   3. identification of abuse in relation to the domain which is in breach of the registrar's abuse policies and which the registrant is unable to, or has failed to remedy.

2. When a domain is deleted by a registrar (except during add grace period which deletes immediately) it will enter a 30 day 'Redemption Grace Period' during which a registrar may, subject to the Restore process, restore the domain.

3. At completion of the 'Redemption Grace Period' the domain will enter the current 5-day 'Pending Delete' period where the name is no longer available to the registrant to restore and at the end of this period the name will cease to be registered.

4. Domains which are deleted during one of the following Grace Periods will obtain a refund of any charges for the associated transaction:

   1. Add Grace Period; subject to Add Grace Period Limits.

   2. Renew Grace Period.

   3. Auto-renew Grace Period (currently does not exist, see Lifecycle proposal).

   4. Transfer Grace Period (currently does not exist)

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➢ Proposal: New Delete/Restore process required (2/2)

Restore process

1. Enable a registrar to restore a domain they have deleted to the redemption period following RFC3915.

2. A registrar must offer a registrant the option to Restore their domain if it is in redemption period.

3. A registrar must not make it any harder for the registrant to request a restore than it is to make an update to a domain name.

4. On completion of a restore any grace period financial transactions that had been cancelled will also be restored.

Add Grace Period Limits (replacing the AUP constraint on use of the delete command)

1. During any given calendar month, a registrar may delete and receive a refund for names in add grace period for the greater of 50 domains; or 10% of their net new creates that month.

2. When that limit is reached the deletion request will still be successful, but a refund will not be automatically applied. Nominet may, on request, grant exemptions to this limit in extraordinary circumstances.

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What we have heard so far:

- At least one UKRAC member has at least initial concerns around the processes suggested being suitable for all types of registrar – concern around RFC3915 complexity.

- At least one UKRAC member has some concerns around add grace period limits increasing.

- At least one UKRAC member has concerns that registrars will start charging RESTORE fees.

- Some registrars have welcomed it as being "pretty standard".

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Questions before Room Temperature Check

Straw poll

STRAW POLL – enable registrars to delete domains.

Beyond any initial update, how would allowing registrars the ability to DELETE a domain impact your business?

1.   Positively

2.   Negatively

3.   Not at all

4.   Not sure

Do you think that enabling the DELETE command for registrars would require checks and balances in a process?

1.   Yes – substantively similar to those proposed

2.   Yes – substantively different from those proposed

3.   Yes – not sure on detail

4.   No

5.   No opinion

Beyond any initial update, how would amending domain tasting limitations from being based on DELETES to being based on CREDIT of CREATE fee impact your business?

1.   Positively

2.   Negatively

3.   Not at all

4.   Not sure

Do you think an Add Grace Period Limits policy should replace the 'Use of the delete and investigation lock operations' acceptable use policy?

1.   Yes – substantively similar to those proposed

2.   Yes – substantively different from those proposed

3.   Yes – not sure on detail.

4.   No

5.   No opinion

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Investigation lock limits

- Investigation Lock is a mechanism that registrars can utilise to stop a domain functioning, for example because of phishing.

- Historically the AUP for investigation lock was tied to that of the delete command in the add grace period.

- The same functional result to using the investigation lock has always been possible for registrars through changes to the nameservers.

- We introduced industry standard 'EPP statuses' in .UK in 2021 allowing the same functional result to be achieved through an alternative command setting of 'clientHold' without changing nameservers.

- Registrars are good netizens and we expect them to be so, but we currently complicate their approach to abuse management.

➢ Proposal: Remove registrar limits on the use of 'Investigation Lock' so that it can be applied to all domains which meet the criteria of its usage and domain name abuse can be prevented and investigated without an arbitrary quota.

