

Temporary Delegation

ICANN Procedure Description

Strings that are approved to proceed from Initial Assessment will be scheduled to be temporarily delegated in the global DNS from the root zone.

During Temporary Delegation, the Temporary Delegation Provider will operate the name servers for ICANN to collect data about the volume and nature of DNS traffic for that string. If the data collected during temporary delegation indicates that the string is in fact a high-risk string, using the High-risk string classification model, Temporary Delegation will be aborted and the string will be put on the Collision String List.

1. Inputs and Output

Inputs to the Temporary Delegation are, as applicable:

- The applied-for string including variant strings
- The Initial Assessment report
- Community reports¹ of name collisions (if any)
- Mitigation plan and any post-contracting measures (as applicable)

Output of the Temporary Delegation is:

- The Technical Review Team's determination for each string, which may be any of the following:
 - Not classified as a high-risk string, approved to proceed to the next step in the Program.
 - Temporary Delegation has been concluded without signs of the string being a high-risk string.
 - Classified as high-risk string.
 - The string is determined to be a high-risk string and is placed on the Collision String List.

Normative references:

- The Applicant Guide Book
- The High-risk string classification model.

¹ For guidance on how to identify and report name collisions to ICANN, please refer to the [Name Collision Resources & Information](#) page on the ICANN website.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant: Submits a new gTLD application to ICANN during the application submission period.

IANA: The IANA function specifies the content of the global DNS root and adds and removes the delegations in accordance with their established processes and procedures.

Technical Review Team: A team of internal experts from relevant ICANN Org responsible for performing the Temporary Delegation of all applied-for strings, to document the outcomes and also to initiate emergency withdrawal of the string if the Temporary Delegation of it causes high-risk name collisions.

Temporary Delegation Provider: A provider operating the technical infrastructure needed for temporary delegation, consisting of DNS and application servers.

Program Governance: Program Governance refers to a group of internal Subject Matter Experts in different functions, including GDS and Program Leadership. Program Governance adopts the outcome of the procedure and makes the final determination on the report from the Temporary Delegation. The Technical Review Team may also escalate to or provide input to or consider feedback from Program Governance in case there are ambiguities or other unclarity in the execution of the procedure, as appropriate.

Responsible (R): The Technical Review Team

Accountable (A): Program Governance

Consulted (C): The ICANN Community

Informed (I): The Applicant

3. The Procedure

Strings will undergo Temporary Delegation in priority order of the applications for that string. Four different data collection methods can be used during Temporary Delegation. These are outlined in the Appendix 2 of the [Name Collision Analysis Project Study Two Report](#) and are named:

1. No Interruption (NI),
2. Controlled Interruption (CI),
3. Visible Interruption (VI), and
4. Visible Interruption and Notification (VIN)

Additional data collection methods may also be used, as deemed appropriate by the Technical Review Team.

A prerequisite for the procedure is that the Temporary Delegation Provider has set up the infrastructure to be able to respond to queries for the applied-for string. The Temporary Delegation Provider also needs to be able to respond to requests from the Technical Review Team to change data collection methods and to add and remove a TLD from their name servers.

The Temporary Delegation Procedure then consists of the following steps:

1. The procedure is initiated by the Technical Review Team (TRT) receiving a string for Temporary Delegation. The TRT will schedule the delegation request to IANA, and will monitor the root zone size growth rate so that the root zone does not increase by more than approximately five percent per month.
2. Delegation phase:
 - a. The TRT will review the Initial Assessment report and select an appropriate data collection mode (NI, CI, VI, VIN or other). Taking into account available information provided as input to this procedure, the TRT will use its professional judgment and experience to determine which collection methods, and in which order, will be used during Temporary Delegation.
 - b. The TRT will check that the Temporary Delegation Provider's DNS servers are set up and respond correctly to any queries for the string in the selected data collection method.
 - c. Upon request from the TRT, IANA will delegate the string to the Temporary Delegation Provider's DNS servers. Once the delegation has been made and propagated to the root zone, IANA will notify the TRT.
3. Data collection and monitoring phase:
 - a. Once a string has been delegated, the TRT will use the data collected for monitoring the traffic that is received to determine if the string can be precluded to be a high-risk string.
 - i. During the first few days of Temporary Delegation, the TRT will monitor the collected data closely to investigate the conclusions of the Initial Assessment, i.e. to see whether the data collected matches the predictions documented in the Initial Assessment report.
 - ii. The TRT will evaluate the data collected, in particular DNS queries received, for diversity of queries, origins, query names (labels), query types, etc., as well as data collected using other assessment methods (as applicable).
 - iii. The TRT may change data collection mode throughout the course of Temporary Delegation, while balancing the need to collect more data to

preclude a string from being high-risk against the risk of causing disruptions and collecting surplus data that might impact the privacy and security of end-users.

- iv. The TRT will also monitor submitted community reports of name collisions for evidence of strings in Temporary Delegation causing name collisions with negative impacts for end-users.
- v. If the TRT, by using the high-risk string classification model, determines that the string is causing high-risk name collisions, the TRT will take immediate actions for emergency removal of the delegation:
 - 1. The TRT will notify IANA of the emergency situation and request urgent removal of the string.
 - 2. The TRT will furthermore take action to remove the zone from the authoritative name servers of the Temporary Delegation Provider, if that may expedite recovery.
- b. Unless removed for emergency reasons, the string shall remain in the data collection and monitoring phase for a period of at least 90 days, but for at most 365 days. It is in the TRT's sole discretion to, within these limits, determine for how long the string shall remain in the data collection and monitoring phase and which collection methods are used during the monitoring phase.

If there are no signs of negative impacts from the data collection and no valid community reports of name collisions taking place, it is expected that the 90 days period is sufficient to conclude the Temporary Delegation.

If the string remains in the data collection and monitoring phase for more than 90 days, ICANN will provide a public status update on the progress of the Temporary Delegation.

4. Removal and reporting phase:

- a. Once the TRT has determined the data collection and monitoring phase to be concluded, the string shall be removed from Temporary Delegation. To do so, the TRT will request the removal from IANA.

When IANA has processed the removal request, the root zone will no longer have the applied-for string delegated. After the applicable timers for caching have expired, the TRT will request removal of the string from the Temporary Delegation Provider's name servers.

- b. The TRT will draft a report on the conclusions from the Temporary Delegation. In this work, the TRT may escalate or provide input to or consider feedback from Program Governance and escalation processes, as appropriate.

5. ICANN determination

- a. In case the string was classified as high-risk, ICANN will publish the report for public comment. It is expected that the public comment period will be initiated within 30 days from the date when the report was received from the TRT.
- b. After the comment period has ended, the TRT will consider all available information and make any updates to the report, as appropriate. Program Governance will make the final determination on the outcome of the Temporary Delegation and adopt the report.
- c. If the string was not categorised as high-risk, the status of the string is updated to indicate completion of the procedure without the string being classified as high-risk.