

## 1. RDS Risk Survey - Invitation

**Who:** You are invited to participate in this survey if you provide or use gTLD domain name registration data, including Registrants, Registrars, Registries, and the broad spectrum of individuals, businesses, and other organizations that consume Whois data today.

**Why:** This survey is a chance to tell the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG) about the risks and benefits that the Next Generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) might have for YOU.

**Results:** All risks and benefits identified through this survey will be published in aggregated, anonymized form and used by the EWG to refine RDS recommendations to reduce unanticipated and unnecessary risks and as input to a full risk assessment.

*If you may be impacted by the proposed RDS, responding to this survey will ensure the EWG is aware of risks and benefits that concern YOU when finalizing its report to the ICANN Board and Community.*

## 2. RDS Risk Survey - Background

The ICANN Board formed the EWG to examine the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data, envisioning a clean-slate approach to meet global Internet community needs with greater privacy, accuracy, and accountability.

In response, the EWG recommended that today's Whois system be replaced with a next-generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) that enables consistent access to all gTLD registration data, with some data remaining public and other data being gated – that is, available only to authorized users for permissible purposes. The RDS also would include measures to increase accuracy and deter misuse.

To learn more about the proposed RDS:

- [WATCH this short introductory video,](#)
- [LISTEN to this longer presentation,](#)
- [EXPLORE these FAQs,](#) or
- [READ the EWG's Initial Report and Status Update Report](#)

This survey's results and preliminary analysis will be included in the EWG's report to the ICANN Board and used as input to policy development processes. If ICANN decides to pursue RDS implementation, that system's design would undergo a formal risk assessment to analyze identified risks, rank and prioritize them, assess their impacts and interactions, and identify steps to reduce risk.

### 3. RDS Risk Survey - Participation and Confidentiality

*Everyone is welcome to participate in this survey.*

However, we ask that you **please answer only those questions that apply to you** as a registration data provider and/or user, identifying potential RDS risks and benefits that could impact YOU.

**Please simply skip questions that do not pertain to you, or that you do not wish to answer.**

By participating in this survey, you understand and agree that responses gathered may be used by ICANN and published/disclosed to others outside of ICANN for the purposes described above. However, no respondent's individual or organization name will be included in any such publication.

The confidentiality mechanisms afforded by the survey platform itself are [detailed here](#). If you have any questions about this survey, please contact us at [Risk-EWG-Survey@icann.org](mailto:Risk-EWG-Survey@icann.org).

You will have an opportunity to review your responses at the end of this survey before submitting them. Estimated time to complete this survey is 10 to 20 minutes (not including optional review of RDS background materials.)

**To participate in this survey, please click "NEXT" to answer a few demographic questions.**

## 4. RDS Risk Survey - Demographics

### \*1. Where are you or your organization based? (select ALL that apply)

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania
- North America
- Latin America

The Whois system currently makes data about domain name registrations publicly available to anyone, including the names and addresses of Registrants and designated points of contact.

### \*2. Which of the following describes you? (Select ALL that apply)

- I do not use or provide Whois data.
- I input registration data to be provided by Whois.
- I collect, store, or relay registration data to be provided by Whois.
- I use registration data requested from Whois.

## 5. RDS Risk Survey - User/Provider Roles

Help us understand your role in using or providing domain name registration data.

### 3. Which best describes you as a Whois data PROVIDER? (Select ALL that apply; Click each answer to [view definitions](#))

[Natural Person \(Individual\) Registrant](#)

[Legal Person \(Business\) Registrant](#)

[Proxy Service Provider](#)

[Protected Registrant](#)

[Domain Name Registrar](#)

[Domain Name Registry](#)

[Third-Party Whois Data Access Provider](#)

Other (please specify)

**4. Which best describes you as a Whois data USER?  
(Select ALL that apply; Click each answer to [view definitions](#))**

[Natural Person \(Individual\) Registrant](#)

