Domain Suggestion API
Side Meeting

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Report from the Side Meeting

- Tuesday morning
- ~15 people in the room
- Mostly registry side people

- What’s Domain Suggestion
- Why standardize an API
- Existing work
- Discussion
What’s „Domain Suggestion“?

• User / Customer wishes to register a domain name

• Desired domain name is unavailable for registration, eg. because:
  • Already registered (most common case)
  • Syntactically incorrect (underscores, dots within labels, emojis, too short ...)
  • Reserved

• Instead of turning away customer, propose available alternatives
  • Related / Similar (...) to desired name
Example: nic.at work

- Registry side of things
- Internal „typeahead“ prototype
- Website
Registrars?

• They also face losing a customer when a domain is unavailable
• Integrate suggestions into their business processes
  • Some level of „suggestions“ already available
  • External (eg. Registry)? API!

• Registrars deal with many registries
  • Each might offer an API
  • Undesireable to have one API per registry
  • Standardization?
Potential protocol arena

• Which „channel“?
  • EPP
  • RDAP
  • (other) REST
  • .. ?

• Which input data?
  • Desired Name
  • Keywords?
  • User location?
  • Meta-info (desired min./max. length, IDN yes/no, ...?)
  • ..?
Existing work

• EPP (Verisign)
  - Deprecated, moved to REST-based interface instead

• RDAP (Mario Loffredo, it)
  - „link“ in standard RDAP domain response points to „suggestion“ RDAP server
  - That „suggestion“ RDAP returns lightweight „domainSearchResults“ array
    - objectClassName, ldhName, (unicodeName)

• EPP (A. Mayrhofer, .at)
  - Extends „<domain:check>“ response
  - draft-mayrhofer-epp-domain-suggest
Side Meeting Discussion, major points

• Registrar is better positioned for that
  • Has more data about the customer
  • „Suggestion“ belongs to the free market „free market“
  • Registry has only slightly better vantage point

• EPP is not a good protocol choice
  • Is a static interface, provisioning rather than querying, quota
  • Suggestions will introduce additional delay / dependencies
  • Addresses a different client set

• Relation to „availability“ information
  • And for that, RDAP seems the prime choice

• Room was full of Registries – few Registrars
Discussion

• View from registrars? Is this a real world problem?
• Preferred protocol?

• Is this interesting?
• If yes, is regext the right venue?