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Newsletter

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ICANN to Terminate Guardian's Last gTLD

Newspaper publisher Guardian News & Media is out of the gTLD game for good now, with ICANN saying that it will terminate its contract for the dot-brand, .theguardian.

It's the 14th new gTLD registry agreement to be terminated by ICANN. All were dot-brands.

The organization has told Guardian that it started termination proceedings October 21, after the company failed to complete its required pre-delegation testing before already-extended deadlines.

.theguardian was the only possible gTLD remaining of the five that Guardian originally applied for.

It signed its registry agreement with ICANN in April 2015, but failed to go live within a year.

Guardian also applied for .guardian, which it decided not to pursue after facing competition from the insurance company of the same name.

The .observer gTLD, a dot-brand for its Sunday sister paper, was sold off to Top Level Spectrum last month and has since been delegated as a non-brand generic.

Applications for .gdn and .guardianmedia were withdrawn before Initial Evaluation had even finished.

Source: Domain Incite

Top 20 New gTLD Registrants Own Over 10% of All New gTLDs

The top 20 registrants of new gTLD domain names own over 10% of all registered new gTLDs.

According to ntldstats.com, there are 24,890,063 new gTLD registered.

The top 10 registrants of new gTLD domains own 1,860,529 or about 7.5% of all new gTLD domains.

The top 20 registrants of new gTLD domain names own another 679,874 new gTLD domains, meaning that the top 20 new gTLD registrants own 2,540,403 new gTLD domain names.

The top 50 new gTLD registrants own another 1,028,542 new gTLD domains.

So the top 50 new gTLD domain registrants own 3,568,945 new gTLDs or over 14% of all registered new gTLDs.

The largest holder of new gTLDs is someone in China that owns 476,398 domain names.

Source: The Domains

New gTLDs is an Industry Term - New Domains is What Most People are calling them

The data is in, and according to Google the term "new gTLDs" is far less popular than "new domains" or "new domain extensions" which means that when we all talk about new gTLDs, we're mostly talking to other people in the industry, not to end users.

While it can be easy to think that the rest of the world keeps up with what is happening in the domain world, they don't. Most people have never heard of a "new gTLD" and they don't know one tenth of the new domain extensions that are now available.

For some people that's a good thing, they'd prefer it if people still lived in the past, a world where only a handful of domain extensions were out there and you were hoping to get .COM, .NET or .ORG.

There's no doubt that .COM is still king, but the days are gone where your only alternatives are .NET or .ORG, now there are more options than ever, but it's taking a long time for your average person to understand the sure mass of options that are now available.

From .CLUB to .SHOP, .NYC to .GURU, the new domain extensions are here to say, just don't expect most people to know what you mean when you talk to them about new gTLDs.

Source: Morgan Linton.com

Google Open Sources Domain Registry, Donuts Collaborates as Pressure on Registry Providers Mounts

Donuts makes key contributions to open source registry platform, setting up a possible migration in the future.

The shakeup in the backend domain name registry services business continues.

Google launched an open source cloud-based registry platform called Nomulus.

The company already uses the platform for its own domain names.

Donuts, which currently uses Rightside's backend technical services for its roughly 200 domain names, has been contributing to the project for the past 20 months.

Donuts' contributions include specs for a Domain Protected Marks List, Early Access and tiered pricing.

All of this means that Donuts could theoretically drop Rightside.

But Donuts CEO Paul Stahura said the company has not committed to moving the backend for its top level domain names to Nomulus.

"We helped to provide an alternative to the Rightside platform and other platforms that suits our needs," he told Domain Name Wire. "We have not committed one way or the other way to move to Google's platform."

Stahura confirmed that Donuts is under contract with Rightside for registry services, but declined to reveal when the contract ends.

Rightside was a close partner of Donuts during the new top level domain name application process. The two companies jointly applied for certain top level domain names through a separate entity, and these domains were subsequently divvied up between the companies. However, relations with Rightside might have been strained since Donuts made a public offer to acquire Rightside's new TLD business.

It's unclear how much of a revenue hit Rightside would take if Donuts doesn't renew its contract for registry services. Rightside reported $2.9 million in registry revenue in Q2 this year, but most of this is likely from selling names under its own 40 top level domain names. Rightside's total revenue in Q2 was $54.0 million.

Of course, participating in the open source project also gives Donuts the upper hand in negotiations when it comes time to renew its contract with Rightside.

One reason Donuts might not make a move now is because it has to pay $5,000 in fees to ICANN per top level domain name if it wants to switch backend providers.

That might not seem like much, but it would cost Donuts $1 million.

Richard Tindal, Chief Operating Officer of Donuts, said he believes ICANN might be reevaluating the fee. Indeed, this makes sense given the economies of scale of registry testing.

The cost of registry services has been plummeting and having a cloud-based, open source platform created by Google will continue to put pressure on pricing. MMX (Minds + Machines) recently abandoned its own registry platform, deciding to outsource to Nominet.

Stahura believes the cost of technical registry services will continue to drop.

"The price will drop because, essentially, operational costs are going down because of the cloud and the open source shared environment, which is why we agreed to participate in this project," he said.

Source: Domain Name Wire

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