[Legal Person \(Business\) Registrant](#)

[Proxy Service Provider](#)

[Protected Registrant](#)

[Internet Technical Staff](#)

[On-Line Service Provider](#)

[Individual Internet User](#)

[Business Internet User](#)

[Internet Researcher](#)

[Intellectual Property Owner](#)

[Law Enforcement Agency](#)

[Operations/Security Incident Investigator](#)

[Other Investigator](#)

Other (please specify)

## 6. RDS Risk Survey - Overview

The rest of this survey seeks input on potential risks and benefits associated with the EWG's recommended RDS, should ICANN choose to implement such a system to replace Whois.

The next few pages will ask questions about possible risks and benefits that could result from RDS implementation, organized into the following categories:

- **Technical:** Changes to processes that use or provide registration data today.
- **Legal or Financial:** Changes to legal considerations and costs associated with registration data.
- **Operational:** Changes in speed of access to or availability of registration data, and
- **Security or Privacy:** Changes that could affect the privacy of domain name registration data.

Throughout, you will be asked to flag the risks and benefits that are most important to you. At the end, you will have a chance to suggest ways to mitigate top risks or increase top benefits.

**If you are unfamiliar with the proposed RDS, you may learn more before continuing by:**

- WATCHING this [short introductory video](#),
- LISTENING to this [longer presentation](#),
- EXPLORING these [FAQs](#), or
- READING the EWG's [Initial Report](#) and [Status Update Report](#)

**Please answer questions that apply to YOUR OWN provision and/or use of registration data.**

**Skip any questions that do not apply to you or that you prefer not to answer.**

## 7. RDS Risk Survey - Technical Risks

Please think about potential **Negative Technical Impacts** that the RDS could have on the way that YOU use or provide registration data...

**5. Using all four columns below, please:**

- **Select ALL Technical Risks that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS risk that is not already a known Whois risk.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other risks using rows f-h.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a) My registration data access practices might need to change.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) I might no longer have anonymous public access to all registration data.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Accreditation for access to gated data might be burdensome.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) I might need to change user interfaces for registration data entry or access.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) I might need to update software that handles registration data.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other Technical Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Other Technical Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Other Technical Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6. If you added Other Technical Risks above, please briefly describe them below.**

f)

g)

h)



## 8. RDS Risk Survey - Technical Benefits

Please think about potential **Positive Technical Impacts** that the RDS could have on the way that YOU use or provide registration data...

### 7. Using all four columns below, please:

- **Select ALL Technical Benefits that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS benefit that is not already a known Whois benefit.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other benefits using rows f-h.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a) My registration data might be easier to maintain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Registration data that I access might be more accurate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Access to registration data might be more uniform and consistent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) I might have better access to gated data that I really need.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) I might no longer be required to provide port 43 public Whois access.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other Technical Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Other Technical Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Other Technical Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 8. If you added Other Technical Benefits above, please briefly describe them below.

f)

g)

h)

## 9. RDS Risk Survey - Legal and Financial Risks

Please think about potential **Negative Legal and Financial Impacts** that the RDS could have on your use or provision of registration data...

**9. Using all four columns below, please:**

- **Select ALL Legal and Financial Risks that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS risk that is not already a known Whois risk.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other risks using rows h-j.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a. I might have difficulty complying with my local data privacy laws.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The amount of registration data that is freely available to all might decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. RDS access logging or notification might compromise active investigations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I might have to consent to centralized access or storage to register a domain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. My total cost for obtaining registration data might increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I might have difficulty complying with legitimate law enforcement requests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Without public access to all data, I might make less value-added services profit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other Legal/Financial Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Other Legal/Financial Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other Legal/Financial Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**10. If you added Other Legal or Financial Risks above, please briefly describe them below.**

h)

i)

j)

## 10. RDS Risk Survey - Legal and Financial Benefits

Please think about potential **Positive Legal and Financial Impacts** that the RDS could have on your use or provision of registration data...

