domain.wire

Piecing together .eu

INSIDE

Internet Governance & WSIS
IDN Attacks
Domain World Map Lift-out
and more

Welcome!
The CENTR Secretariat

Welcome to our first issue of Domain Wire for 2005. In this issue, we have a number of guest authors who discuss the state of a worldwide Internet governance debate which is culminating in the World Summit for the Information Society meetings in Tunisia later this year.

We also have an update on the .eu domain name, information on IDN homograph attacks, and more.

Domain Wire was created to try an extend the reach of the issues the ccTLD registry faces, which are usually confined to closed meetings and discussions using an arcane language. We hope we make some of the topics that interest us a little more approachable to the general public through this publication.

In this regard we have redesigned the format a little to capture the comments we received on the last issue. We will continue to refine the publication, and look forward to your feedback. If there are any topics you would like covered, or perhaps you would like further information, we stand ready to assist you.

Giovanni, Kim, Gabriella and Leila
The CENTR Secretariat
secretariat@centr.org

A major landmark on the road to .eu

Fay Howard, EURid

Back in March 1998, as the newly appointed CENTR Project Manager, I attended a meeting of TLD managers who were interested to join the new CENTR organisation. Representatives of the European Commission attended that meeting and this was the first time I heard mention of a top-level domain registry for Europe. Just over 7 years later, .eu is finally in the DNS root.

Although there have been many hurdles to cross during the two years since EURid was selected to operate the .eu registry, this one feels like a big leap forward.

Not that we can take a rest any time soon. With contractual matters resolved and .eu in the root, we are all working very hard to launch .eu as soon as possible and we hope to begin the sunrise period before the end of the year. There is much to be done.

Creating what is principally a ccTLD but representing a geographical area of 25 individual member states, provides unique challenges. We are currently translating our web site into the 20 official languages of the EU and registrants will be able to select any one of those languages in which to receive terms and conditions and other communications from the registry. A team of support staff must be engaged to ensure cover of all 20 languages

Those wishing to initiate Alternative Dispute Resolution against a .eu domain name holder must do so in the EU language selected by the registrant. We are fortunate to have found an ADR provider who will be able to handle incoming complaints and outgoing decisions in any one of the 20 languages. They will also engage expert panellists for all EU member states and arrange necessary translations.

One area where .eu differs significantly from other recently launched TLDs is the wide protection afforded during the Sunrise Period. Public bodies will compete with trademark holders during phase 1 and be joined by holders of other recognised rights during phase 2. These vary from country to country and can include company names, other business indicators and even unregistered trademarks. PriceWaterhouseCoopers will act as our Validation Agent for sunrise applications and they are assisting us to make a sunrise rule book listing the rights recognised in each country and the documentation required to prove those rights.

There is renewed excitement in .eu since we switched to using a .eu domain name for our web site and email addresses. Well over 2500 companies in Europe and beyond have indicated an interest to become .eu registrars and accreditation will start at the end of May. We get all manner of correspondence from those eager to demonstrate why they should get a particular .eu name, including trademark certificates, product wrappers and even web addresses of porn sites (no prizes for guessing which name they want).

We have much to do during the coming months but there is never a dull moment!

Fay Howard was CENTR's inaugural General Manager, and now is EURid Project Manager.

WSIS and Internet Governance

Markus Kummer, WGIG Secretariat

The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva in December 2003 saw a clash of visions in the debate on Internet governance. There were two clearly distinct perspectives. The first school of thought argued that the present system worked well and if there were any perceived problems it would first be necessary to define them before trying to find solutions. The second school of thought, however, questioned the legitimacy of the present arrangements. In general, its proponents wanted to give Governments more say and wanted the international governance mechanisms to be more in line with traditional forms of intergovernmental cooperation. Ultimately, these delegations felt that Internet governance related to national sovereignty. In the end, negotiators agreed to continue the dialogue beyond the first phase of the WSIS and to prepare the ground for the second phase in Tunis in November 2005. The compromise that was finally reached consisted of requesting the Secretary-General of the United Nations to set up a Working Group "to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet".

The WSIS Declaration of Principles and the WSIS Plan of Action adopted in Geneva set the parameters for the WGIG and contain its Terms of Reference and work programme. The WGIG has been asked, among other things, to develop a working definition of Internet Governance, identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet Governance and develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. The WGIG chose as its point of entry into the substantive work the identification of public policy issues that are potentially relevant to Internet governance, and started work by gathering facts and mapping out the terrain, thus moving toward an implicit working definition of Internet governance. The WGIG agreed to take a broad approach and, in a first step, not exclude any potentially relevant issue.

The WGIG has also started discussions on a working definition of Internet governance. It recognised that a definition should take into consideration the fast moving technological environment and should therefore be forward-looking and dynamic. It should also be made clear that the terms 'governance' and 'govern' mean more than 'government activities' and include organised and cooperative activities between different stakeholders, going beyond IP numbering and domain name administration. Furthermore, the WGIG began looking into the respective roles and responsibilities of all actors involved in Internet governance arrangements. This is one of the main tasks given to the WGIG and may well prove to be the most difficult one. The answer to this question will probably be key to a successful outcome of the negotiations on Internet governance at the second phase of WSIS.

Presently, the WGIG is assessing the adequacy of current governance arrangements and tries to determine what works well and what works less well. This assessment is measured against the key principles established by the WSIS, namely that Internet governance should be multilateral, transparent, democratic and exercised with the full and active involvement of all stakeholders. Based on this assessment, the WGIG will develop recommendations and various options on how to improve current governance arrangements. These recommendations and options will be included in the WGIG report, which will be finalised in June and submitted to the Secretary-General in July.