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What we have heard so far:

- **Not aware of any directed feedback on this part of the proposal.**

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Questions before Room Temperature Check

Straw poll

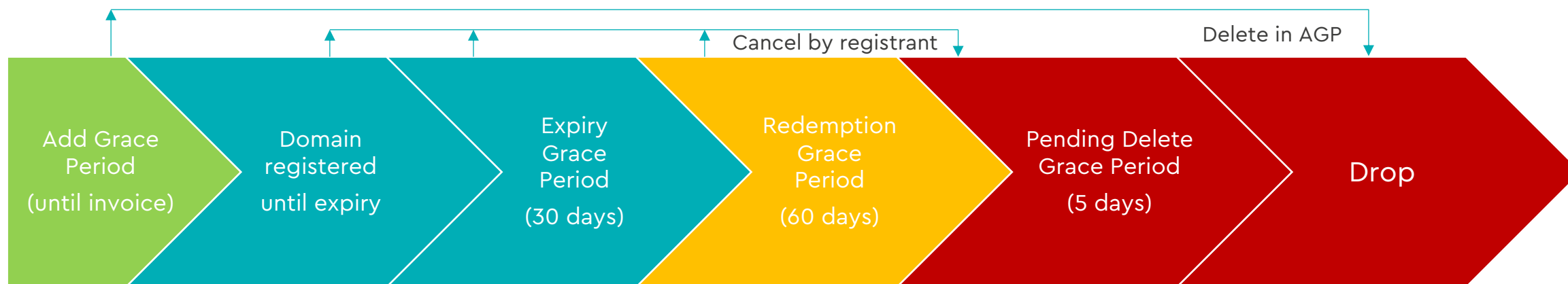**STRAW POLL – remove investigation lock limits**

How would removing the limitations on investigation lock impact your business?
1. Positively
2. Negatively
3. Not at all
4. Not sure

Do you think limits on the investigation lock should be removed?
1. Yes
2. No
3. No opinion

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.UK lifecycle today

```
Add Grace Period (until invoice)  →  Domain registered until expiry  →  Expiry Grace Period (30 days)  →  Redemption Grace Period (60 days)  →  Pending Delete Grace Period (5 days)  →  Drop
```

Cancel by registrant

Delete in AGP

Domain is fully functional until failure to renew by 30 days after expiry or cancelled by the registrant in online services.

Registrar can renew by auto-renew function.

Registrar can flag a domain as no longer required.

Registrar can delete in Add Grace Period subject to limits.

Failure to renew by precisely 30 days after expiry timestamp results in:
- Domain has an RFC5731 status of pendingDelete.
- Domain does not function in the DNS.