### 11. Using all four columns below, please:

- **Select ALL Legal and Financial Benefits that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS benefit that is not already a known Whois benefit.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other benefits using rows h-j.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a. I might find it easier to obtain lawful access to gated registration data.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Binding corporate rules might help me to comply with diverse privacy laws.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Contractual enforcement of data-related obligations might be more robust.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. My total cost to obtain registration data might decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Improved quality of registration data might reduce costly inefficiencies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. RDS-supplied Validator services might reduce my validation expenses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The RDS ecosystem might create new business opportunities for me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other Legal/Financial Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Other Legal/Financial Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other Legal/Financial Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 12. If you added Other Legal or Financial Benefits above, please briefly describe them below.

h)

i)

j)

## 11. RDS Title Survey - Operational Risks

Please think about potential **Negative Operational Impacts** that the RDS could have on the way that YOU use or provide registration data...

**13. Using all four columns below, please:**

- **Select ALL Operational Risks that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS risk that is not already a known Whois risk.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other risks using rows e-g.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a. My access to registration data might be impeded by RDS failure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. My access to registration data might be slowed by RDS bottlenecks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. My access to gated data might be delayed by slow accreditation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. RDS-returned registration data might not be synchronized with recent updates.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other Operational Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Other Operational Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other Operational Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**14. If you added Other Operational Risks above, please briefly describe them below.**

e)

f)

g)

## 12. RDS Risk Survey - Operational Benefits

Please think about potential **Positive Operational Impacts** that the RDS could have on the way that YOU use or provide registration data...

### 15. Using all four columns below, please:

- **Select ALL Operational Benefits that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS benefit that is not already a known Whois benefit.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other risks using rows e-g.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a. I might have more reliable high-speed access to registration data.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. RDS response time might be more uniform and predictable than Whois.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Real-time authenticated access to gated data may be faster than today.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Relay and reveal responses from accredited Proxies may be shorter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other Operational Benefits (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Other Operational Benefits (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other Operational Benefits (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 16. If you added Other Operational Benefits above, please briefly describe them below.

e)

f)

g)

### 13. RDS Risk Survey - Security and Privacy Risks

Please think about potential **Negative Security and Privacy Impacts** that the RDS could have on the way that YOU use or provide registration data...

#### 17. Using all four columns below, please:

- **Select ALL Security and Privacy Risks that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) risks mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS risk that is not already a known Whois risk.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other risks using rows h-j.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a. My registration data might be misused by the RDS operator.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. My registration data might be more vulnerable to external attack.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. My registration data might be more accessible to law enforcement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I might have to supply a valid email address to register a gTLD domain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I might have to supply a valid phone number to register a gTLD domain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I might have to supply a verifiable identity to register a gTLD domain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I might have to declare that I am a legal or natural person to register a gTLD domain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other Security/Privacy Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Other Security/Privacy Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other Security/Privacy Risk (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 18. If you added Other Security or Privacy Risks above, please briefly describe them below.

- h)
- i)
- j)

## 14. RDS Risk Survey - Security and Privacy Benefits

Please think about potential **Positive Security and Privacy Impacts** that the RDS could have on the way that YOU use or provide registration data...

**19. Using all four columns below, please:**

- **Select ALL Security and Privacy Benefits that potentially impact YOU.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits that could have the biggest impact on you.**
- **Select TWO (2) benefits mostly likely to occur.**
- **Select ANY newly-introduced RDS benefit that is not already a known Whois benefit.**

**You are encouraged to add to these examples by describing other risks using rows g-i.**

	Might impact you?	Two most impactful?	Two most likely?	New with RDS?
a. My registration data might be better protected against misuse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. My registration data might be more uniformly secured.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Gated access may deter unlawful access to high-risk registration data.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Less of my registration data might be public and anonymously available.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I might publish a reusable Contact ID instead of my name.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I might be able to register a domain using a Secure Protected Credential.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other Security/Privacy Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other Security/Privacy Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Other Security/Privacy Benefit (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**20. If you added Other Security or Privacy Benefits above, please briefly describe them below.**

g)

h)

i)

