The Business Constituency (BC) supports VeriSign's continued operation of the .COM Registry.

However, we strongly urge ICANN to take this opportunity to require the maintenance of Thick Whois by VeriSign for the .COM Registry.

We believe that requiring all Registries to support direct access to Thick Whois is an important first step in improving Whois.

The BC has previously stated the importance of timely, unrestricted, and public access to complete and accurate Whois information. While the BC recognizes that Thick Whois does not directly improve accuracy, it does contribute to addressing the need for timely, unrestricted and public access of Whois information.

The BC expects that other ongoing ICANN projects will improve Whois accuracy and responses by privacy/proxy services to relay/reveal requests. In particular, we expect improvements to result from:

- current negotiations on the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA);
- implementation of SAC 051 recommendations (http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/sac-051-draft-roadmap-18feb12-en.htm); and
- policy development indicated by results of five pending Whois studies (http://gnso.icann.org/issues/whois/studies).