Failure to renew by precisely 60 days after redemption period start timestamp results in:
- Domain has an RFC5731 status of pendingDelete.
- Domain does not function in the DNS.
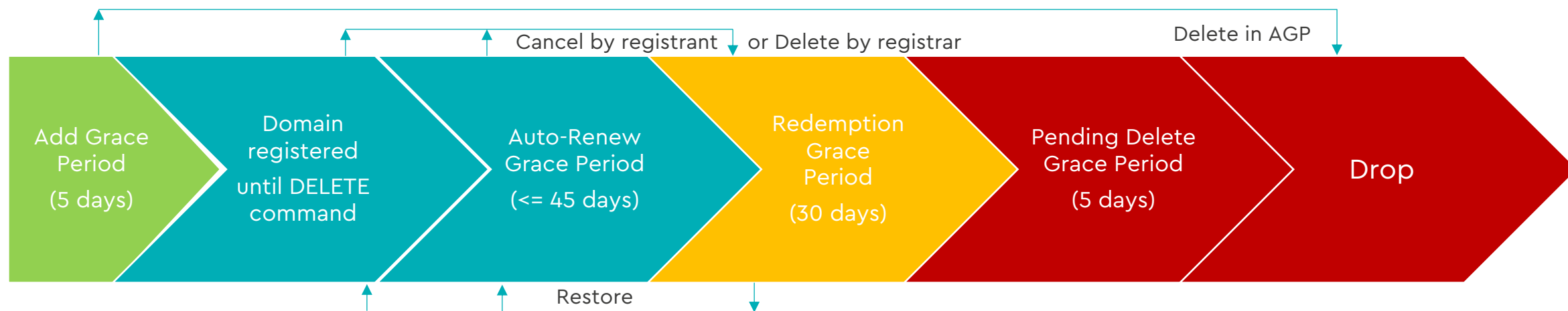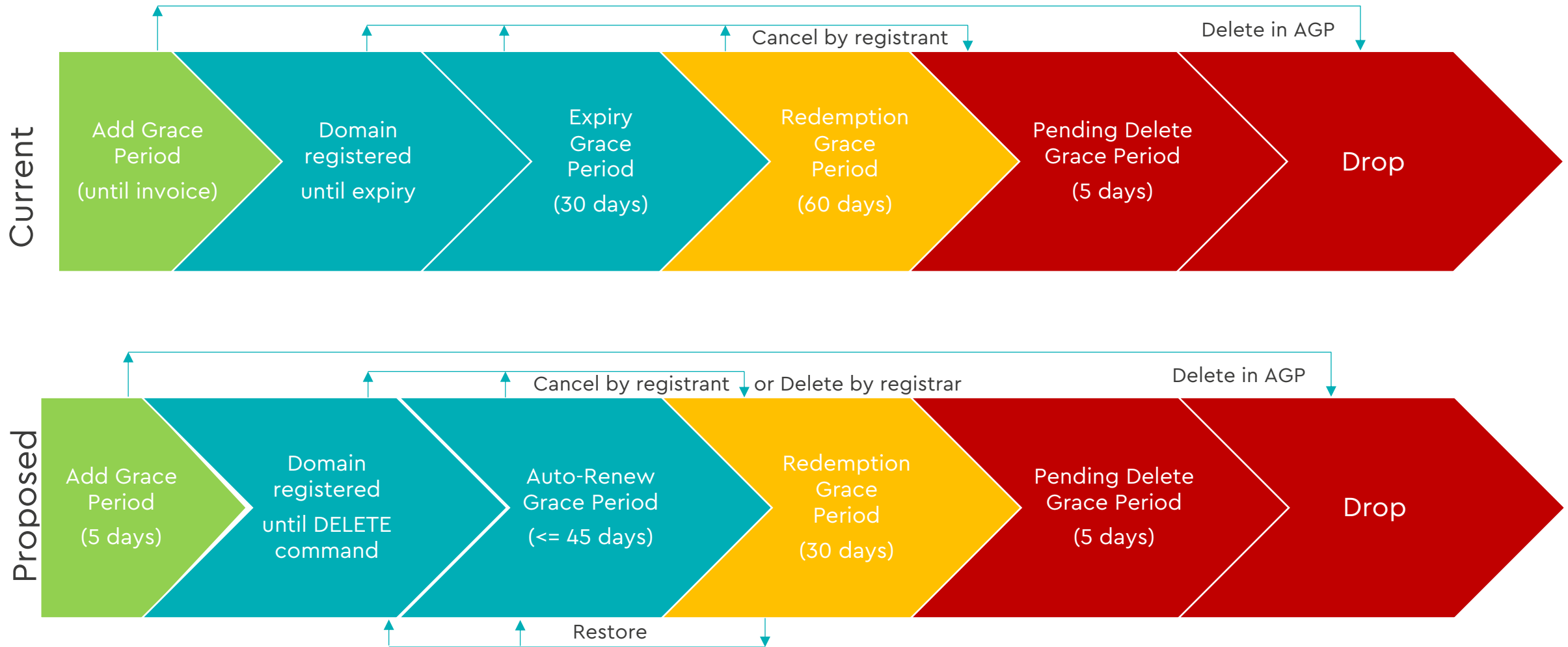- No longer possible to renew domain.

Precisely 5 days after pending Delete grace period started available for re-registration.

(i.e. different domains drop at different times throughout the day.)

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Back to the future for .UK lifecycle

- When Nominet was founded in 1996 all domains auto-renewed to either the registrar or registrant _unless_ a domain was 'DETAGGED'.

- As the registry grew .UK moved to the 'positive' renewals model that we have today on the 1st November 2003.

- A 'not required' flag was also introduced to allow a registrant to not be chased with reminder emails.

- In wider industry in September 2004 the Registry Grace Period (RGP) mapping for EPP (RFC3915) became an internet standard solving the same problem in an alternative manner that is used across gTLDs. At this time .UK did not offer an EPP like interface.

- In wider industry in RGP Auto-renew provided a post-expiry grace period _to a registrar_ during which a registrar can secure a renewal from the registrant. If they fail to secure the renewal they need to actively request the delete of a domain.

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Proposed .UK lifecycle process

Add Grace Period (5 days) → Domain registered until DELETE command → Auto-Renew Grace Period (<= 45 days) → Redemption Grace Period (30 days) → Pending Delete Grace Period (5 days) → Drop

Cancel by registrant | or Delete by registrar

Delete in AGP

Restore

Domain is fully functional until registrar issues a DELETE command.

Registrar issues a DELETE command starting a 30-day RFC3915 Redemption Grace Period.