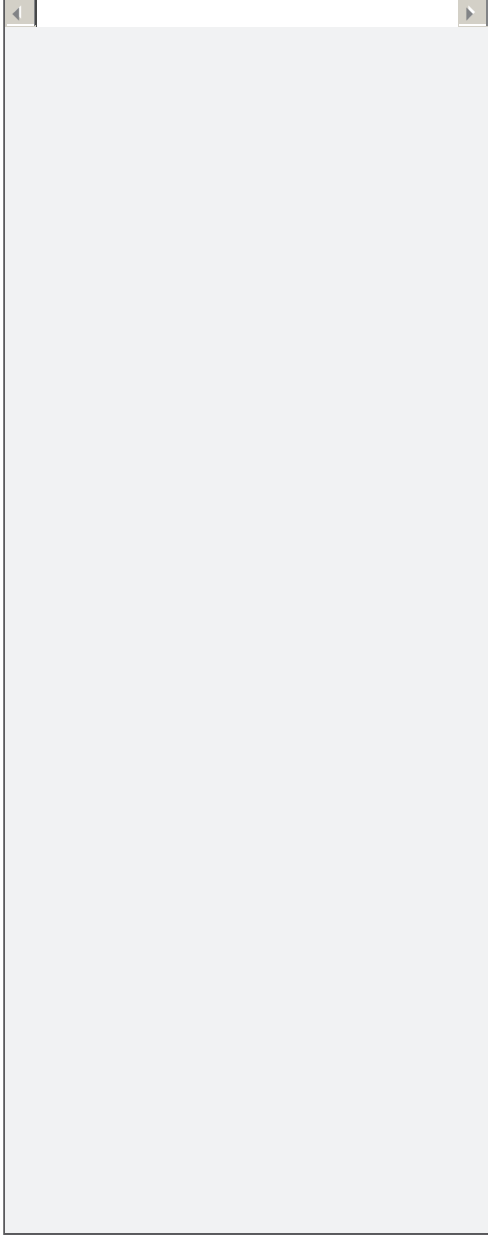


## 15. RDS Risk Survey - Strategies for Risk Mitigation

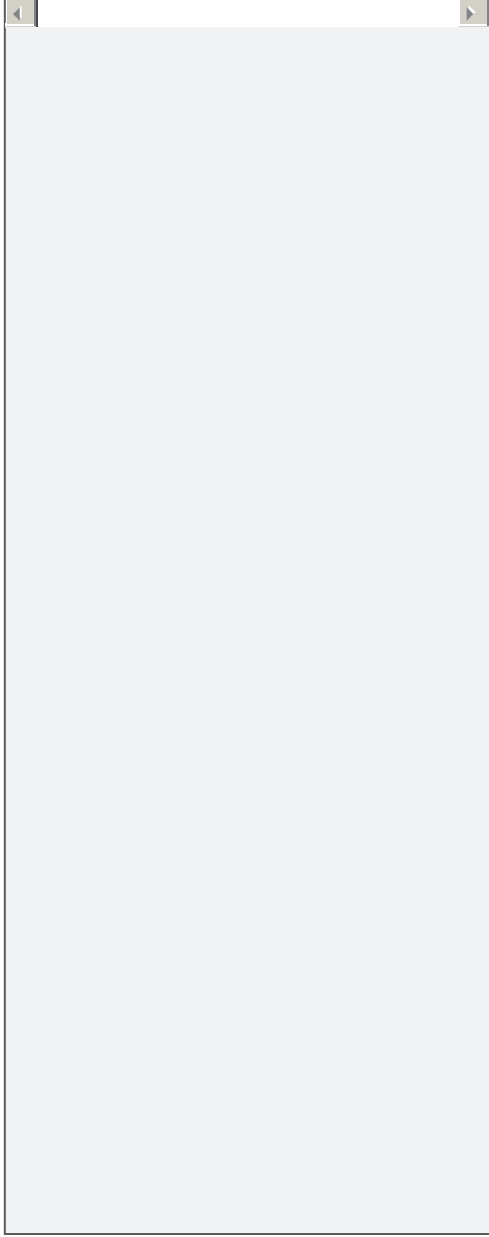
Finally, think about the risks and benefits that you consider the **most likely and most impactful**.

