



Newsletter

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Oman Requires Legalized POA



MUSCAT - The Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA) of Oman has recently announced that the applicant/registrant of .OM domain name should submit Power of Attorney (PoA) duly legalized by the Apostille with seal, or legalized up to the Consulate of Oman.

Therefore, we request our valued clients to provide us with a legalized Power of Attorney via e-mail.

For further details, please contact our AGIP office in Oman at: oman@agip.com

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Registration of Domain Names Containing Numbers in Qatar



DOHA - Qatar Domains Registry announced that it has restricted registration of .qa domain names containing the numbers 0, 1 and 9.

The Registry applied this restriction for security and safety purposes, as it has been reported of domain names registered with malicious intent containing these numbers that resembled some letters.

For more information, please contact us at: info@tagdomains.com

TRA Achieves Target Number of Registered Domain Names in National Domain /.ae/



ABU DHABI - The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of the United Arab Emirates announced that the number of registered names in the national domain (.ae) has reached more than 210,000 domain names until the end of 2017, achieving the target number of registered names for 2017, and thus, maintaining the leading position on the Arab level in this field.

Commenting on the announcement, Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, TRA Acting Director-General, said, "The success of the national domain reflects the excellence and reliability of the domain in the UAE. It is an indicator of the digital

infrastructure development level that meets the requirements of all forms of e-presence for companies, institutions and individuals. The UAE e-presence online is an important indicator of the business sector confidence in the ability and credibility of the national domain among the targeted audience in the country."

Al Mesmar added, "The national domain enhances the investment environment as it provides an additional option for corporate domain names. It is complementary to and supportive of TRA's strategy to support the transformation towards smart cities and knowledge based economy, through the promotion and dissemination of e-commerce."

Mohammad Al Zarooni, Director of Policies and Programs Department

in TRA, said, “We have been able to exceed the target number of registered domain names by the end of 2017, which consists a great incentive for us to proceed with the success. We would like to assure the provision of all requirements and needs of the customers, individuals and companies, in accordance with the highest standards of quality and safety as well as adopted best practices in this field.”

Al Zarooni added, “We rely on 22 specialised companies to conduct the registration in the national domain, all of which are characterized by their highest standards of quality, reliability and efficiency in service provision, in order to ensure that customers experience a smooth and fast registration without any complications.”

Source: WAM.ae

EU Urged to Help Expand Internet Domain Names in Different Languages



Researchers and officials working on internet governance have urged EU institutions to help expand the use of internationalized domain names, which contain letters from alphabets including Cyrillic or Greek, or accented letters like in the word “café”.

Advocates for internationalized domain names want the European Commission and MEPs to urge technology companies to make more software that recognizes those characters, which could increase the amount of internet content in languages other than English.

“My worry is that the domain name system is falling behind very badly,” Emily Taylor, the author of the World Report on Internationalized Domain Names,

told a room full of MEPs, Commission officials and tech industry executives at a recent debate in the European Parliament.

Taylor's report is backed by UNESCO and EURid, a non-profit organization that has been operating the domain ".eu" since 2006.

Internationalized domain names can bolster the use of a wider variety of languages online, but few websites and tech firms use software that recognizes letters from non-Latin alphabets, Taylor said.

Jean-Jacques Sahel, managing director for Europe at ICANN, the non-profit that manages policies for the Internet Domain Name System, referred to Bulgaria's current presidency of the rotating Council of the EU. Someone using a travel website to book a flight to Bulgaria for a presidency event could have difficulties if their email address uses Cyrillic letters.

"More than likely you will not be able to book it because they're [the websites] using outdated email forms," Sahel said during the debate.

New figures from the world report show that the number of internationalized domain names multiplied rapidly for the Chinese ".cn" domain in 2016. But in the rest of the world, excluding websites using ".cn", there were 4% more new websites with internationalized domain names in 2016 – compared to the 9% growth rate in 2015.

There have been efforts to increase the use of internationalized domain names in Europe.

In June 2016, the ".eu" domain, which is available in all 24 EU official languages, first became available in Cyrillic with the Bulgarian ".eю". There were 2,000 ".eю" domains registered by April 2017.

But the downwards trend in the number of websites with internationalized domain names does not seem to be going away.

Numbers for 2017 are not yet available, but Taylor said her early research for next year's world report shows a "slight depression" in how many websites were registered with internationalized domain names overall.

"Urgent action is needed unless we all want to continue speaking English," Taylor said.

She and other advocates for more internationalized domain names want MEPs and the Commission to use their leverage with tech companies to urge them to update their software so it can read internationalized domains.

The multilingualism advocates argue that the EU already promotes diversity of the internet by recognizing 24 official languages, and online content should reflect that as well.

Their pitch to expand the use of internationalized domain names has got the attention of some policymakers in Brussels.

“The gap between the rich diversity of language spoken in the offline world and languages in cyberspace remains,” said centre-right Luxembourgish MEP Viviane Reding. In 2005, Reding was the EU information society Commissioner when the “.eu” domain first started accepting registrations.

The internet has changed since the domain was first created, and Reding points out that big internet platforms like Facebook and Google have moved fast to adapt to different languages.

“It’s only since February 2016 that Google Translate is available in Luxembourgish, my mother tongue,” she added.

Reding argues that internet platforms have been especially helpful in getting people to use less widely spoken languages online. 70.5% of Luxembourg’s population of just over 500,000 reported speaking Luxembourgish at work, according to a 2013 study.

But she said Google and Facebook should not be the only tech firms that offer content in different languages.

Bigger companies with users around the world have an incentive to translate their services into a wide variety of languages.

“It makes business sense. When people understand the language of an application, they sign on engaged and remain at higher rates,” said Iris Orriss, Facebook’s director for internationalization.

According to Orriss, 79% of people accessing Facebook from within the EU use the platform in a language other than English. Facebook users can choose from a long list of languages, including Sardinian, Corsican, Breton, Welsh, Irish and Basque.

But Taylor worries that the large companies will remain an isolated phenomenon, while tech firms overall make little effort to help people access the internet in their native languages, especially if they're written in a non-Latin alphabet.

“Humans adapt when what they try to use doesn't work. They use something else,” Taylor said.

That means Internet users might feel more comfortable on Facebook because it's in their native language, and may not access other content on the Internet if it is not.

“They will just stay in the application, in the walled garden on Facebook. They won't range around what the domain name system enables, which is to access everything,” she added.

A new set of rules might soon shake up how websites can be registered with the “.eu” domain. The European Commission is drafting an updated version of the 2002 law that paved the way for the EU-backed domain.

The new legislation is expected to “better promote European values and reflect EU priorities in the Domain Name System (DNS) environment”, including “multilingualism”, according to a preliminary report that the Commission published last year.

The Commission is weighing adding new measures to the existing law that could include criteria to “explicitly orient the .eu Registry's activities” to promoting EU values, the report said.

Source: EURACTIV.com

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