Domain Unrenew

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What Problem Are We Solving?

RFC 3915

The definition of the "Renew Grace Period" is:

A "renew grace period" after a domain name registration period is explicitly extended (renewed) by the registrar. If the domain name is deleted by the registrar during this period, the registry provides a credit to the registrar for the cost of the renewal.

Use Cases

Registrar renews a domain for a period greater than the Registrant requires

Registrant makes a mistake and requests a renewal for greater than they require.

Issue

Domain needs to be deleted within RENEW GRACE PERIOD in order to get a refund and then restored where a Registrar can then renew the domain name for the correct number of years

Domain will be taken offline (REGISTERED -> REDEMPTION) during this sequence so web and email access is impacted.

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Solution

Allow the "unrenewal" of renewals against a registered Domain Name during RENEW GRACE PERIOD

Each renewal grace period has an end date, so an unrenew will only be successful if it is submitted BEFORE the expiry of the renewal grace period.

If a domain has multiple renewals submitted (e.g. a Registrar submits 5 renewals of 1 year), a Registrar can unrenew individual renewals from the most recent renewal in order to trim back the domain's registration expiry date that is desired.

Each successful unrenewal will result in a refund of the transaction.

Solution - New EPP Extension

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:unrenew-0.1

Extends only the RENEW command of RFC 5731 Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Domain Name Mapping.

Can be used along other related extension (e.g. fee-1.0).

An OPTIONAL <unrenew:period> which MAY include the attribute "unit" to indicate if the request is to unrenew by "year" or "month" unit, the period value MUST be provided as a whole number

A conditional OPTIONAL <unrenew:currentExpiry> which is the current expiry date of the domain in the format YYYY-MM-DD, the current expiry date combined with the period provided SHOULD be indicative of the exact renewal operation that is being requested for reversal. <unrenew:currentExpiry> CAN be provided if the <unrenew:period> is provided as it adds additional validation for the Registrar. If <unrenew:currentExpiry> is provided on its own then the Server MUST reject the request.

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What Problem Are We NOT Solving?

Registrar wants to unrenew a domain PAST a Renew Grace Period end date

Registrar wants to rollback a domain name's expiry date

Registrant wants to synchronise the expiry dates of a portfolio of domain names to be the same

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Other Things to Consider

Definition of renewPeriod in RFC 3915

There is very ambiguity in the definition of when the renewPeriod is refundable and for gTLD's compliance against those definitions are implied by the Additional Whois Information Policy published in 2017 that requires EPP statuses to link to an ICANN webpage that contains definitions of grace periods.

ICANN Reports

ICANN reports on renewals, the net-renews-X-year where X is the number of years renewed. Unrenew will have NO impact to this stat as it operates within the renewPeriod.

number of domains successfully renewed (i.e., not in EPP pendingRenew status) either automatically or by command with a new renewal period of one (X) year (and not deleted within the renew or auto-renew grace period). A transaction must be reported in the month the renew or auto-renew grace period ends.

ccTLDs Have More Flexibility

ccTLDs have the choice to apply whatever they wish outside of what ICANN's recommendations are. However, it's desirable that certain behaviour is consistent. Domain unrenew is not a substantiative change.

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Thank You

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