*If desired, use the "Previous" button to review your answers before continuing.*

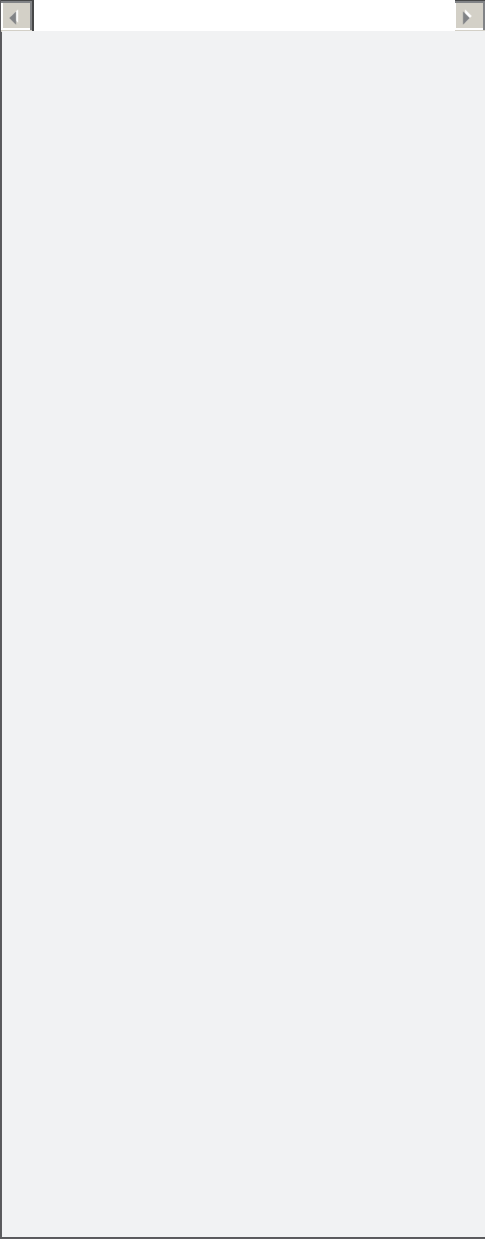
**21. If you consider any top RDS risks unavoidable, please tell us why:**



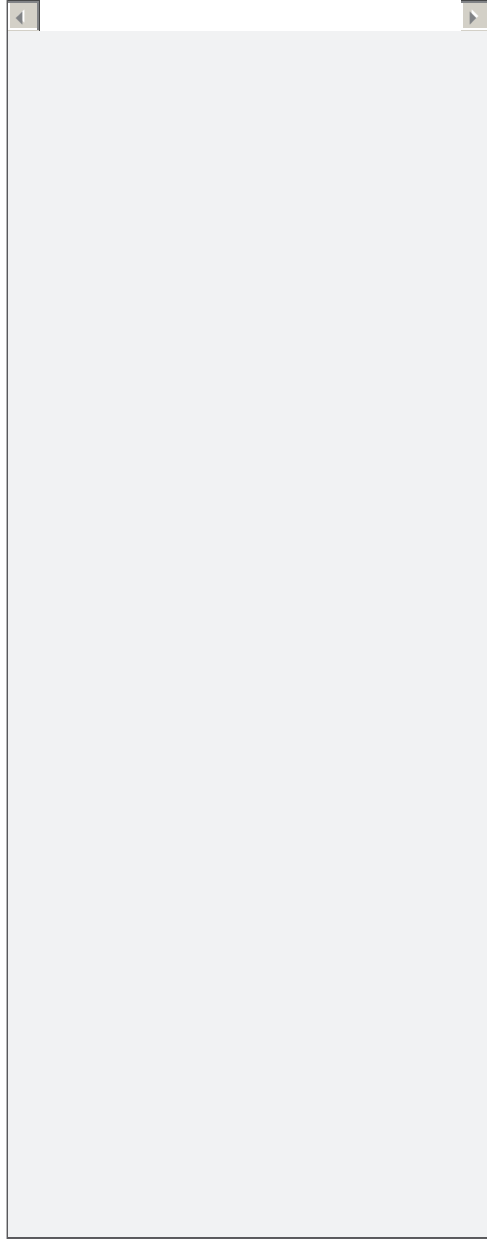
**22. If you consider any top RDS risks acceptable, please tell us why:**



