



MEMBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

(.at)

[nic.at launches DNSSEC security standard for .at-domains](#)

Leap day on the Internet: 29 February 2012 is also a special day for the .at-zone. At 11.35 a.m., the local domain registry nic.at activated the security extension DNSSEC for .at-domains.

(.be)

[DNS.be to manage .vlaanderen and .brussels](#)

DNS.be have recently confirmed they will operate by the .brussels extension as well as .vlaanderen for the Flemish government

(.ca)

[Changes to CIRA's WHOIS look-up directory](#)

For security reasons, WHOIS will now only return a single search result for the exact term entered into the search bar.

(.eu)

[.eu consumer interest underscored by strong annual renewals and Q4 growth](#)

On average, 81.6% of registered .eu domain names were renewed in 2011, according to the latest quarterly progress report from the .eu top-level domain registry, EURid. .eu has maintained a renewal rate of over 80% for the past five years.

(.fr)

[AFNIC announces candidacy for 11 top-level extensions corresponding to all the French territories](#)

Following the publication of the calls for applications AFNIC has announced candidacy for the extensions and has launched its campaign of calls for support.

(.ch)

[SWITCH is considering taking the Swiss Federal Administrative Court's judgement further](#)

In the case of switchplus, the Swiss Federal Administrative Court rejected SWITCH's complaint on 13 February 2012. The Foundation regrets the negative judgement, which restricts its economic freedom and is examining all the possible options.

(.es)

[.es & .se exchange experiences and best practices](#)

A delegation from the Swedish TLD .se visited Spain to learn about the Dominios.es management model and to share experiences in this field.

(.pt)

[FCCN announces the liberalization of .pt domain registration](#)

The Foundation for National Scientific Computing announced, the liberalization of .pt domain registration, from May 1, 2012. Also made public were new rules for registering .pt domain names.

ICANN43 Highlights

- * ICANN falls short in IANA proposal (6 months extension)
- * European Commission unhappy about ICANN's performance
- * GAC positive on progress LEA recommendations
- * GAC: "no need to expand IOC/Red Cross protection to others.."
- * 27 TLDs congratulated for 25th year anniversaries
- * Discussion on whois accuracy and validation in many sessions
- * Results from Finance Working Group survey met with applause
- * FOI working group finished first stage of their workplan
- * 'Batching' of new gTLD applicants met with criticism
- * CEO search narrows to down
- * Debates on new gTLDs affect on ccTLDs: "unique selling point"

ICANN43: [Full Report Available here](#)

Member news continued.

(.se)

[Partnership between Nominet OpenDNSSEC from Sweden](#)

Swedish company OpenDNSSEC, which is operated by .SE, will receive a capital injection of £35,000 from Nominet, which is in charge of the British UK top-level domain .uk. This will provide additional stability to the operation, which develops the OpenDNSSEC software, as well as support and training when introduced to promote a more reliable Internet.

(.uk)

[.uk - fit for the future at 10 million](#)

The .uk registry has now hit over 10 million domains – maintaining its position as the world's second largest country code registry.

[Nominet confirmed for Welsh bid](#)

The Welsh Government has announced it is happy for Nominet to bid for a new Top Level Domain (TLD) for Wales.

Recent Publications

(* = full member access)

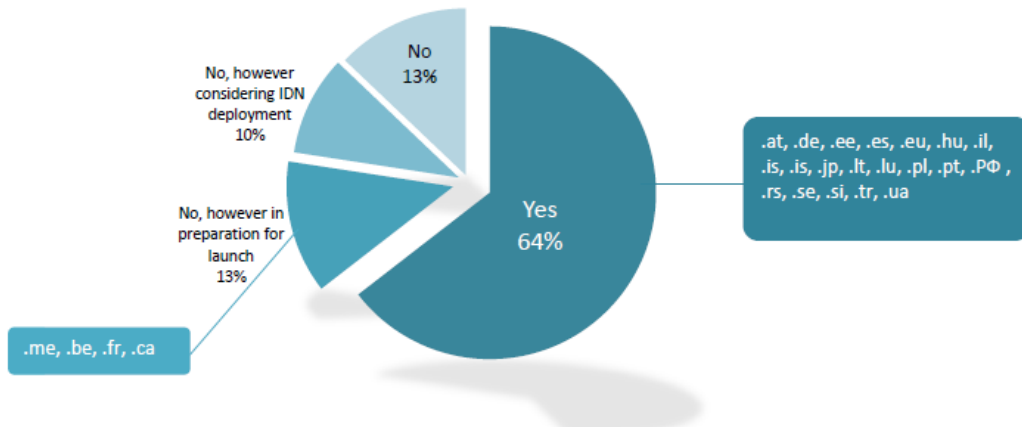
[ICANN43 Report](#)

[Survey Summary: Launch and use of IDN*](#)