Domain has an RFC5731 status of pendingDelete.

Domain no longer functions in the DNS.

Domain appears on drop list.

Precisely 30 days after DELETE command, grace period moves to RFC3915 pending Delete period.

Domain has an RFC5731 status of pendingDelete.

Domain does not function in the DNS.

Domain appears on drop list.

No longer possible to renew domain.

Precisely 5 days after pending Delete grace period started available for re-registration.

(i.e. different domains drop at different times throughout the day.)

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.UK current implementation vs Proposed Process

Current

| Add Grace Period (until invoice) | Domain registered until expiry | Expiry Grace Period (30 days) | Redemption Grace Period (60 days) | Pending Delete Grace Period (5 days) | Drop |

Cancel by registrant

Delete in AGP

Proposed

| Add Grace Period (5 days) | Domain registered until DELETE command | Auto-Renew Grace Period (<= 45 days) | Redemption Grace Period (30 days) | Pending Delete Grace Period (5 days) | Drop |

Cancel by registrant   or Delete by registrar

Delete in AGP

Restore

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What we have heard so far:

- A UKRAC member advised our wording around disrupting DNS in the auto-renew period is misleading. Our intent was that registrars themselves could choose to either interrupt DNS or not during the auto-renew period as their contract with the registrant states not that we mandating a post-expiry approach to interruption.

- A UKRAC member indicated the proposed lifecycle may be a significant problem for some and may have challenges with a scenario where they have to choose to DELETE a domain rather than choose to RENEW a domain.

- Some registrars are very supportive of the standardisation of lifecycle.

- Some registrars who are not directly involved with gTLDs are understandably apprehensive and unsure what the reality of the new lifecycle would mean for them given the current level of detail.

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STRAW POLL – align .UK with a gTLD lifecycle approach

We recognise that a change to lifecycle will have a short term impact on everyone.

Beyond the initial update, how would amending the lifecycle of .UK in this way impact your business?

1. Positively

2. Negatively

3. Not at all

4. Not sure

Do you think we should amend the lifecycle of .UK?

1. Yes – substantively similar to what is proposed

2. Yes – substantively different to what is proposed

3. Yes – not sure on detail.

4. No

5. No opinion

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Inter-registrar transfer process

- .UK utilises a 'PUSH' transfer mechanism where the existing registrar submits the new registrar TAG.

- The majority of top level domains utilise the EPP standard compliant 'PULL' transfer mechanism.

- .UK uses a custom extension to EPP to implement PUSH transfers meaning that many off the shelf EPP clients are not compatible with .UK's non-standard EPP. Smaller registrars have raised this as an expensive blocker to their automation.

- 'PUSH' mechanism comes with a significant security concern where domains often sit at a gaining registrar in an 'unknown' customer state.

- 'PULL' mechanisms are not without criticism although many of those criticisms are based on implementation choices rather than the EPP standard.

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➤ Proposal: Change Inter-registrar transfer process (1/2)

NOTE: We expect the detail of our thinking in this area to evolve as the wider international community discuss the existing gTLD policy – we are listening to all views on the pros and cons in different areas being discussed both in .UK and in gTLDs. What we have defined here is a technically compatible but streamlined process with the current gTLD process.

➤ Replace the "PUSH" inter-registrar transfer process with a "PULL" process.

➤ Enable registrars to provide a secure "PULL" process by allowing the current/losing registrar:

Set the EPP status "clientTransferProhibited" as part of their normal security practices to prevent a transfer request.

On request by the registrant to transfer a domain to another registrar:

must remove "clientTransferProhibited" EPP status.

Set in the registry and provide a valid "transfer authorisation code" for the domain to the registrant

via a secure connection.

May 'reject' a transfer request only if they reasonably believe the current registrant has not authorised the request. Any information

leading to this conclusion must be shared with Nominet compliance if requested.

Should 'accept' a transfer promptly where requested to by the registrant.

Not accepting or rejecting a transfer within 5 days will result in the domain automatically completing the inter-registrar transfer.

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Proposal: Change Inter-registrar transfer process (2/2)

- On completion of the transfer away, and solely at the request of the registrant, the losing registrar may dispute the transfer by raising a ticket with Nominet's compliance team.

