



Newsletter

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TAG-Domains Participates in ICANN 58 Meeting

COPENHAGEN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Domain Names (TAG-Domains) has participated in the ICANN 58 Meeting which has been held in Copenhagen, Denmark, March 11 - 16, 2017. TAG-Domains Executive Director, Mr. Mahmoud Lattouf, attended the aforesaid conference.

The meeting featured two Public Forum sessions as well as a new question and answer session with the executive team of the ICANN organization. From reviews to Work Stream 2 of the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, the ICANN community continues to advance its commitment to these values post-IANA stewardship transition.

Mr. Lattouf attended sessions related to contractual compliance, registrars, and business constituency. He used this opportunity to meet clients from around the world.

It is worth mentioning that TAG-Domains is an ICANN accredited registrar for generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) and country-code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs).

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2016 Year in Review: The Trending Keywords in .COM and .NET Domain Registrations

2016 was a year characterized by historic elections, political initiatives, technological advancements and entertainment milestones. In the past, Verisign has identified how keyword trends from popular culture and newsworthy events are reflected in .com and .net domain registrations. 2016 was no exception.

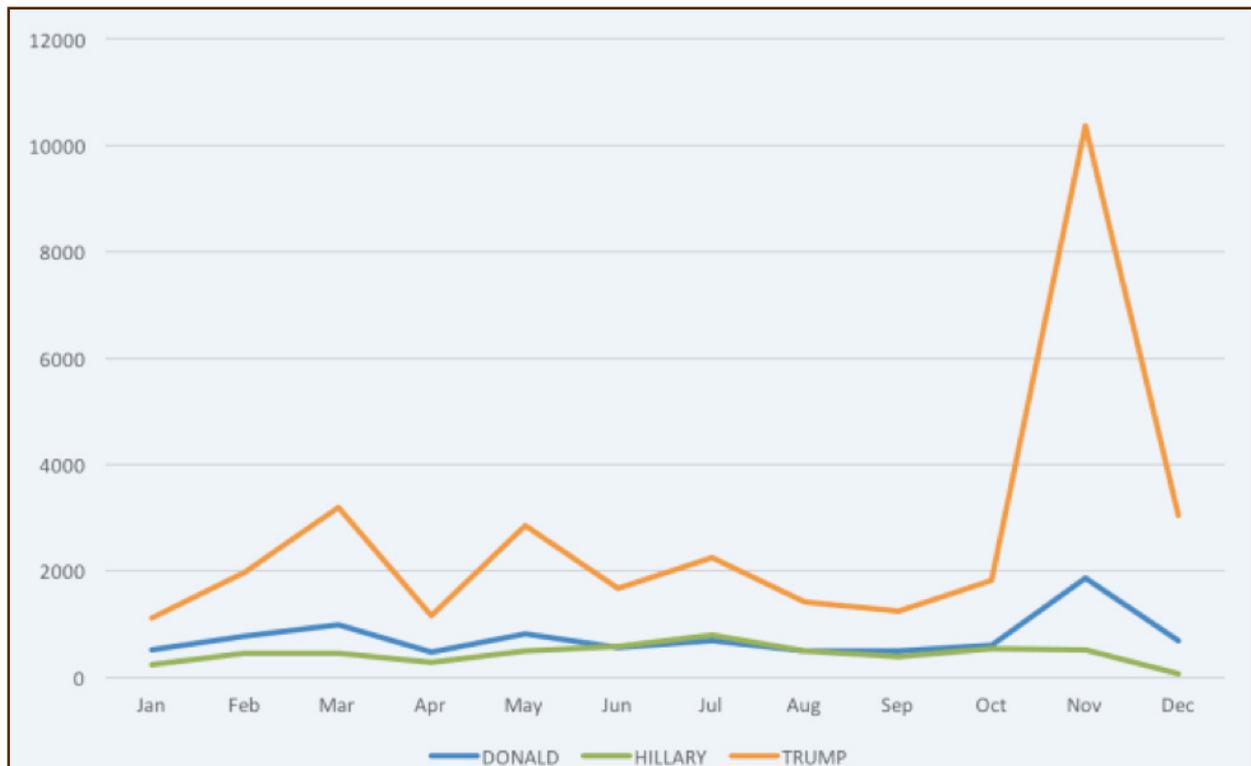
Top 10 Keywords In 2016

Here is the list of the top 10 keywords in .com and .net domain name registrations for 2016.

