

AusRegistry

Technical Accreditation Process



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Document Purpose

To outline the Technical Accreditation process to become a .au Registrar.

Intended Audience

Organisations interested in becoming a .au Registrar.

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1. Introduction

This document is designed to familiarise interested organisations with the Technical requirements to receive Registrar Accreditation. The Technical Accreditation process outlined in this document is managed by AusRegistry, the .au Registry operator and wholesaler.

For an organisation to commence Technical Accreditation with AusRegistry, they must first receive provisional Accreditation from auDA - the policy authority and industry self-regulatory body for the .au domain space. Information on how to apply for provisional Accreditation and further information on the Accreditation process in general can be found at <http://www.auda.org.au/registrars/Accreditation/>. Organisations should pay particular attention to the Registrar Accreditation Application Form on this webpage as it provides a good overview of the Accreditation process plus contains forms that need to be completed and submitted to auDA to commence the process.

It is worth noting that while becoming an accredited Registrar is a relatively straight forward process, it does require time and effort to build a comprehensive Registration System. The time and effort required, however, will be dependent on the level of efficiency an organisation wishes to achieve.

2. General Technical Requirements

All accredited .au Registrars must have a good knowledge of:

- the DNS system (RFC 1034, RFC 1035, RFC 1101, RFC 2181, RFC 2182 and RFC 3007);
- the use of Nameservers;
- what a Glue record is and its role in delegation of Domain Name authority;
- the Registry-Registrar model; and
- the Whois protocol (see RFC-954) and its intended use. (Please Note: This is not for the lookup of Domain Names, EPP provides procedures by which the availability of a Domain Name can be checked).

Additionally if completing Technical Accreditation using the Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP):

- the EPP Protocol, how it is used in the Domain Name industry, and how it functions (RFCs related to the EPP Protocol are listed later in this document).

Relevant RFCs include:

- RFC 954 - NICNAME/WHOIS;
- RFC 1034 - Domain Names - Concepts and facilities;
- RFC 1035 - Domain Names - Implementation and Specification;
- RFC 1101 - DNS Encoding of Network Names and Other Types;
- RFC 2181 - Clarifications to the DNS Specification; and
- RFC 3007 - Secure Domain Name System (DNS) Dynamic Update.

3. Technical Assessment

In order to access the .au Registry System, AusRegistry provides two interfaces, an EPP Protocol based interface and the Registry Portal. Use of either interface is dependent on a Registrar's volume of sales, their Technical capabilities and the level of service being provided.

Registrars must successfully pass a Technical abilities test in AusRegistry's Operational Test and Evaluation (OTE) environment in order to become an accredited .au Registrar. A test is available in each category below.

3.1. Registry Portal

The Registry Portal is a website based around the functionality offered by the EPP Protocol implemented by the Registry System and provides a manual method of performing commands. This manual process is relatively time consuming compared to the EPP Protocol method and impracticable for those processing large amounts of Registrations. The Registry Portal also provides Domain Name reports, accounting reports, and account management functionality for all accredited .au Registrars.

A Registrar may elect to initially become Registry Portal accredited Prior to becoming an EPP Accredited

3.2. EPP Protocol

The AusRegistry Registry System is EPP version 1.0 compliant. Using EPP, Registrars are able to integrate all operations within their system providing a method of streamlining transactions to the Registry System.

To assist Registrars, AusRegistry provides access to Toolkits providing API's for the C++, Perl, and Java programming languages.

Registrars are also free to develop their own custom interfaces to the Registry using the EPP protocol directly. These interfaces need to be fully EPP version 1.0, and TLS compliant to function correctly with the Registry System.

The documents listed below will provide you with all the details of the EPP protocol:

- RFC 4930 - Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP);
- RFC 4931 - Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Domain Name Mapping;
- RFC 4932 - Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Host Mapping;
- RFC 4933 - Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Contact Mapping;
- RFC 4934 - Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) Transport over TCP;
- RFC 3735 - Guidelines for Extending EPP;
- .au extensions
- AusRegistry extensions

More information about the EPP Toolkits is available upon request.

4. Registrar Systems

The suggested method for constructing a Registrar System is to keep a client side database of all Domain Names and associated detail, these details are then to be kept synchronised with the Registry system.

Whichever method selected by applicant organisations, a certain level of system development will be required. The process requires dedication, time and a significant level of programming and DNS experience.

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