



Newsletter

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Sound Trademark Enters in “Registrable Trademarks” Arena in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH – For the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia, a sound trademark has been registered in the Kingdom, entering a new IP era in which non-traditional trademarks are granted protection.

The first sound trademark certificate has been issued by the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) in accordance with the new GCC trademark law effective in Saudi Arabia since September 2016. Article 2 of the Law extends the subject matter of trademark to smell marks and sound marks, suggesting that it is possible to have registrations of such marks.

Applicants wishing to register sound trademark in Saudi Arabia may submit their sound trademarks in the form of a musical note, a written description or MP3 file, provided that the said trademark is distinctive and unique.

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) represents businesses on various trademark issues, covering registration, prosecution, licensing and counseling. For any advice on trademark matters in Saudi Arabia, please contact our office located in Riyadh at the following address:

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Internet Grows to 370.1 Million Domain Name Registrations at the End of the Second Quarter of 2020

RESTON, Va - VeriSign, Inc., a global provider of domain name registry services and Internet infrastructure, announced that the second quarter of 2020 closed with 370.1 million domain name registrations across all top-level domains (TLDs), an increase of 3.3 million domain name registrations, or 0.9 percent, compared to the first quarter of 2020. 1,2 domain name registrations have grown by 15.3 million, or 4.3 percent, year over year.

The .com and .net TLDs had a combined total of 162.1 million domain name registrations in the domain name base 3 at the end of the second quarter of 2020, an increase of 1.4 million domain name registrations, or 0.9 percent, compared to the first quarter of 2020. The .com and .net TLDs had a combined increase of 6.0 million domain name registrations, or 3.8 percent, year over year. As of June 30, 2020, the .com domain name base totaled 148.7 million domain name registrations, and the .net domain name base totaled 13.4 million domain name registrations.

New .com and .net domain name registrations totaled 11.1 million at the end of the second quarter of 2020, compared to 10.3 million domain name registrations at the end of the second quarter of 2019.

Verisign publishes the Domain Name Industry Brief to provide Internet users throughout the world with statistical and analytical research and data on the domain name industry.

Source: AO Online

How Will the New .AU Domain Licensing Rules Impact You?

The .AU Domain Administration (auDA) will soon implement new .AU domain administration licensing rules either late this year or early next year. These rules apply to new registrations and around 3 million existing domain names in the com.au, net.au, org.au, and more .AU namespaces.

What's changing?

Previously, an Australian trademark application or registration may constitute the required Australian presence for an .AU domain name, but the domain name need not match the trademark.

Under the new rules, a domain name registration based on an Australian trademark must exactly match the trademark. That is, the domain name is identical to and is of the same order as the words that are the subject of an Australian trademark application or registration, excluding domain name system (DNS) identifiers such as com.au, punctuation marks, articles such as “a,” “the,” “and,” and “of,” and “&.”

- Trademark example
- Example of an exact match domain name
- Tweedledee & Tweedledum
- tweedledeetweedledum.com.au
- The Frog Prince!
- frogprince.org.au
- beesknees.com
- beesknees.net.au
-

What is the impact?

Non-compliant domain names must have their errors corrected before they come up for renewal any time after the new rules are implemented.

Failing to comply could mean that auDA or the managing registrar could suspend or cancel the non-compliant domain. Once a domain name is canceled, it may not be transferred or renewed. It will be purged from the registry records and made available for registration by the general public.

Before deciding that it might be okay to purge a few domains, be cautious that lapsed or abandoned domain names carry a footprint of digital activity that can be leveraged as an attack vector or cause disruption to a virtual private network (VPN), voice-over IP (VoIP), website, services, servers, network or email, and a host of other dependencies.

As a rule of thumb for the domains you want to maintain, all domain registrants are obligated to keep their domain information complete, true, and accurate throughout the lifetime of their domain names. Similarly, all .AU domain registrants are continually

required to have a valid Australian presence and satisfy any eligibility and allocation criteria for the namespace being applied for.

What to look out for, and why it is important

Registrant contacts and entity information changed over time may not have been applied to domain portfolios, and this licensing rules change presents a great opportunity for domain registrants to ensure their domain information is up-to-date.

First, run an audit of all .AU domain names, then update non-compliant .AU domain names.

Additionally, this domain information should be reviewed thoroughly:

- The business registration number (ABN or ACN for example) where applicable
- Registrant contact information
- Technical and administrator contact information
- WHOIS data
- All other data in registry records

Cleaning up your .AU domain portfolio not only makes you compliant with the new rules, but enables you to be eligible to participate in the launch of the top-level .AU domain that is widely expected to take place in the first half of 2021.

Having inaccurate domain information could lead to suspension or cancellation of domain names by domain registries. Organizations not only become vulnerable to losing control of their domain names, websites, or applications when their existing domains expire, but also lose the opportunity to lay their claim to the shorter top-level .AU domains.

This article originally published on Digital Brand Insider.

Source: CircleID

ICANN75 Annual General Meeting Location Announced

LOS ANGELES – The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) announced that Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, has been selected as the location for ICANN75. The Annual General Meeting will be held from 17-22 September 2022 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC).

ICANN holds three Public Meetings each calendar year in different regions around the world. The Kuala Lumpur meeting will represent the Asia Pacific region. ICANN Public Meetings are a central part of ICANN’s multistakeholder model, and provide a venue for progressing policy work, conducting outreach, exchanging best practices, negotiating business deals, and interacting with other members of the ICANN community, Board, and organization.

Usually comprised of more than 400 different sessions, these meetings are an important opportunity for individuals and representatives from ICANN’s various stakeholder groups to introduce and discuss issues related to the ICANN policy development process. Participants may attend either in-person or remotely. Meetings are open to everyone and registration is free.

Source: ICANN

Verisign Measures the Industry's Lockdown Bump

The domain name industry added a net 400,000 extra domain registrations in the second quarter, when compared to the same quarter a year ago.

That is according to Verisign's latest Domain Name Industry Brief, which is arguably the most comprehensive data on how domain names fared while much of the developed world was subject to coronavirus lockdown.

The second quarter of 2020 ended with 370.1 million registrations across all TLDs, up by 3.3 million sequentially and 15.3 million year over year, Verisign said.

That compares to a Q2 2019 increase of 2.9 million domains.

ccTLDs appear — at least at first glance — to have performed particularly strongly, adding a net 2.6 million registrations to end June at 160 million. That compared to Q2 2019 net adds of 1.9 million.

Unfortunately, those numbers include the free ccTLD .tk, which never deletes a domain, and that space saw 2.4 million adds in the quarter, dramatically damaging the optics for ccTLDs as a whole.

New gTLDs as a whole fared poorly, losing a net 600,000 names during the period, to end Q2 at 31.6 million.

Most of that dip is attributable to the fast-selling new gTLD .icu, which lost 400,000 domains during the quarter due to the effects of its first junk drop.

Verisign's own .com was up by 1.4 million names to 148.7 million at the end of June; .net was flat at 13.4 million.

The company sold 1.1 million more domains in Q2 2020 than it did in Q2 2019.

Source: Domain Incite

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