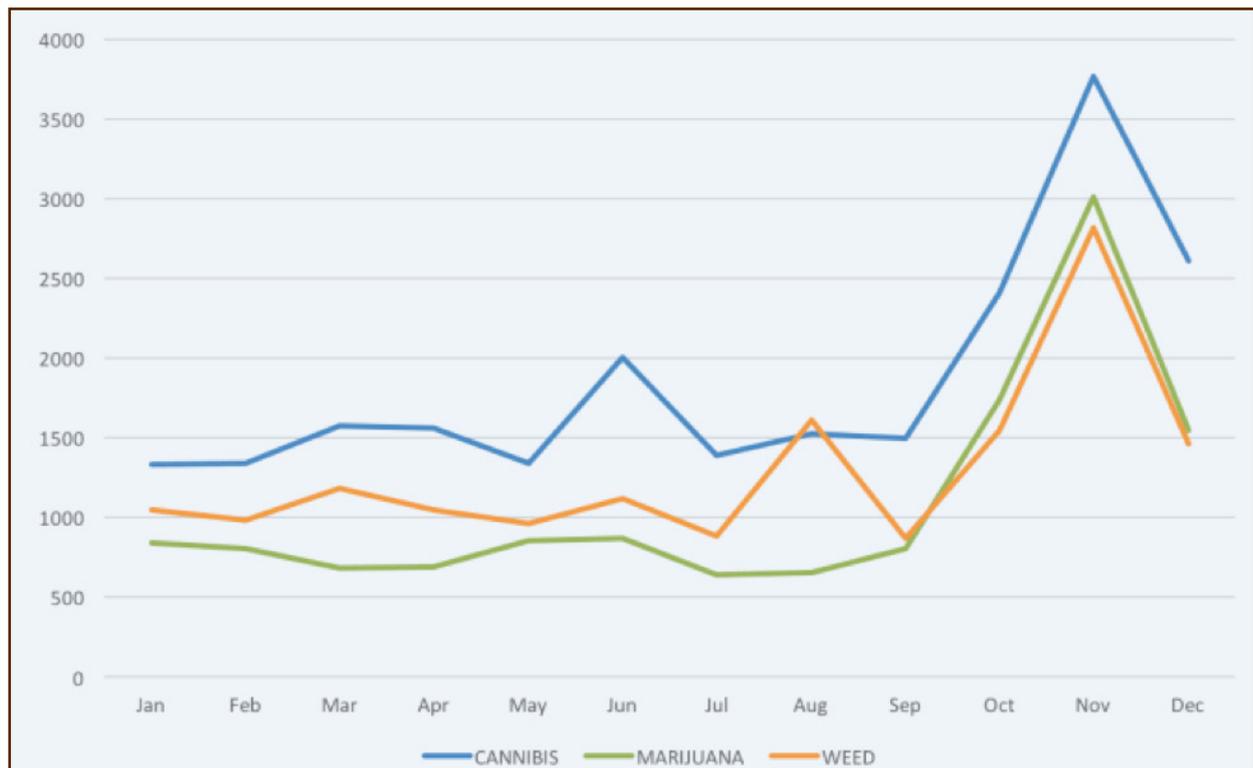
.COM	.NET
trump	research
research	trump
reality	pokemon
bot	bot
pokemon	near
donald	driver
hillary	donald
current	architecture
towers	hillary
keto	optics

Keywords and Changing Politics

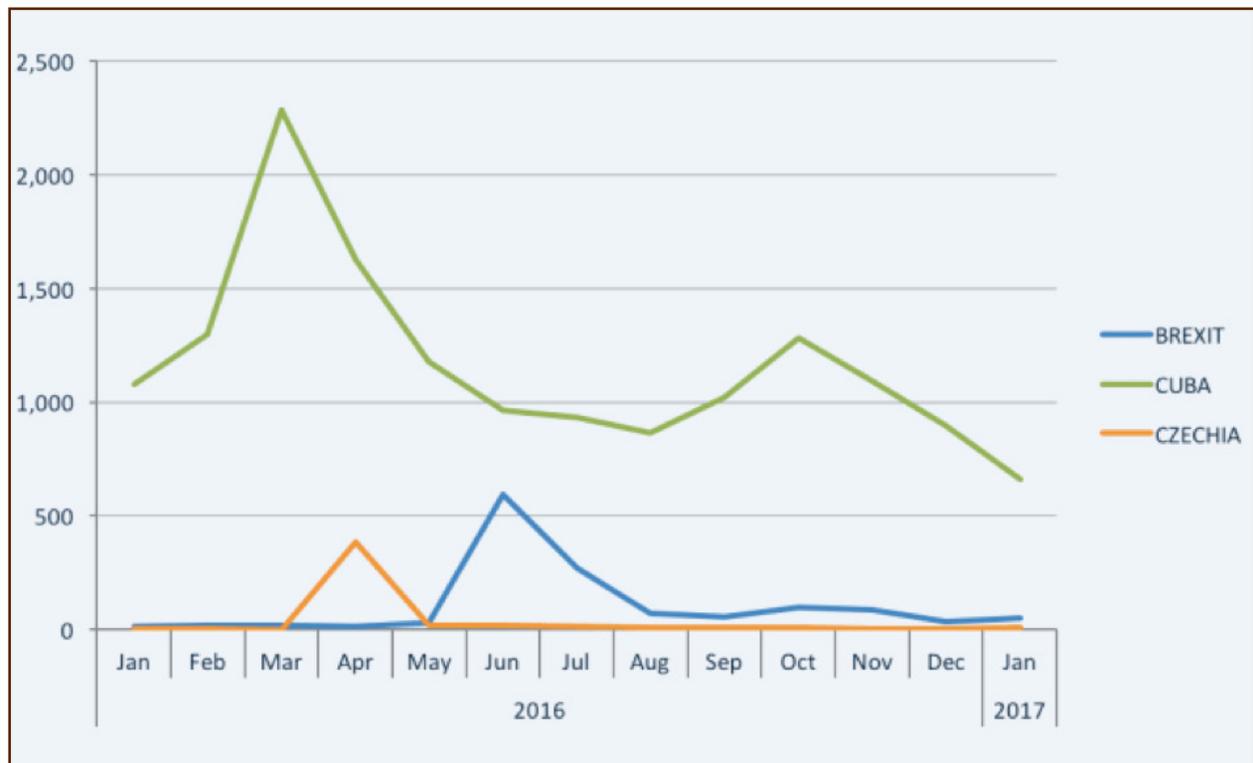
This year's U.S. presidential election was one of the biggest influences in domain name keyword trends for 2016. It's no surprise that with the keyword, "trump," emerging as a trend in February, March, May and November, it has topped the 2016 .com list and is second on the .net list. "Donald" also made it to the top 10 on both lists. While "Hillary" was not a top keyword in any specific month this year, it was a trending keyword overall.



