



Newsletter

Issue 5 August 2016



Domain Name Industry Brief



Verisign Domain Report

Verisign reviews the state of the Domain Names industry through a variety of statistical and analytical research. Verisign provides this briefing to highlight important trends in Domain Name registrations, including key performance indicators and growth opportunities, to industry analysts, media and businesses.

The first quarter of 2016 closed with a base of approximately 326.4 million domain name registrations across all top-level domains (TLDs), an increase of approximately 12 million domain names, or 3.8 percent over the fourth quarter of 2015. Registrations have grown by 32.4 million, or 11 percent, year over year.

Total country-code TLD (ccTLD) registrations were 148.2 million domain names, a 2.6 percent increase quarter over quarter, and a 8.2 percent increase year over year.

The .com and .net TLDs experienced aggregate growth, reaching a combined total of approximately 142.5 million domain names in the domain name base in the first quarter of 2016. This represents a 7.1 percent increase year over year. As of March 31, 2016, the base of registered names in

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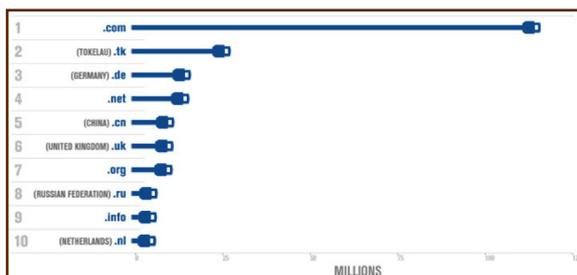
.com equaled 126.6 million names, while .net equaled 15.9 million names.

New .com and .net registrations totaled 10 million during the first quarter of 2016. In the first quarter of 2015, new .com and .net registrations totaled 8.7 million.

Top10 largest TLDs by zone size

According to Zooknic, Q1 2016; Verisign, Q1 2016; Centralized Zone Data Service, Q1 2016

The largest TLDs in order by zone size were .com, .tk, .cn, .de, .net, .org, .uk, .ru, .nl and .info.



Largest ccTLDs by Zone, as of March 31, 2016, were: .tk (Tokelau), .cn (China), .de (Germany), .uk (United Kingdom), .ru (Russian Federation), .nl (Netherlands), .eu (European Union), .br (Brazil), .au (Australia) and .fr (France).

As of March 31, 2016, there were 291 global ccTLD extensions delegated in the root, including Internationalized Domain Names (IDN), with the top 10 ccTLDs composing 67.4 percent of all ccTLD registrations.

New gTLDs as Percentage of Total TLDs

According to Centralized Zone Data Service, Q1 2016 and Zooknic, Q1 2016

As of March 31, 2016, new gTLD (ngTLD) registrations totaled 16.1 million, which represents 4.9 percent of total domain name registrations. The top 10 ngTLDs represented 54.8 percent of all ngTLD domain name registrations.



Geographical New gTLDs as Percentage of Total Comparable Geographical gTLDs

According to Centralized Zone Data Service, Q1 2016 and Zooknic, Q1 2016

Among the delegated ngTLDs that have a geographical focus, 36 have had more than 1,000 registrations since entering general availability (GA), as of the end of the first quarter of 2016. The first graph below summarizes the registrations as of March 31, 2016 for these geographical ngTLDs, and the respective ccTLDs within the same geographic region

The data presented in this report for ccTLDs, including quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year metrics, reflects the information available to Verisign at the time of this report (July 2016) and may incorporate changes and adjustments to previously reported periods based on additional information received since the date of such prior reports, so as to more accurately reflect the growth rate of the ccTLDs. In addition, the data available for this report may not include data for all of the 291 ccTLD extensions that are delegated to the root, and includes

only the data available at the time of the preparation of this report.

For gTLD and ccTLD data cited with Zooknic as a source, the Zooknic analysis uses a comparison of domain name root zone file changes supplemented with Whois data on a statistical sample of

domain names, which lists the registrar responsible for a particular domain name, and the location of the registrant. The data has a margin of error based on the sample size and market size. The ccTLD data is based on analysis of root zone files.

Source: Verisign

Donuts Sues ICANN Over .web domain



New top level domain applicant unhappy with ICANN's response thus far, so it takes its complaint to court.

One of new top level domain name company Donuts' subsidiaries has sued ICANN in an effort to postpone the auction for .web and potentially disqualify one of the participants.

Donuts and at least two other applicants are concerned that someone is bankrolling applicant Nu Dot Co's application for .web. They believe there might be a change of control to the entity and new people involved, which they allege might require a change to Nu Dot Co's application. They want this week's auction of last resort for .web postponed while the matter is investigated. Nu Dot Co, set up by Juan Diego Calle of .co fame, has traditionally settled contention sets by participating in private auctions in

which the losers split the proceeds. That could be millions of dollars each in the case of .web. But Nu Dot Co declined to participate in a private auction for .web, forcing all other applicants to an ICANN auction in which the proceeds will be held for an as-yet-unspecified use.

ICANN says it has already investigated the matter and determined that there's no reason for Nu Dot Co to file a change to its application, which is what Donuts and others are demanding. (As a side note, Donuts was smart to apply for each domain through a subsidiary. Among other benefits, if the ownership, board makeup, etc... changes at Donuts, all of the subsidiary applications don't need to be changed.)

In its lawsuit, Donuts argues that ICANN is not halting the auction because it stands to gain if the auction is an auction of last resort. I suspect even Donuts doesn't believe the issue is about money.

ICANN would much rather not have to deal with it, and has always urged applicants to settle contention sets on their own. Donuts' argument is probably the right argument to make to convince a judge or jury.

Donuts wants to find out who is behind Nu Dot Co's application. If it's arch enemy Verisign, perhaps that will affect the strategy of the other applicants.

Some applicants and industry observers think .web is the one top level domain

that could really catch on and make a run at .com. Of course, they also thought the hundreds of other top level domains would have made a serious dent in .com by now. That hasn't happened.

Source: Domain Name Wire

After Long Battle, First Bulgarian IDN Domain Goes Live



Bulgarians finally have the ability to register domain names in their native Cyrillic script, after years of fighting with ICANN.

The domain (Имена.бг), which is translated as “names.bg” went live on the internet, according to local reports.

Bulgaria was one of the first countries to ask for an internationalized domain name version of its ccTLD, almost seven years ago, but it was rejected by ICANN in 2010.

The requested (.бг) was found too similar to Brazil's existing Latin-script ccTLD (.br). Evaluators thought the risk of phishing and other types of attacks was too high.

The requested string didn't change, but ICANN processes were adapted to

allow appeals, and a new method for establishing similarity was established.

(Имена.бг) does not yet directly resolve from the Google Chrome address bar. It's treated as a web search instead. But clicking on links to it does work.

The new ccTLD, which is (.xn--90ae) in the DNS, was delegated.

The registry is Imena.bg (which also means “names.bg”), based in Sofia and partially owned by Register.bg, the (.bg) registry.

Despite the long battle, the success of (.бг) is by no means assured. IDNs have a patchy record worldwide.

It's true that Russians went nuts for their (.рф) (.rf for Russian Federation) ccTLD during its scandal-rocked launch in 2010, but Arabic IDNs have had hardly any interest, and the current boom in China seems to be largely concentrated on Latin-script TLDs.

(.бг) is expected to open for general registration in the fourth quarter.

Source: Domain Incite

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