- The gaining registrar must:

  - only submit a transfer request after contracting with the registrant and any request must include:

    - Domain

    - Transfer Authorisation code

    - Optionally, a renew period of 1 to 10 years:

      If a period is provided the domain will be renewed for that period on completion of transfer and the renewal cost will be charged.

      If no period is provided the domain will not be renewed as part of the transfer and the existing expiry date will remain.

  - If requested, share with Nominet compliance any data required to reasonably investigate a disputed transfer.

- Nominet will provide a backstop escalation service where the registrant may:

  - raise a compliance case against the losing registrar for failure to remove "clientTransferProhibited"

  - and/or provide an authorisation code on request.

  - Dispute an inter-registrar transfer which has completed.

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What we have heard so far:

- A UKRAC member is concerned registrars will force renewal charges for registrants on transfer in.
- Some registrars have indicated they want a minimum of 1 year renewal mandated at the registry.
- Some registrars are generally supportive.
- Some registrars think we should align with revised gTLD process when complete.
- Some registrars think technical alignment with a different policy overlay from gTLDs.
- Some registrars think we should remain with the existing process.
- A UKRAC member wants the inclusion of a Bulk Transfer After Partial Portfolio Acquisition process.

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STRAW POLL – change inter-registrar transfer process for .UK

We recognise that a change in transfer process will have a short term impact on everyone.

Beyond the initial update, how would amending the transfer process of .UK in this way impact your business?

1. Positively
2. Negatively
3. Not at all
4. Not sure

Do you think we should amend the inter-registrar transfer process of .UK?

1. Yes – substantively similar to what is proposed
2. Yes – substantively different to what is proposed
3. Yes – not sure on detail.
4. No
5. No opinion

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TAG types

- Until 2014 there was one type of TAG to rule the registry.

- In 2014 we introduced 3 types of TAG with differentiated access to the registry and different service level requirements:

  > Accredited Channel Partner (ACP)

  > Channel Partner (CP)

  > Self-Managed

- The intent was to incentivise registrars to take on more responsibility and reward them for doing so.

- In reality it limits registrars with fewer resources from doing some basic tasks for their customers and forces their customers to engage directly with Nominet.

- We propose instead of differential TAG types; terms and conditions can be triggered based on usage.

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Customer Service		
Accredited Channel Partner	**Channel Partner**	**Self-Managed**
Maintain a website, accessible to the public that provides: • Address • Telephone number • Customer service commitments detailing expected response times and how long it usually takes to resolve issues • Email contact point for abuse complaints Acknowledge receipt of customer contacts or complaints within 3 working days Ensure your customers are aware of: • Charges for registration, renewal and maintenance • Any ongoing charges • Key terms of contract • Your policy on renewal and expiry of domain names	As per Accredited Channel Partner except acknowledgement of contacts or complaints is within 5 working days.	If services are provided to a third-party then as per Channel Partner. If service not provided to third parties not applicable.

➢ Proposed:

Customer Service

• Where a registrar is providing services to:
   ○ Only themselves
      ▪ there will be no customer service requirements.
   ○ third parties then:
      ▪ they must be able to demonstrate that through their normal course of business they make easily accessible to their customers, ideally via a public web site:
         ▪ Their contact address, telephone and customer service commitments which detail expected response and resolution times.
      ▪ they must ensure customers are aware of:
         ▪ Charges for registration, renewal and maintenance on domains.
         ▪ Any ongoing charges.
         ▪ Key terms of contract.
         ▪ The policy on renewal and expiry of domain names.
• Provide a contact point for abuse reporting.
• Acknowledge receipt of customer contacts or complaints within 5 working days.

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TAG types: Data Validation

Data Validation		
Accredited Channel Partner	**Channel Partner**	**Self-Managed**
Where Nominet is not able to validate data the registrar will need to take action to amend the data or confirm the data is valid.	Where Nominet is not able to validate data Nominet will contact the registrant.	
Nominet utilises the 'Organisation' field of a contact object as the designated registrant name, where it does not exist it is inserted by Nominet's systems from the 'name' field.		
	Registrars are restricted from being able to amend the 'Organisation' field on a contact object.	

