



NOMINET

.UK Policy Stakeholder Committee Meeting

10th December 2015

Attendees: David Abrahams (dialling in); Tim Brown; Garreth Cameron; Liz Coll; Carolyn Kimber; Pete McDougall; Vicki Nash; Dave Thomas (dialling in)

Apologies: Gilad Rosner

Secretariat: Leanne Kenny; Richard Plater

Welcome

Russell Howarth welcomed the committee members and offered thanks for their contributions and hard work over the past year.

Nominet update – Russell Howarth, CEO

Committee Members received an update from Russell Howarth regarding the company's strategic priorities for 2016. Russell noted how growth in the UK domain market has slowed and outlined the company's thoughts on how it can respond.

A more segmented understanding of the domain market will allow us to identify and target areas where greater growth in registration numbers is possible. This, along with more promotional activity working with our Channel, will allow us to ensure that .UK remains relevant and competitive.

The company will also aim to generate a more diversified set of revenue streams by developing new products and services in adjacent markets, including the next generation of our DNS analytics tool Turing, and applied innovation initiatives in areas such as IoT and dynamic spectrum management.

Russell noted that we are committed to delivering this strategy within our public benefit remit.

Update on policy work programme

The Secretariat updated the Committee on the current policy work programme.

It was noted that a comment period for proposed changes to the Registrant Terms and Conditions of domain name registration was opened in late November and the responses received to date

have provided some useful feedback. Feedback received during a comment period for the Registrar Agreement is currently under review. For both, we expect to announce next steps in January 2016.

An update on the Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) Review scheduled for early 2016 was provided. It was noted that the majority of the changes to be proposed are intended to consolidate the current Policy and Procedure into a single document and to set out more clearly what is current practice in delivery of the DRS. One substantive change to be proposed is an option for Nominet to discontinue complaints on the grounds that they are vexatious. The committee noted that such a provision is used in other complaints frameworks, but care is needed to ensure it would be used proportionately. The Secretariat confirmed that any such provision would only be introduced following consultation and some careful thought.

Tech Update – Bryan Marshall, Research Fellow, R & D Team

Bryan Marshall updated the Committee on a number of the initiatives currently under way within the R & D Team.

Broad areas of focus were identified as: Internet of Things (IoT) tools and applications; Dynamic Spectrum Management; new versions of Turing. Bryan noted that the general approach is to learn through applied research using real applications as a testbed. In the IoT arena a good example of this is the Oxford Flood Network, which is now live. Other IoT applications under consideration include SmartCities and assisted living initiatives.

Developing policy issues were noted in several areas of the research programme, such as questions around the privacy framework relating to IoT initiatives. It was noted a continued dialogue between the R & D team and Committee members may well be useful.

Cybersecurity update

The Secretariat noted that cybersecurity continues to be a concern for Government, business, and citizens alike. The Secretariat shared some of our early thoughts on initiatives that could be explored as part of the Company's Security Roadmap. As we are in the early stages of considering such initiatives this discussion was carried out confidentially.

Horizon scanning and stakeholder engagement

The Secretariat reported that the policy development work programme had resulted in a quiet quarter in terms of stakeholder outreach meetings undertaken.

Committee members noted a number of developments that may have implications for the company's work and should be monitored:

- The recent ECJ court ruling on Safe Harbour, with its implications for any US held data sets – is Nominet affected by this?
- The European Commission's recent call for evidence regarding the role and regulation of digital platforms – Is there a danger of a broadening of the intended scope of regulation?
- The advance of the EU's digital single market work more generally

AOB

None