The main work of the WGIG is clearly still ahead. However, the group has already succeeded in creating a space for an issue oriented policy dialogue on Internet governance in a climate of trust and confidence among all stakeholders concerned. This is no mean achievement in itself and may well be one of the WGIG's main legacies, insofar as it has proved a successful experiment in multi-stakeholder cooperation. As regards Internet governance arrangements, and without prejudging in any way the outcome of the WSIS negotiations, it can be safely be stated that by now there is a wide recognition on the need for such a multi-stakeholder approach.

Markus Kummer is Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Working Group on Internet Governance.
http://www.wgig.org

ICC Priorities regarding Internet Governance

Ayesha Hassan, International Chamber of Commerce

Information and communications technologies, ICTs, have become essential vectors of development and economic growth. The UN's World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva in 2003, highlighted how an appropriate enabling environment for investment, and conditions that promote innovation and entrepreneurship, allow business and ICTs to become this driving force in development. Critical components of the fundamental building blocks of the information society can only be put in place with the involvement of business and other relevant stakeholders at all levels — national, regional and international.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the voice of business worldwide, brought together the collective global experience of companies and business associations to form the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors, or CCBI, to provide business views on the issues being considered in WSIS. Internet governance is one of the critical issues being examined at this time by WSIS and, in particular, in the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). This article outlines the business priorities regarding Internet Governance.

Use of the term "Internet Governance"
This term has not been used consistently throughout the WSIS and WGIG processes. In some circumstances its use implies substantive policy development; in others it implies the framework for decision-making on issues related to the Internet. ICC believes that the definition should focus on the latter. It is important to recognise existing internet governance mechanisms to avoid duplicating efforts, conflicting results, additional costs and destabilising effects including with respect to its reliability, interconnectivity and security

Scope of "Internet Governance" and mandate of WGIG
The WGIG has identified four "clusters" that highlight i) issues related to the infrastructure and management of critical resources, ii) issues relating to the use of the Internet iii) issues that go beyond the Internet, and iv) developmental issues. The best way to assess the effectiveness of a governance structure is by looking at what it enables and how well it meets the needs of the people who depend upon it. ICC encourages a focus on increasing outreach where work is currently handled by regional entities to increase the awareness of those efforts and to expand

cooperation globally. It is essential to increase participation by stakeholders in the fora that handle Internet related policy and technical matters, particularly from developing countries, consistent with the mandate and nature of the fora.

Participation of stakeholders in governance mechanisms
More effort needs to be made to promote open, transparent, inclusive, multistakeholder processes that continue to improve how existing and changing needs are addressed. In addition, stakeholders should be able to participate in intergovernmental organisations consistent with the membership, mission and mandate of those fora.

The role of intergovernmental organisations
Cooperation among intergovernmental entities and other stakeholders is important in promoting the most effective implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action. Cooperation among standards development organizations (SDOs) is also important in promoting interoperability and quality within global ICT infrastructures. Any intergovernmental organisation involved in the process should acknowledge and respect the work of other international organisations, including SDOs, to encourage cooperation and should focus in their work on fulfilling its mandate and utilising its core competencies.

Governments and public policy
While business supports the general notion that public policy is primarily the domain of governments, it is critical to recall that allowing self-regulation is a public policy decision where governments refrain from regulating, and in many circumstances this can be the most productive policy approach. Public policy should set out general principles and guidelines designed to lead to an effective self-regulatory approach without stifling the innovation that has characterised the evolution of the Internet and the global ICT industry contribution to other sectors of the economy. In defining these principles and guidelines, governments should actively seek input by businesses about the potential economic (and societal) impact of intended policy decisions. Governments should also seek business input in order to better understand the impact of current and future technological innovation on existing and pending policy choices. It is important to bear in mind that it is not

Internationalised Domain Names: A risk?

Kim Davies, CENTR

Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) are a new technology designed to assist the people of the world in communicating with their own language. IDNs are effectively domain names written in people's own scripts, rather than the constraint of Latin characters used for English that existed previously.

Great things, though, are never easy. Certainly, IDNs have been a challenge to implement from the start. The system developed is designed to leverage existing technologies to aid its development, but that had also introduced further complexities that are now becoming increasingly visible.

One engineering choice made whilst developing IDN technology was that it must run over the DNS unmodified. This is great for aiding adoption - DNS servers across the world are capable of supporting IDNs without any changes. The downside though is that special formatting codes, which can be hard to understand, are used to store IDNs in the software that doesn't understand IDNs. (See *Domain Wire 1/2004*)

If you follow IDN development, this is probably the main problem you are aware of - but another potentially serious problem came to the public's attention in February 2005. This problem derives from the way IDNs utilise another popular technology – Unicode – for encoding domain names in many different languages.

How Unicode Works
The English alphabet consists of 26 characters, the letters A through Z. If we add in numbers, and punctuation used in common communication, we end up with around one hundred symbols. The Internet was based on this small set of symbols, known as ASCII, and many of the Internet's protocols were developed with the assumption this small set of symbols was all that would be used.

The world, of course, operates in many more languages than English. Western Europe uses languages that can relatively easily be represented with the English Alphabet, or with an extended set of those letters with additional accents (e.g. å, ç, é, ...). However, if you start to consider Eastern European languages, Asian languages, and others - the amount of characters needed to express languages increases dramatically.

The Unicode Standard seeks to make a huge list of all the different characters needed for the world's languages. It contains tens of thousands of characters, and is revised with new characters on a frequent basis.

IDNs use Unicode as their basis for domain names, which is a logical move, as it permits a wide variety of characters that should satisfy almost the entire Internet population.

The trouble with homographs
The problem with using Unicode for encoding IDNs is there are a number of characters in different languages that look the same. If you are constrained to just the English alphabet, you know an "a" is just an "a", but in the Unicode world - how do you know an "a" is a Latin "a", or it is the Cyrillic letter "a"? The distinction might seem trivial, but to Unicode, these so called *homographs* make a world of difference. The end result of this confusion is that domains that look that same can point to two very different places.

