MEMBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

(.at) The latest .at Report is available
The report covers facts and figures regarding the .at zone as well as details of a Domain Name Strategy Study carried out in Austria. Click for the Report.

(.ca) Online Scam Warning for Internet Users
CIRA has received reports of an online scam, wherein “renewdomain.ca” is sending out fake email renewal notices to .CA Registrants.

(.ch) Federal Supreme Court upholds SWITCH’s appeal
In the switchplus case, the Federal Supreme Court upheld SWITCH’s appeal on 14 August 2012. The Foundation has noted the verdict with satisfaction.

(.ee) The Estonian Internet Foundation announces public procurement audit of domain registry software security
The Estonian Internet Foundation announced the public procurement for an audit of the code of the information systems (Domain Registry Software Security Audit) it uses.

(.eu) .eu at Danish business start-up convention
EURid is raising .eu visibility in Denmark by attending the Ivaerk & Vaekst 2012 business start-up convention in Copenhagen, Denmark from 14-15 September.

(.fr) Registrar Day 2012: Lyon, 4 October – Paris, 9 October
Afnic organizes two days dedicated to its Registrars. These events will focus on the changes operated in 2012 and prospects for 2013.

(.ie) Record number entries for Dot ie Net Visionary Awards 2012
The Irish Internet Association (“IIA”) announced the shortlist for this year’s Dot ie Net Visionary Awards and online voting is now open.

(.is) VID (Very Important Domains)
An important change, designed to increase security of .is domains is being planned. “Very Important Domains”, or VID.

(.pl) Polish Domain Market Q2 2012 Report Available

(.nl) Drop-catching and Whois are the subjects for the Domain Name Debate 2012
SIDN is organising the 2012 Domain Name Debate at the Koninklijke Schouwburg in The Hague on 28 September. SIDN uses such debates to gauge stakeholder opinion on proposed changes to the rules governing the Netherlands’ internet domain.

(.nz) InternetNZ approves new second level domain - .kiwi.nz
InternetNZ is pleased to announce that it has approved the creation of a new second level domain in the .nz domain name space - .kiwi.nz.

(.org) .ORG Sixth Largest TLD As Registrations Grow Strongly

(.rs) Registrations open for Serbian IDN .срб
On 1 August 2012, registrations opened with a Land Rush for the Serbian IDN .срб

(.ru) RU domain name registrations approaching 4 million
The Coordination Center for TLD .RU, responsible for the administration for .RU, is approaching 4 million domain name registrations under .RU

(.uk) Registrar web based satisfaction survey
Nominet are committed to providing all customers with the highest levels of service. To help us achieve this, on Tuesday 28 August we are launching a short web based satisfaction survey to registrars to measure the level of satisfaction in the support services that we offer.

Recent CENTR Publications
IETF84 Report
Below is a short summary of selected responses from the above mentioned survey. CENTR Members have access to full results.

**Methods of Billing and Pricing**

**Payment methods offer to Registrars**

- Invoice: 15
- Deposit: 15
- Credit Card: 9
- Pre-authorised debit: 6
- Other: 6

**Billing Frequency**

- Monthly: 18
- Other: 4
- Yearly: 2
- Quarterly: 1

**Are volume and/or Growth Discounts offered to Registrars**

- Neither: 20
- Volume Discounts only: 3
- Volume and Growth...: 2
- Growth Discounts only: 1

**Changes Registrars would like to see made concerning pricing and billing**

- **Lower Prices**
  - Importance: Low, 20%; Medium, 30%; High, 50%

- **Volume Discounts**
  - Importance: Low, 20%; Medium, 30%; High, 50%

- **Growth Discounts**
  - Importance: Low, 20%; Medium, 30%; High, 50%

- **More Payment methods/options**
  - Importance: Low, 20%; Medium, 30%; High, 50%

- **More flexibility in registration periods**
  - Importance: Low, 20%; Medium, 30%; High, 50%

**CENTR Statistics**

- **DOMAIN COUNTER:** 63,383,670
  - August 2012
  - CENTR Full Members Only
  - This count represents a growth of 0.37% from the previous month. The largest contribution to this growth in absolute value was .ru and in percentage terms the highest growth over the month was Serbian IDN .crb largely due to the landrush opening of registrations in the TLD.

Source: CENTR domain counter, ccTLD Registry websites) and hosterstats.com for gTLDs
A Brief Account of Chinese Domain Name Registrations

The result of these steps was very effective with the percentage of domain name abuse dropping sharply which in turn helped .cn to become a trusted TLD. However, during the process, the Registry lost much of its registrations (which were mainly the illicit domain name registrations). So the count dropped to less than 4,000,000.

**.CN TODAY**

Thanks to the improved brand image as a secure and reliable TLD, the registrations have been gradually rising since 2011. This was helped also by the fact that rather than having to produce corporate ID's as validation, individuals can register domains using only personal IDs for validation. This change was made possible given the improvements to mechanisms monitoring domain name abuse and tracking. The registrations count of .cn has been quickly recovering since then and on the rise.

Article Courtesy of Hongbin Zhu
Senior International Strategist - CNNIC

**BACKGROUND**

2007
In response to the market demand in the emerging Chinese Internet Community, the Registry initiated a promotional program entitled “1 RMB Experience”. Due to the lower pricing, the registration volume of .cn sharply increased to 13 million by the end of 2008, which was the top count among all the ccTLDs at the time.

After this .cn boom, it was found that the domain name abuse had also increased considerably along with the domain name registration, especially in terms of illegal content, Spam and inaccurate WHOIS records. In order to keep the consumer trust, the Registry suspended the “1 RMB Experience” program in 2009. The registrations subsequently fell.

2009
“Target Abusive Domain Name Program” was launched. As part of this, a 3 step program to fight domain name abuse was created;

1. Cooperation with Abusive Information Complaint Center of China Internet Society to shut down the website and cancel the illicit domain name registration when receiving validated complaint.

2. CNNIC conducts a strict Whois Accuracy review of existing domain name and require the domain name registrant to submit Photo ID for validation of the whois data. Failure to provide such proof, results in the domain name registration being cancelled.

3. For new domain name applications, the Registry starts conducting strict registrant information validation before activation of the domain name. Also incorporate requirements for every new applicant to submit proof of establishment of the registration entity (Corporate registration ID, etc.) to validate the information.

The result of these steps was very effective with the percentage of domain name abuse dropping sharply which in turn helped .cn to become a trusted TLD. However, during the process, the Registry lost much of its registrations (which were mainly the illicit domain name registrations). So the count dropped to less than 4,000,000.

**.CN TODAY**

Thanks to the improved brand image as a secure and reliable TLD, the registrations have been gradually rising since 2011. This was helped also by the fact that rather than having to produce corporate ID's as validation, individuals can register domains using only personal IDs for validation. This change was made possible given the improvements to mechanisms monitoring domain name abuse and tracking. The registrations count of .cn has been quickly recovering since then and on the rise.