Supplementary material: Comparison of main roles and responsibilities in the two main categories of administration of a Handle-based PID scheme

This supplementary material provides, in the table below, a comparison of main roles and responsibilities in the two main categories of administration of a Handle-based PID scheme.

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| **Administration of a root/top-level name segment** | **Administration of second-level name segment under a top-level name segment** |
| Organisations and entities that are credentialed and authorized by DONA to act as a Multi-Primary Administrator (MPA). | Organisations and entities that are “customers” of an MPA. |
| MPA can provide identifier and resolution services (aka local handle services) for handles under the derived prefixes allotted to them. | Offers services for registration of prefixes and individual PID. |
| Each MPA is allotted a single prefix. | RA operates within the single prefix allotted to the MPA. |
| Every MPA can create an unlimited number of derived prefixes from its allotted prefix and allot them to whomever they see fit. | PID allocation happens via Allocating Agencies. |
| All MPA verify and replicate any and all valid prefix creations from all other MPAs. | RA needs to run reliable local handle services. RA provides added-value services for registrants and other customers, such as search and cross-linking. |
| CNRI, GWDG, IDF are all MPAs, each with their own top-level prefix (‘20dot’, ‘21dot’, ‘10dot’ respectively). | DataCite and Crossref are RAs for DOI registration under the IDF’s top-level ‘10dot’ prefix. ePIC is RA under GWDG’s top-level ‘21dot’ prefix. |

END.