This can be a security risk, as was demonstrated by Eric Johanson in February when he registered a domain name that looked identical to paypal.com. The difference? He registered paypal.com with a cyrillic "a", which to the IDN system was different to the regular paypal.com. The problem was further amplified by his ability to register a security certificate for that name, and he demonstrated it

The Shmoo Demonstration.
A cyrillic "a", rather than a latin "a", can take you to an entirely different website. This raises possible security problems if you click on a web link pointing to the wrong one.

would be possible to pose as that site if he wanted - tricking average users who weren't aware of the details of IDN technology.

The Response

The example demonstrated a problem that was forseen during IDN development. In fact, it is expicitly documented in the technical specification. However, a real-life example brought the issue to the conscious of the Internet community and there was a rush to act.

On a policy side, most domain registries already have measures that would not allow such a registration to occur. Registry policies generally restrict domain registrations to characters from the same language groupings (Latin based, Greek based, etc.) Those that did not have such policies have since tightened rules to restrict the ability for this problem to occur.

Software developers, responsible for implementing IDNs into computer software, were also quick to react. Signals were sent from key software vendors that had implemented IDNs, that they were planning to disable IDNs due to this problem.

There was a great deal of concern to this approach from the IDN community - there had been alot of work encouraging software vendors to implement IDNs, and such a drastic step could irrepairably harm public confidence in the technology. Who would use IDNs if there was a good likelihood the people they wish to communicate with had the feature disabled?

CENTR led a number of organisations which responded to the issue, highlighting the problem – but also urging developers not to throw the "baby out with the the bathwater" by impairing IDNs completely. Instead, a measured approach was encouraged, limiting IDN blocks to a small subset that could cause such a problem - whilst still allowing all the IDNs that were not a security risk to function normally.

In the end, software developers have been responsible. A mix of temporary approaches have been deployed while the community comes up with a final solution. Some approaches involve blacklists of domains that cause problems, others show IDNs differently so a user can more easily tell if there is a problem with the domain.

Long term solution

It is clear many think this problem is a flaw that needs to be addressed. Since February, there has been active discussion in various forums. The Unicode Consortium, responsible for compiling the Unicode specification, is studying the issue and developing documents that could become future standards. The IETF and Internet Architecture Board are discussing the issue also. It is quite possible that the IDN specification will be revised into a new version that more adequately addresses these problems. Registries, meanwhile, re-evaluate their policies to balance community desires with the problems IDNs can present.

Kim Davies is responsible for CENTR technical policy and projects, and is a director of the .au (Australia) ccTLD authority.
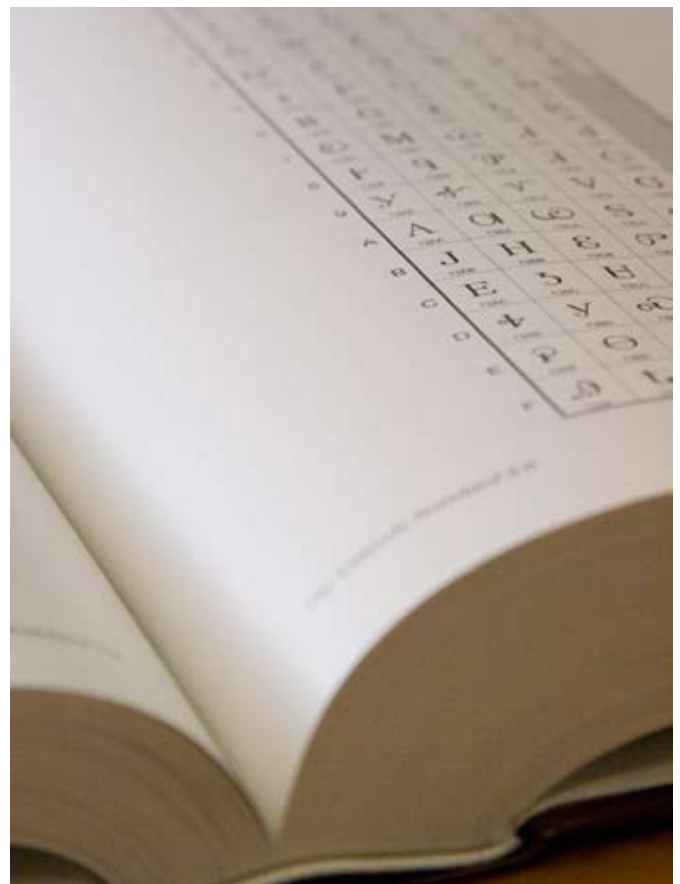
Resources
IDN Vulnerability Demo
http://www.shmoo.com/idn/
The Unicode Consortium
http://www.unicode.org/
CENTR's Statement:
http://www.centr.org/docs/2005/02/homographs.html
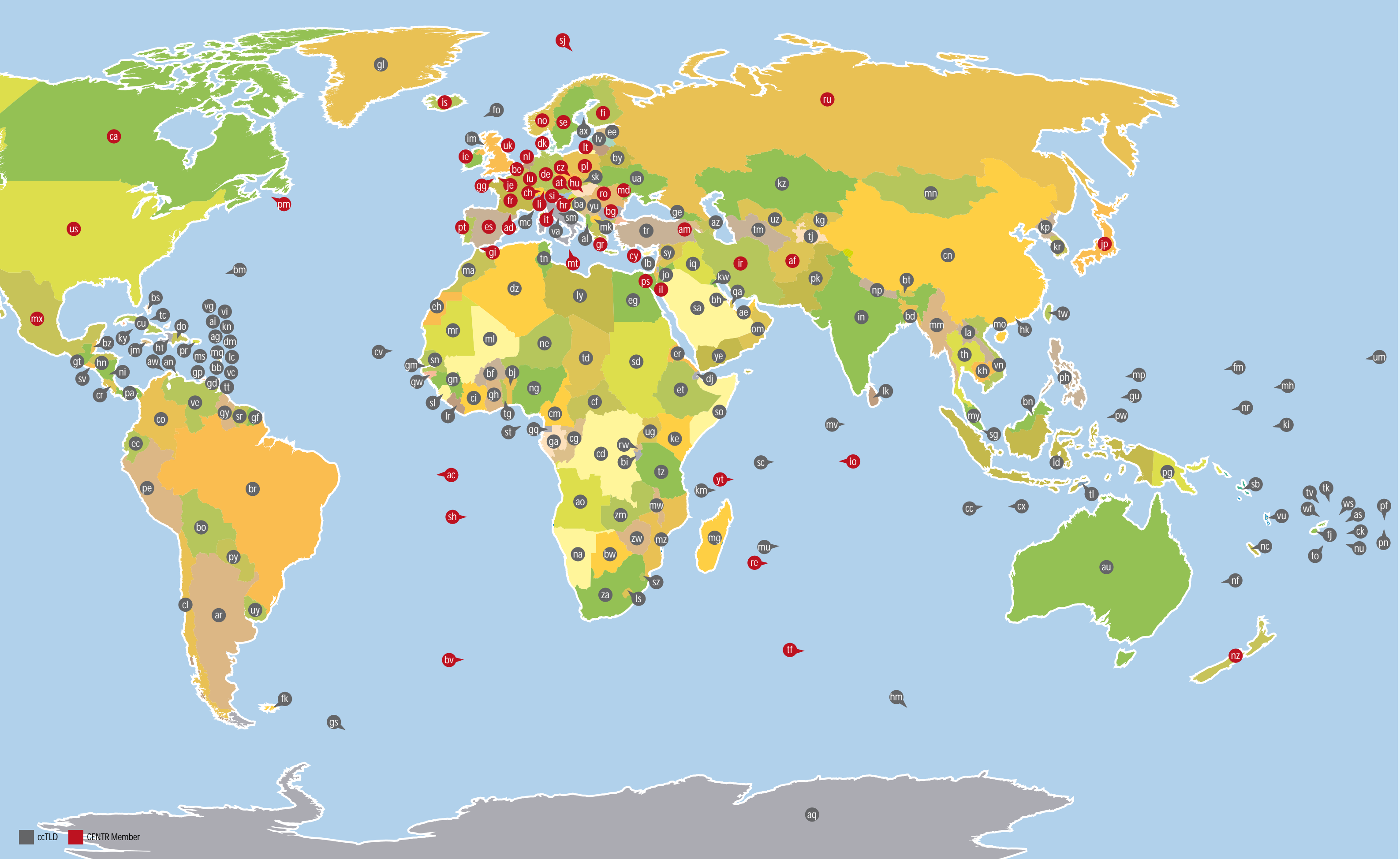