Looking back at other political trends this year, it wasn't only the presidential election that influenced domain name registrations. Keywords related to other political initiatives also trended. Words like "cannabis," "weed" and "marijuana" were top keywords during the November U.S. elections when several states legalized the use of marijuana in some form.

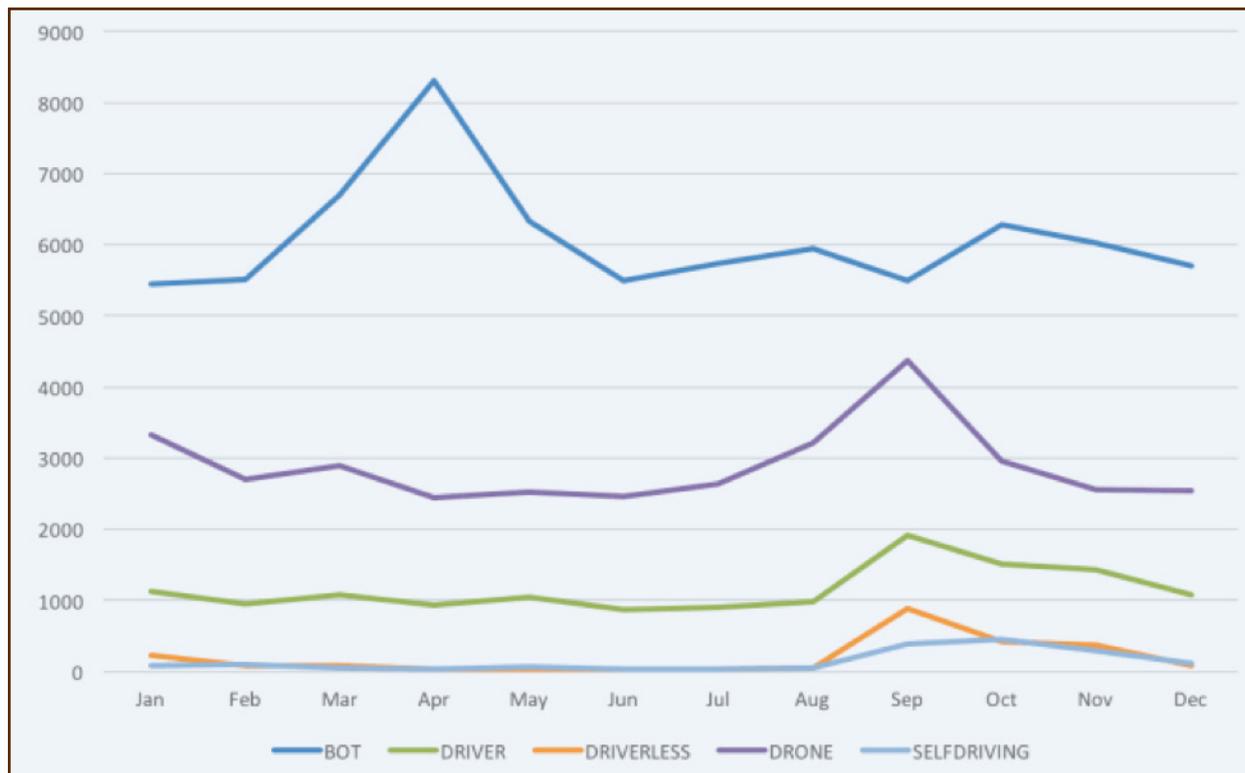


Internationally, America’s opening of relations with Cuba, the renaming of the Czech Republic to Czechia and the United Kingdom’s historic vote to “Brexit” may have also played a role in increasing the frequency with which these keywords were registered.