➢ Proposed:

Data Validation
• We will perform a wider review of our data validation processes as we improve our internal systems and to that end we do not propose making any functional changes at this time.
• To de-couple the timeframe of that review we propose each TAG will be able to choose to be treated either as:
o an 'ACCREDITED CHANNEL PARTNER' is today.
o a 'CHANNEL PARTNER' is today.
• Following the unification, TAGs will automatically be allocated based on their current TAG type, with the ability provided to change this at any time

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Functionality and Benefits		
Accredited Channel Partner	**Channel Partner**	**Self-Managed**
- On behalf of your customers, you may transfer domain names to a new registrant free of charge. - Ability to make corrections to registrant name. - Ability to opt out of certain types of automated notifications that we currently send to your customers. - Functionality to delete domains suspended for poor data quality. - Ability to transfer expired domains with customers express permission. - Eligible to apply to operate a Proxy Service within the Nominet Proxy Service Framework.	No additional requirements/ benefits.	- Domain Names must usually be registered only in the name of the registrar. You may specify five registrant names at any one time which will be regarded as being your name. These must be linked to you in some way. - You may transfer domain names on a Self-Managed tag to a new registrant free of charge.

➢ Proposed:

Functionality and Benefits
- With the express consent of the registrant, you may change the registrant on a domain free of charge.   - Ability to make corrections to registrant name.   - Ability to opt out of certain types of automated notifications that we currently send to your customers.   - Ability to delete domains subject to terms and conditions.   - Eligible to apply to operate a Proxy Service within the Nominet Proxy Service Framework.

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TAG types: Marketing and communications

Marketing and Communications		
Accredited Channel Partner	**Channel Partner**	**Self-Managed**
• Eligibility to apply for on-going promotional activities and programmes. • Right to use the Accredited Channel Partner logo. • Identified as holding Accredited Channel Partner tag on Nominet website(s).	Not Applicable. (Some promotional activities have been made available despite this.)	

➢ Proposed:

Marketing and Communications
• Eligibility to apply for on-going promotional activities and programmes.   • Right to use an Accredited Registrar logo.   • Identified as a registrar on Nominet website(s).

NOMINET REGISTRY

TAG types: Restrictions

Restrictions		
Accredited channel Partner	**Channel Partner**	**Self-Managed**
• Multiple Accredited Channel Partner tags allowed.	• Multiple Channel Partner tags allowed.	• Only one Self-Managed tag per registrar.

➢ Proposed:

Restrictions
• Multiple registrar accreditations allowed per legal entity.

NOMINET REGISTRY

What we have heard so far:

- Some UKRAC members and registrars were concerned that a unified tag type would mean everyone has to comply at a higher level of customer service.

- A UKRAC member wishes to keep differentiated access as a reward for higher standards.

- Some registrars have welcomed the ability to provide full service for their customers.

- Some registrars think one legal entity should be limited to a single TAG.

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STRAW POLL – A single TAG type.

How would amending the Registry Registrar Agreement to have a single TAG type impact your business?

1. Positively
2. Negatively
3. Not at all
4. Not sure

Do you think Nominet should implement one level of accreditation?

1. Yes – substantively similar to what is proposed
2. Yes – substantively different to what is proposed
3. Yes – not sure on detail.
4. No
5. No opinion

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Terminology

- TAG - originates from Nominet's now defunct automaton registry. It remains in use today because we still utilise the automaton compatible inter-registrar transfer process. The term itself is a pseudonym for the industry standard term 'Accreditation'. If the proposal to change inter-registrar transfers goes ahead this term will cease to be needed by registrants.

➢ Proposal: Discontinue 'TAG' terminology and replace it with term 'Accreditation'.

- TRANSFER – in .UK has multiple meanings but predominantly means "Change of registrant" the term originates from the now defunct automaton but on occasion has referred to inter-registrar transfer. In gTLDs TRANSFER more usually but not exclusively refers to the inter-registrar transfer process.

➢ Proposal: "Change of Registrant" will be used to mean the change of registrant from one legal entity to another.

➢ Proposal: "Transfer" will be used solely in relation to Inter-registrar transfer.

- Accredited Channel Partner / Channel Partner / Self-Managed

➢ Proposal: If proposal to implement a single Accreditation type goes ahead then the term "Accredited Registrar" will replace all three.

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Summary

Today we have discussed:

- General EPP restrictions

- Use of DELETE command

- AUP removal for Investigation Lock

- .UK Lifecycle

- Inter-Registrar transfer process

- Tag Types

- Terminology

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Next steps

- Digest.

- Share what we have heard.

- Revise / Detail / Re-engage.

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Questions