The Unicode Standard 4.0 is filled with literally hundreds of pages of letters. Most of them are available for use in IDNs unless restrictions are placed by the registry.

cCTLD
CENTR Member

ac Ascension Is.; ad Andorra; ae United Arab Emirates; af Afghanistan; ag Antigua and Barbuda; ai Anguilla; al Albania; am Armenia; an Netherlands Antilles; ao Angola; aq Antarctica; ar Argentina; as American Samoa; at Austria; au Australia; aw Aruba; az Azerbaijan; ax Aland Is.; ba Bosnia and Herzegovina; bb Barbados;
bd Bangladesh; be Belgium; bf Burkina Faso; bg Bulgaria; bh Bahrain; bi Burundi; bj Benin; bm Bermuda; bn Brunei Darussalam; bo Bolivia; br Brazil; bs Bahamas; bt Bhutan; bv Bouvet Is.; bw Botswana; by Belarus; bz Belize; ca Canada; cc Cocos (Keeling) Is.; cd Congo (DR); cf Central African Republic; cg Congo (Rep.);
ch Switzerland; ci Cote d'Ivoire; ck Cook Islands; cl Chile; cm Cameroon; cn China; co Colombia; cr Costa Rica; cs Serbia and Montenegro; cu Cuba; cv Cape Verde; cx Christmas Island; cy Cyprus; cz Czech Republic; de Germany; dj Djibouti; dk Denmark; dm Dominica; do Dominican Republic; dz Algeria; ec Ecuador; ee Estonia;
eg Egypt; eh Western Sahara; er Eritrea; es Spain; et Ethiopia; fi Finland; fj Fiji; fk Falkland Is.; fm Micronesia; fo Faroe Islands; fr France; ga Gabon; gb United Kingdom; gd Grenada; ge Georgia; gf French Guiana; gg Guernsey; gh Ghana; gi Gibraltar; gl Greenland; gm Gambia; gn Guinea; gp Guadeloupe; gq Equatorial Guinea;
gr Greece; gs South Georgia Is.; gt Guatemala; gu Guam; gw Guinea-Bissau; gy Guyana; hk Hong Kong; hm Heard and McDonald Is.; hn Honduras; hr Croatia; ht Haiti; hu Hungary; id Indonesia; ie Ireland; il Israel; im Isle of Man; in India; io Diego Garcia; iq Iraq; ir Iran; is Iceland; it Italy; je Jersey; jm Jamaica; jo Jordan; jp Japan;
ke Kenya; kg Kyrgyzstan; kh Cambodia; ki Kiribati; km Comoros; kn St Kitts and Nevis; kp North Korea; kr South Korea; kw Kuwait; ky Cayman Is.; kz Kazakhstan; la Laos; lb Lebanon; lc St Lucia; li Liechtenstein; lk Sri Lanka; lr Liberia; ls Lesotho; lt Lithuania; lu Luxembourg; lv Latvia; ly Libya; ma Morocco; mc Monaco; md Moldova;
mg Madagascar; mh Marshall Is.; mk Macedonia; ml Mali; mm Myanmar; mn Mongolia; mo Macau; mp Northern Mariana Is.; mq Martinique; mr Mauritania; ms Montserrat; mt Malta; mu Mauritius; mv Maldives; mw Malawi; mx Mexico; my Malaysia; mz Mozambique; na Namibia; nc New Caledonia; ne Niger; nf Norfolk Is.;
ng Nigeria; ni Nicaragua; nl Netherlands; no Norway; np Nepal; nr Nauru; nu Niue; nz New Zealand; om Oman; pa Panama; pe Peru; pf French Polynesia; pg Papua New Guinea; ph Philippines; pk Pakistan; pl Poland; pm St Pierre and Miquelon; pn Pitcairn Is.; pr Puerto Rico; ps Palestine; pt Portugal; pw Palau; py Paraguay;
qa Qatar; re Reunion Is.; ro Romania; ru Russia; rw Rwanda; sa Saudi Arabia; sb Solomon Is.; sc Seychelles; sd Sudan; se Sweden; sg Singapore; sh St Helena; si Slovenia; sj Svalbard and Jan Mayen Is.; sk Slovakia; sl Sierra Leone; sm San Marino; sn Senegal; so Somalia; sr Suriname; st Sao Tome and Principe; sv El Salvador; sy Syria;
sz Swaziland; tc Turks and Caicos Is.; td Chad; tf French Southern Territories; tg Togo; th Thailand; tj Tajikistan; tk Tokelau; tl East Timor; tm Turkmenistan; tn Tunisia; to Tonga; tp East Timor; tr Turkey; tt Trinidad and Tobago; tv Tuvalu; tw Taiwan; tz Tanzania; ua Ukraine; ug Uganda; uk United Kingdom; um US Minor Outlying Is.;
us United States; uy Uruguay; uz Uzbekistan; va Holy See; vc St Vincent and the Grenadines; ve Venezuela; vg Virgin Is. (Brit.); vi Virgin Is. (US); vn Vietnam; vu Vanuatu; wf Wallis and Futuna Is.; ws Western Samoa; ye Yemen; yt Mayotte; yu Yugoslavia; za South Africa; zm Zambia; zw Zimbabwe.