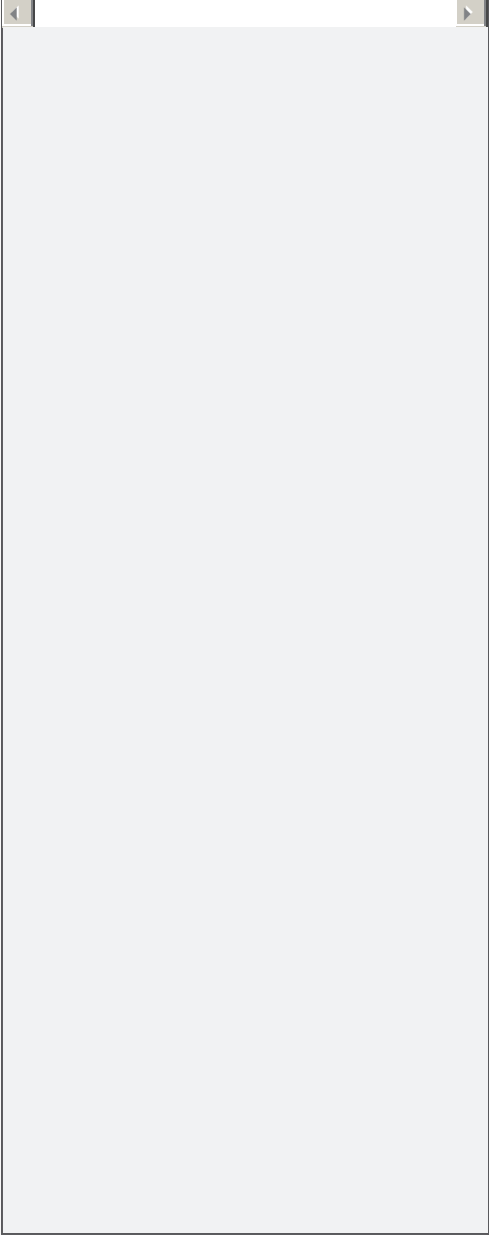
**23. If you think any top RDS risks can be shifted or reduced, please explain how:**

A large, empty rectangular text box with a light gray background and a thin black border. It is positioned below the question text and is intended for the respondent to provide an explanation.

**24. If you consider any risks to be a good trade for benefits gained, please tell us why:**

A large, empty rectangular text box with a light gray background and a thin black border. It is positioned below the question text and is intended for the respondent to provide an explanation.

**25. Do you have any further comments to help us understand your top risks and benefits?**



## 17. RDS Risk Survey - Conclusion

At this time, you may use "Previous" to review and/or modify your answers. When you are satisfied, please click "Submit" to record your answers and exit this survey.

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your valuable input will help ensure that the EWG considers potential RDS impacts on the numerous and highly diverse members of our Internet community.

A summary of survey results, along with the EWG's preliminary analysis, will be included in the EWG's report to the ICANN Board and used as input to any subsequent PDP(s), design/implementation project, and full risk assessment.

We invite you to visit the [EWG's Public Research Page](#) in 3Q14 to view published survey results.