



# Newsletter

Issue 21 December 2017



## Sri Lankan Community Prepare for a Multilingual Internet Using Local Scripts

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and local experts in policy, technical and linguistic fields convened in Colombo to introduce the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) program and launch the Sinhala Generation Panel (GP). According to ICANN, the launch signifies an exciting future where the local community contributes towards developing secure and stable access to the Internet in Sinhala.

The Asia Pacific region is linguistically diverse. Of the 6,800 languages in the world, about half of them or 3,500 are spoken in APAC. 21 of the top 30 most spoken languages in the world are used in the region. This diversity adds challenges to the Internet domain name space.

“IDNs are domain names represented by letters or characters from different scripts and writing systems. They offer the possibility of using the domain names in languages across the globe, including Sinhala, Tamil, Thai, Chinese, Hindi, and others. Thus, providing a truly multilingual Internet with greater flexibility and opportunities for billions of users,” said Sarmad Hussain, ICANN’s IDN Programs Director.

“The ability for Internet users to come online in their native languages and scripts is a significant development for the Internet. As Sinhala is a commonly used language in Sri Lanka, the work by the Sinhala GP will lay the groundwork for allowing complete domain names in the Sinhalese language,” added Hussain.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**Sri Lankan Community Prepare for a Multilingual Internet Using Local Scripts**

**New gTLD Registry Operator Radix Shares Their Revenue Numbers for the First Time**

**Dutch .nl Domain Name Being Used Faster, a Sign of Economic Recovery - SIDN**

The Sinhala GP comprises two Co-Chairs and a number of local community representatives from the policy, linguistic fields, as well as members with technical expertise in Sinhala language computing, Unicode and the Internet's domain name system.

Harsha Wijayawardhana, Co-Chair of the Sinhala GP, said, "We are all extremely excited about this new development. The Sinhala GP will work on developing root zone label generation rules for the Sinhala script. There will be significant technical work involved, such as developing the rules for computers to understand how to form correct top-level domain names in Sinhala script. Our efforts will help to form the basis for allowing complete domain names in the Sinhala language."

Members of the Sinhala GP attended a workshop to discuss the work plan and next steps. They are developing label generation rules for nine Neo-Brahmi scripts including Tamil, the other commonly used language in Sri Lanka. When both the Sinhala and Neo-Brahmi GPs' work are completed, Sri Lankans can look forward to accessing the Internet's domain name system using domain names in their scripts and languages. Work has been completed by the respective GPs for the Arabic, Armenian, Cyrillic, Ethiopic, Georgian, Khmer, Lao and Thai scripts, and is underway for many more, including Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Korean, and Latin scripts. ICANN is currently calling for volunteers to form GPs for these four scripts: Hebrew, Myanmar, Tibetan and Thaana.

#### Enabling a Multilingual Internet - Additional Information

In addition to developing rules to form valid top-level domains (TLDs) in the local script, many computing systems need to be upgraded as they do not recognize or appropriately process new domain names, primarily because the TLD or IDN may be more than three characters in length or in an alternate format. The same is true for email addresses that incorporate these new extensions.

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), supported by ICANN, is a community-led, Internet industry-wide initiative working on creating awareness and identifying and resolving problems associated with the universal acceptance of domain names.

ICANN's mission is to help ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet, you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN helps coordinate and support these unique identifiers across the world. ICANN was formed in 1998 as a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation and a community with participants from all over the world.

Source: ag-IP-News Agency

## New gTLD Registry Operator Radix Shares Their Revenue Numbers for the First Time



There has been a lot of speculation about how new gTLD registry operators have been faring since ICANN delegated the first new domain extensions four years ago. Few registries release specific financial information but it has clearly been a mixed bag with some operators exiting the business after selling off extensions they couldn't make

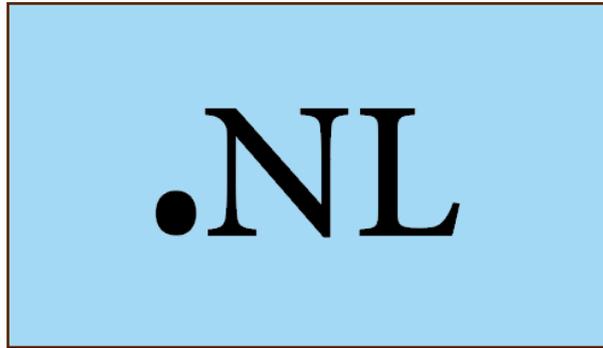
profitable and others, with deeper pockets, staying the course or expanding (in some cases by acquiring TLDs acquired from those leaving).

A member of the latter group, Radix, the world's 4th largest new gTLD portfolio registry operator (and a part of the Directi Group, which is currently valued at \$1.4 billion), has, for the first time, released some of their actual numbers. The self-funded company that operates nine new gTLDs (.ONLINE, .STORE, .TECH, .WEBSITE, .SPACE, .PRESS, .SITE, .HOST, and .FUN) revealed that their 2017 revenue numbers had reached \$11.7 million and would pass \$12 million by the end of the year. The \$11.7 million does not include revenue generated in the month of December. The figure also excludes the complete renewal-revenue from domains expiring in November and December as registrants have up to 45 days to renew their domains. Even with November & December renewal revenue not yet included, Radix reported that more than 50% of their total revenue has come from non-premium domain renewals. The recurring revenue of non-premium domains was almost double the amount received from new registrations. Of the total revenue, \$1.76 million was attributed to premium domains sold & renewed on registrar storefronts as well as one-time premium sales made directly by Radix. One-time premium sales contribute 14% of that amount with recurring premiums making up the remaining 86%.

Despite being inactive in China through most of the third quarter of 2017 (due to the MIIT restrictions), Radix said total revenue in the quarter showed an upward trend. The company added that Radix will be ending 2017 on a high as November was its best month of the year in terms of new registration revenue. Radix also broke down the source of its registrar revenue by country, noting that the United States was the top contributor with 49.6% of the total share followed by Germany at 14.4% and China at 7.7%.

Source: DN Journal

## Dutch .nl Domain Name Being Used Faster, a Sign of Economic Recovery - SIDN



NL domain names are being used more quickly, by linking them to a website, e-mail or application. Over the past two years, the average time between registering a domain name and bringing it into use has dropped from less than four months to less than two. According to Dutch registrar SIDN, this is good news for .nl and the digital economy of the Netherlands.

A domain name is only an address for something else. Only when the domain name is used to open a website, e-mail or an application, does the address take on a role. That is why SIDN is not only looking at how many registered domain names there are, but also at if they are used, and for what purpose. Namely, domain names that are not used are usually also quickly given up. There are usually two reasons for this. Many people register a domain name and are unable to find time to make a website or set up email.

The other reason has more to do with business health. Domain names are often strongly linked to companies, projects and other economic activity. The more dip there is in economic activity, or the more bankruptcies, the more domain names become obsolete and are discontinued. That was especially the case in 2012, and the reason why there was a large increase in the number of cancellations.

In parallel with the quicker take up, the number of cancellations is decreasing. This means the .nl zone is growing faster than expected and the number of registrations for business purposes is increasing. The economy is flourishing and .nl is seeing the benefits, SIDN said.

Source: Telecompaper

---

Please feel free to contact us at:  
info@tag-domains.com  
Tel.: +962 6 5100 900 ext.1625  
Fax: +962 6 5100 901