Centr

ccTLD Map
Country Code Top Level Domains

Domain Names Market Trends over 2004

Sarah Langstone, VeriSign

The year 2004 was marked by record domain growth around the world. The domain name industry reached a new milestone with a total base of 71.4 million domain names at the end of 2004. The historical peak of domain names reflects an eight percent increase in the domain name base in the fourth quarter when compared to the third quarter of 2004, and an 18 percent increase over the fourth quarter of 2003. At the end of 2004, .com remained the largest top level domain (TLD) in terms of its total base of registrations, with .de (Germany), .net and .uk (United Kingdom) holding their respective positions in the top four.

Strong new domain name registration growth throughout 2004 continued in the fourth quarter with 6.4 million new domain names registered. This represents a 48 percent year-over-year increase between the fourth quarters of 2004 and 2003. The growth is driven by key factors including an increasing population of Internet users around the world, an improving global economy and the continued importance of domain registrations for use in the Pay-Per-Click advertising market.
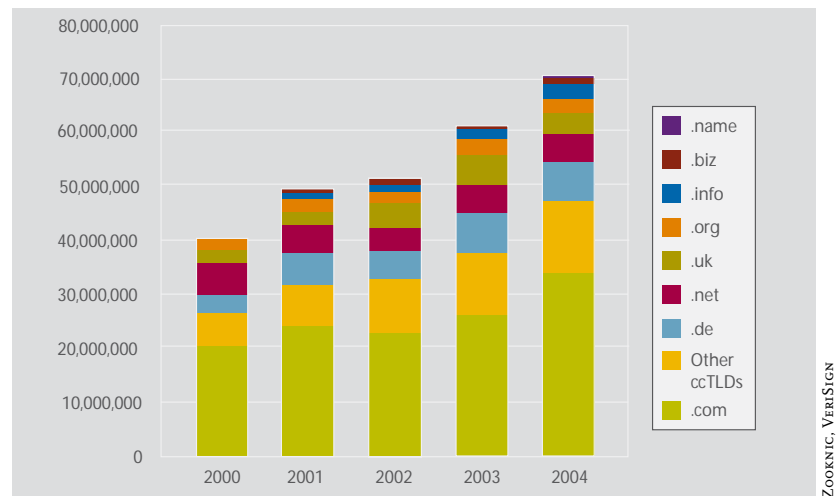
Industry Composition

The .com domain represents 46% of all domain name registrations, followed as a group by country code top level domain names (ccTLDs) at 36%, .net with 7%, and other generic top level domains (gTLDs) such as .org, .biz, .info and .name with 10% collectively.

The number of alternative gTLDs (.biz, .info, .name etc.) registrations increased at the end of 2004. They continue to offer the potential for added growth of the domain name space as well as providing registrants with additional branding and naming solutions.