Keywords and Advancements in Technology

In the world of technology, keywords like “bot” and “drone,” as well as “driver,” “self” and “less,” may reflect increased interest in domain names associated with future opportunities in technology.



Keywords and Entertainment Events

Finally, it was no surprise after last summer’s release of the widely popular Pokemon GO app that “pokemon” was a trending keyword for 2016, especially in July.



What Trends Will 2017 Bring?

You can find out by reading Verisign's monthly domain trends blog posts, which are published the second Tuesday of each month.

Source: Circleid

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20170310_2016_year_in_review_the_trending_keywords_dot_com_dot_net/

Domain name scam

Information about the latest domain name scam and what you should do if you receive a phone call.

It was announced that a new domain name fraud which involves businesses has been contacted by phone from an organization claiming to be the UK "Trade Marks Intellectual Property Office". Their aim is to panic people into buying domain names.

This is a scam.

Some businesses have received follow up invoices.

If you receive similar calls or invoices please report them to Action Fraud.

Action Fraud is the online reporting

portal for all instances of alleged fraud affecting UK citizens and businesses and it is operated by the City of London Police who are the UK lead Force for the investigation of fraud. Attempts to mislead people into buying domain names falls under domain name fraud. Reports are collated and analyzed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and depending on a scoring matrix together with an assessment of available evidence, they can be sent to an individual police force for investigation.

The NFIB also send out industry alerts when new methods or techniques to defraud companies are identified.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/domain-name-scam>

Work in Progress: Preparing the Next Round of New gTLDs

There are now more than a thousand new Internet suffixes alongside “the originals” (not talking vampires here, but rather .COM et al). These additional web address endings are called “new gTLDs”.

Since Internet technical coordinator ICANN’s 2012 call for applications for the creation of new gTLDs, and their roll-out starting in 2014 when suffixes such as .BARCLAYS (brand TLD), .NYC (geo TLD) and .SKI (generic TLD) became active, the question of another round of applications has been asked repeatedly.

So on January 21, 2016, the “New gTLD Subsequent Procedures” Working Group (WG) was approved. Its task: to determine what rule changes, if any, need to be implemented if there are to be subsequent (hence the name) rounds of new gTLD applications.

Keeping tabs on new gTLD progress

From existing domain owners or TLD operators to brands or cities that missed the first round, there are eyes aplenty fixed anxiously on the Working Group to ascertain when (or even if) a next round is likely to happen.

That’s quite some pressure, to which the group has just provided a clever response. In an unusual move for an ICANN Working Group, it has started publishing monthly newsletters to inform on its progress.

The first of these, dated March 2017, is available now.

Although a lot of the wording is typical ICANN, i.e. gobbledygook to all but the most dedicated of domain industry watchers, the issues being discussed do provide pointers to what a next round might look like.

Contracts, objections and money

The WG has several work tracks.

One is looking at whether Registry Service Providers - the entities that handle the technical back-end operation of an Internet suffix - should be pre-approved or accredited by ICANN.

Currently, ICANN only has formal contracts with registries - the organizations taking on management of a TLD - and registrars - the customer-facing companies where domain names can be registered.

As it drew into the domain industry organizations that were not domain experts,

such as brands or cities, for example, the new gTLD program spawned a third type of business: the technical experts needed to make the actual registry computer platform work. The question now being asked is should they also be contracted to ICANN?

Many other factors - such as the ability of browsers and email clients brought up on a strict COM/NET/ORG diet to handle these new suffixes (“universal acceptance” in ICANN-speak), or how to object to an application for a suffix that may be too close to an existing third party’s name for comfort - are being discussed.

In the end, will it all come down to money?

One of the key aspects of the previous round being considered is the question of applications fees. The 185,000 USD required by ICANN for round 1 applicants cannot be justified on the sole basis of recovering ICANN’s cost of processing the applications. It has resulted in ICANN sitting on top of almost 350 million dollars that the non-profit doesn’t quite know what to do (in fact, ICANN has started another Working Group to try and determine how to best use these proceeds).

Obviously, if there is a subsequent round, the amount ICANN charges to handle an application will be looked at long and hard. Decisions on these and other matters will presumably be catalogued in the upcoming WG newsletters.

Source: Circleid

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20170307_work_in_progress_preparing_the_next_round_of_new_gtlds/

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