ccTLD Breakdown

The vast majority of domain name registration growth within the ccTLD market is

Total Domain Name Registrations. January 2005

Zooknic, VeriSign
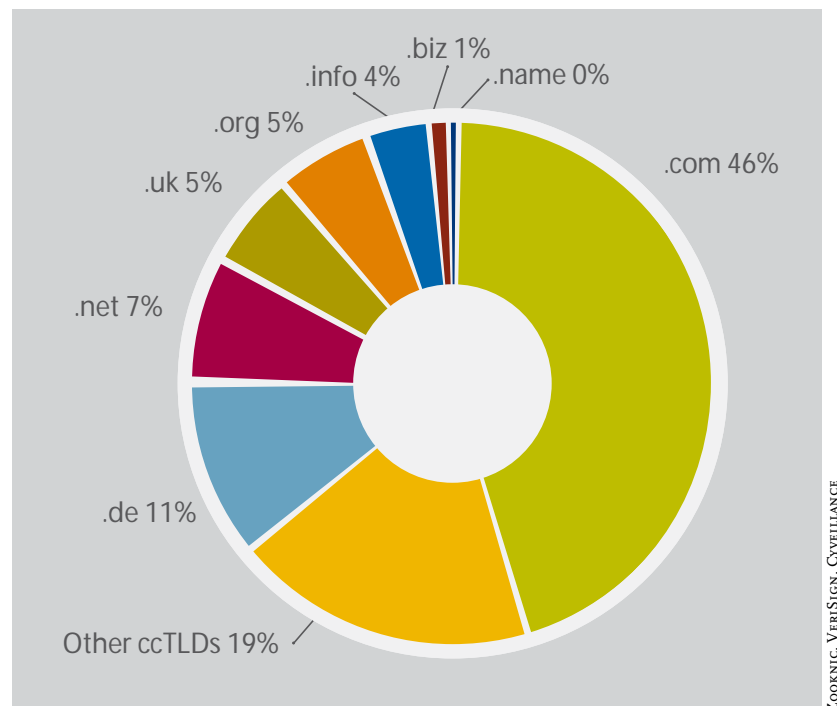
Industry Composition, January 2005

Zooknic, VeriSign, Cyveillance

attributable to a small number of ccTLDs. Out of more than 240 ccTLDs, the top ten account for 71 percent of all ccTLD registrations. Each of the top ten ccTLDs saw growth in the fourth quarter.

The German ccTLD, .de, remained the largest ccTLD in terms of the total base of domain name registrations, with .uk (United Kingdom) as the second largest. Both experienced a 4 percent increase in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter of 2004. Among the top ten largest ccTLDs, .nl (The Netherlands) and .br (Brazil) grew the fastest with a 33 percent, and 31 percent growth rate respectively in further quarter 2004 over foruth quarter 2003.
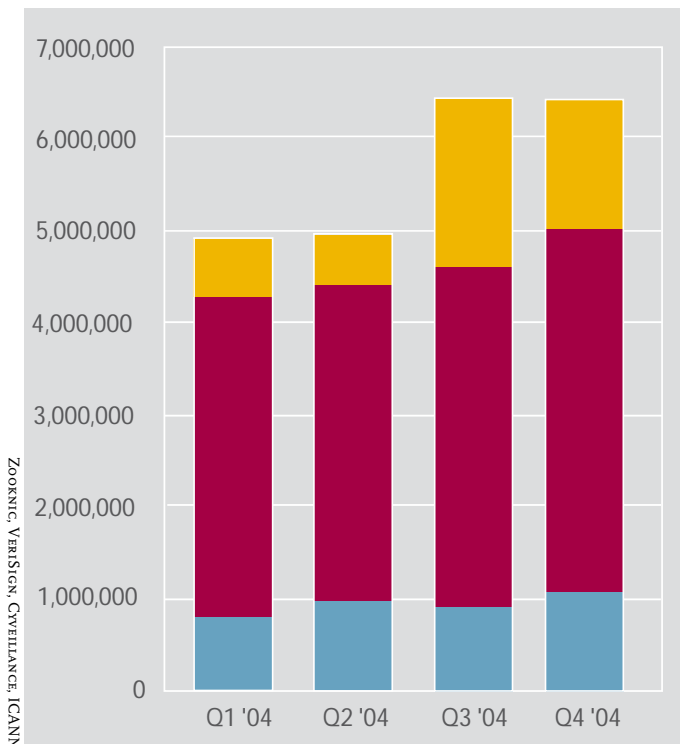
New Registration Growth, January 2005

Sarah Langstone works for VeriSign Naming and Directory Services - the registry for .com, .net, .cc, and .tv. Each quarter, VeriSign produces the "Verisign Domain Name Brief" *with updated market data. These are available for free from*
http://www.verisign.com/domainbrief

News from the Internet Society
Peter Godwin, ISOC

The Internet Society (http://www.isoc.org) is a professional membership society with more than 80 organisation and over 16,000 individual members in over 180 countries. It provides leadership in addressing issues that confront the future of the Internet, and is the organisation home for the groups responsible for Internet infrastructure standards, including the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Architecture Board (IAB).

ISOC comments on the work of the WGIG
ISOC has put much focus lately on helping policymakers understand the importance of preserving and building on the unique open consensus-based processes that are at the heart of the Internet's succcessful development. ISOC has participated in all the open consultations of the Working Group on Internet Governance and has worked together with other members of the Internet community to produce briefings and position papers that explain how the Internet works and that point out the risks of making decisions on new structures without having a good understanding of the current situation. A copy of ISOC's latest commentary on the work of the WGIG can be found here:
http://resources.isoc.org/10501

New member briefings explain root servers
The debate during the WGIG meetings has shown that there are many misconceptions not only about the function of root servers but also about the roles and responsibilities of the root server operators. In order to help participants (particularly those with no technical background or interest) to understand exactly what it is that root servers do, ISOC has just published two new briefings: '*DNS Root Name Servers Explained For Non-Experts*' and '*DNS Root Name Servers Frequently Asked Questions*'. These briefings (and many others) are available here:
http://resources.isoc.org/10502

An interview with the new IETF Chair
IBM Distinguished Engineer and former ISOC Chairman Dr. Brian Carpenter has just taken over the role of IETF Chair. In a recent interview, Brian describes the future challenges facing the IETF and the Internet in general. The full interview is available here:
http://resources.isoc.org/10503

3 Registry Managers. 5 minutes.

Siavash Shashahani
IRNIC
Domain count: 15,500 .ir (Iran) domains
Employees: 4, plus some assistance from parent org.
Industry Model: Direct registration, or through 35 resellers

How does your registry handle domain name disputes?
We have a DRP in place (a modified version of UDRP) which applies to all our domain registrations. However, for third-level registrations (e.g., under .co.ir), additional documents are required prior to registration, which serve as prevent disputes.

How many disputes have you handled?
Two have been settled under our DRP since its inception in December 2003; a few are pending in country courts.

How is your domain growing?
Depends on whether you look at it multiplicatively or additively: We now have 25 times the number of domains we had 4 years ago this time, but that is only an increase of 15,000. The truth is somewhere in between. Although .ir registration started in 1994, the growth was very slow for various reasons until four years ago. It really took off in late December of 2003 when we implemented our new liberalised regulations.

Internet governance or Internet management?
I'd try to avoid 'governance' despite all the disclaimers that 'governance' has nothing to do with 'governments'. We all know in our hearts that the choice of the word is meant not to be neutral in the long run.

Any specific strategy to win your customers over?
Our resellers have their own individual strategies. We try to emphasize the advantages of using the country code vis-à-vis generic TLDs.

A merit and a fault of the Internet ?
Merit: Enabling power for the individual through information and communication.
Fault: The same enabling power can spell potential for catastrophe. Like all advances in technology it has its caveats, but I sincerely believe that its potential harm is more controllable than many other technologies.

Has the Internet expanded your world?
Yes, but not as much as the world of the younger generation. I'm too settled in my ways to let myself get immersed in totally new ventures.

Internet evolution or Internet revolution?
I believe that it will be regarded as a revolution and a major impetus for societal paradigm change fifty years from now. The full potential remains to be realized yet.

How did you end up in this business?
I'm a mathematician by training and through most of professional life, and got into this field by sheer accident. I'm still not tuned to the business aspects of Internet and domain business; the main attraction for me has been the challenge of learning new things.

Andrzej Bartosiewicz
NASK
Domain count: 315,500 .pl (Poland) domains
Employees: 40
Industry Model: Direct, or through 45 registrars

How does your registry handle domain name disputes?
At NASK's request, the Polish Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications has established a Court of Arbitration that mediates in Internet domain name cases. There are approximately 30 cases annually.

How is your domain growing?
We are growing fast on strong foundations.

Internet governance or Internet management?
The Internet – like other components of world's economy – is managed by business with participation of public sector within the national legal systems. There is no need for additional "governance" or "regulation".

Any specific strategy to win your customers over?
Our strategy is to deliver new services, such as EPP registrations, IDNs and wait listing services, based upon well defined procedures and a competitive registry-registrar business model.

A merit and a fault of the Internet?
Merit: Good price and value
Fault: There is too much spam

Has the Internet expanded your world?
The Internet has brought the world closer to us!

Internet evolution or revolution?
Internet is the "revolutionary evolution".

How did you end up in this business?
I completed a Masters of Science (Computer Science) in 1998. I started working as head of the DNS Department at NASK in 2001, after other positions in the IT sector.

Lesley Cowley
Nominet UK
Domain count: 4,000,000 .uk (United Kingdom) domains
Employees: 125
Industry Model: Registration through over 4,000 resellers

How does your registry handle domain name disputes?
Although less than 0.05% of domain names are disputed, we provide an award winning dispute resolution service. The first stage involves free mediation where we resolve 55% of cases, the second stage involves an independent expert decision, with a cost recovery fee. We have handled over 2,000 disputes since September 2001.

Growing fast or growing well?
Both!

De-regulation or regulation?
Industry self-regulation.

Internet governance or Internet management?
Both!

Any specific strategy to win your customers over?
Excellent customer service, low prices calculated on a cost recovery basis, secure and reliable systems, fast automated

technical systems.

A merit and a fault of the Internet?
Merit: A wealth of information and communication at your fingertips.
Fault: The speed at which you can upset people using 'Reply All'

Has the Internet expanded your world?
Yes, and changed my life.

Internet evolution or revolution?
Evolution over time and I suspect that we have only just invented the wheel.

How did you end up in the business?
I have worked for Nominet since 1999, originally joining as the Operations Director. I am now Chief Executive Officer - responsible for the running of Nominet. As a board member, I make a major contribution to strategic planning and decision making.

Japan's Relationship with CENTR

Hiro Hotta, JPRS

Japan Registry Service (JPRS) has been the Associate Member of CENTR since it formally started its .JP registry operation in 2002. Participating in CENTR activities has helped us in developing and reviewing our policies and services. CENTR members have a lot of issues common to JPRS, and can exchange experiences and opinions, even though they vary in their size and backgrounds.

Until now, JPRS staff have taken part in CENTR's Administrative Workshops, where information about various aspects of registry administration and operation is exchanged. The workshops are very helpful for us because CENTR members are creative and proactive in establishing and improving their administration and operation. JPRS has proposed various topics for the workshops, such as registry-registrar relationships, WHOIS, and dispute resolution procedures. We believed such topics were pressing issues and information exchange on these topics should be not only helpful to JPRS, but also for all the members. JPRS has learned a lot from information exchange and discussion shared during the workshops, and these experiences have helped us in making decision about the direction of .JP services.

For example, JPRS proposed dispute resolution procedures, or DRP, as the agenda item for the Administrative Workshop. As a result, CENTR organised a joint DRP session with the Administrative and Legal and Regulatory Workshops in February 2005. As a result of the meeting, a more detailed questionnaire was developed among the participants and distributed to the CENTR members with the help of the Secretariat. The results of the survey were shared by the members, and along with the meeting discussion, helped us learn a great deal. We took that information, and it formed a strong basis for our review and reconstruction of the DRP under .JP.

Another issue which has been of great interest to us was the IDN homograph attack issue (see page 6) which emerged suddenly in February. JPRS issued its own statement to the public, as well as a joint statement issued CENTR. This problem had the extraordinary impact on all the ccTLDs with regard to IDN implementation. During the drafting process, many member ccTLDs made inputs to the Secretariat's draft, and as a result, CENTR issued a strong statement. As a result of statements from CENTR and other organisations, an overreaction by software developers (such as web browser creators) including disabling IDN functionality, was deterred. CENTR members marched arm in arm and yielded a result that might not be obtained by he activity of a single ccTLD. This is just an example, and I believe CENTR can reach further milestones with the collective effort and contribution of the members.

As described, I believe CENTR is a excellent forum for information exchange and opinion building. It is worthwhile sharing issues in CENTR, even when each ccTLD already tackles on the issues locally on its own. Individual ccTLD registries have limited resources and a small voice, but friendly competition and cooperation made in CENTR can yield a bigger result with greater efficiency. JPRS is thankful to CENTR in this regard, and will continue to participate in and contribute to CENTR activities.

Hiro Hotta is Director of Corporate Planning at JPRS, the registry for the .jp (Japan) country code domain. He is also a Council Member of the ICANN ccNSO.
http://www.jprs.jp

ICC Viewpoint
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only governments and intergovernmental organisations that can promote coordination at the international level.

Technical management of the Internet
The development and deployment of the Internet and ICTs globally depend upon private sector technical innovation, investment, planning and operations to address user needs. ICC believes that maintaining private sector leadership of the technical management of the Internet is fundamental to the stability, security and smooth functioning of the Internet while recognising the need for such activities to be inclusive and to improve continuously to meet existing and evolving requirements. ICC urges all stakeholders to avoid changes that could lead to national and/or regional fragmentation of the Internet and encourages recognition that the Internet is working without major (disruptive) problems, and has been for quite some time.

Conclusion
The introduction of competition, as well as liberalisation and privatisation of the telecoms sector, have all been important steps taken in many countries, and they have been helpful to Internet deployment and growth. The Internet is based on a protocol that has been able to function on top of even regulated, monopoly facilities and that has allowed competition among providers of applications to offer users capabilities that have stimulated innovation and exponential Internet growth.

The Internet has become an integral part of how we live, work, communicate, and function. The WSIS and WGIG processes can help to ensure that the Internet is available to all. Internet governance should support the innovative multistakeholder processes that make the Internet function as it does and provide the needed coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels that will help the Internet thrive.

Ayesha Hassan is Senior Policy Manager of Electronic Business, IT and Telecommunications at the International Chamber of Commerce. Founded in 1919, ICC is the world business organisation, the only representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world.
http://www.iccwbo.org

Why care about Internet governance?
Giovanni Seppia, CENTR

"No single body alone can take care of everything. That is, a grand collaboration between all concerned bodies is needed".

In November 2004, CENTR members replied to a widely circulated issues paper by Houlin Zhao, Director of Telecommunication Standardisation Sector (ITU-T). The response stressed a core message of Mr Zhao's, that "Internet governance should work the same way the Internet does, decentralised where possible and highly networked".

Then, following the developments of the WGIG process, CENTR decided to create a working group to submit some comments focused on the papers *"Towards a Common Understanding of the Roles and Responsibilities of all Stakeholders in Internet Governance"* and to the Cluster 1 B2 assessment *"Domain Name Management"*.

In the final paper, the working group endorsed that *"the overwhelming majority of the private sectors actors have demonstrated their capability to fulfil their tasks and to make their contribution to the functioning of the Internet. With regard to the practical management there is no specific weakness in the system"*.

It is also stated that *"CENTR believes that transparency and democracy should be the milestones of any coordination process at the Internet Governance level. We would like to see an increased dialogue among all Internet stakeholders and organisations such as ICANN. Our members believe that the management of the Internet at all levels requires effective participation and co-ordination and that each stakeholder must play its own role recognising the expertise and the achievements of other actors"*.

According to its calendar, the WGIG is expected to submit the final report to the UN Secretary General by July this year, on time for the PrepCom III, due to be held in September, and the second phase of the World Summit of Information Society scheduled in Tunis in November.

The response by CENTR's WGIG working group is at:
www.centr.org/docs/2005/04/centr-wgig-comments.pdf

Giovanni Seppia is General Manager of CENTR. He previously worked as Head of External Relations for .it (Italy).

Calendar of Events

2005

24 May	CENTR Open Day	*Brussels, Belgium*
25 May	CENTR 19th Legal & Regulary meeting	*Brussels, Belgium*
8-10 June	WSIS Regional Meeting	*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*
14 June	WGIG Open Consultation Meeting	*Geneva, Switzerland*
16-17 June	CENTR 26th General Assembly	*Trondheim, Norway*
27-30 June	RIPE NCC Regional Meeting	*Kazan, Russia*
27-30 June	LACNIC VIII	*Lima, Peru*
6 – 7 July	APTLD Meeting	*Singapore*
11-15 July	ICANN	*Luxembourg City, Luxembourg*
16-20 July	SANOG VI	*Thimphu, Bhutan*
31 July	CENTR 14th Technical Workshop	*Paris, France*
31 July-5 Aug	IETF 63	*Paris, France*
22-26 Aug	20th APAN Meeting	*Taipei, Taiwan*

6-9 Sep	APNIC 20	*Hanoi, Vietnam*
29-30 Sep	CENTR 27th General Assembly	*Moscow, Russia*
10-14 Oct	RIPE 51	*Amsterdam, the Netherlands*
23-25 Oct	NANOG 35	
26-28 Oct	ARIN	
6-11 Nov	IETF 64	*Vancouver, Canada*
16-18 Nov	WSIS Second Phase	*Tunis, Tunisia*
21 Nov	CENTR 7th Administrative Workshop	*Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
22-23 Nov	CENTR 28th General Assembly	*Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
30 Nov-4 Dec	ICANN	*Vancouver, Canada*

2006

22 Feb-3 Mar	APRICOT 2006	*Perth, Australia*
27 Feb-3 Mar	APNIC 21	*Perth, Australia*
2-3 Mar	CENTR 29th General Assembly & AGM	*Brussels, Belgium*
27-31 Mar	ICANN	*Wellington, New Zealand*