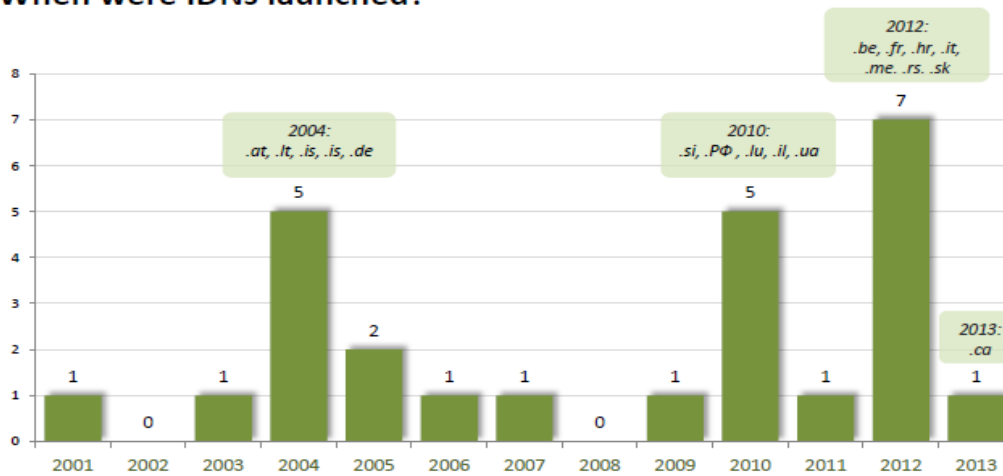
[Regional Organisation Joint Survey Report*](#)

[Meeting Minutes: GA47*](#)

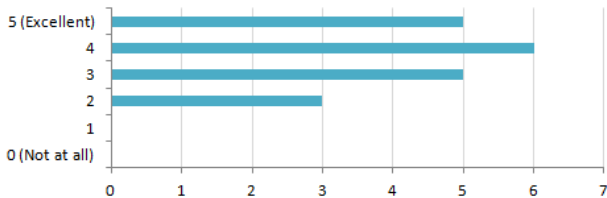
Does the registry allow IDN registrations?



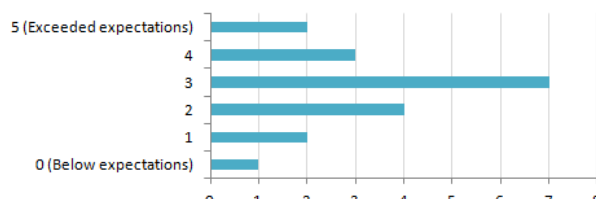
When were IDNs launched?



How well are IDNs supported by the Registrars

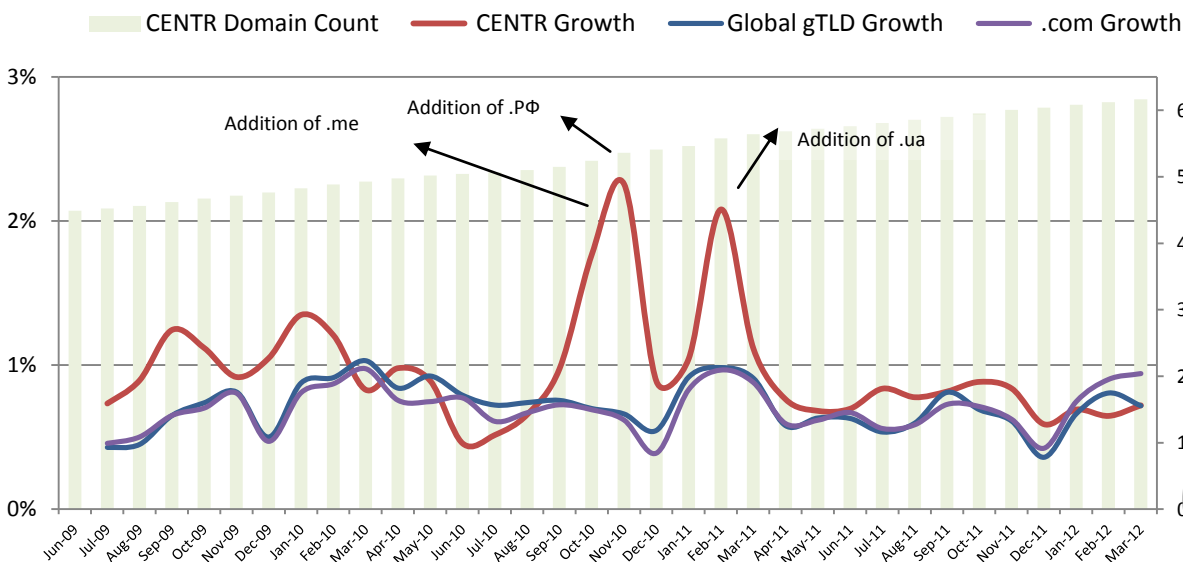


How does IDN registrations relate to Registry expectations



Respondents to question: 19

CENTR Statistics – monthly growth



DOMAIN NAME COUNTER:

61,649,826

MARCH 2012

CENTR Full Members

This count represents a growth of 0.72% from the previous month. The largest contribution to this growth in absolute value was .de and in percentage terms the highest growth was .re

New gTLDs: cautious liberalization

Francesca Nicolini (.it)

Stefano Trumpy is a Research Associate at IIT and was at the helm of the Italian Registry from its early days in 1987 until 1999. He has also been the Italian representative of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN since the second meeting held in Berlin in May 1999 - he is thus GAC's oldest member. Trumpy has played a key role in the Internet Society (ISOC) as a member of the Advisory Council in his role as representative of the CNR-CNUCE (a founding member). He has been involved in discussions on the enlargement of the number of registries of domain names, which began within ISOC in 1995. To pursue these discussions, ISOC brought together different actors in the Internet community, as well as private sector organizations and network users.

Will the liberalization of the gTLDs usher in a new era of the Internet?

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has seen the introduction of 17 new generic type registries, and all things considered they have been less successful than expected. So it may be that the market for domain names is close to saturation and that network users are conditioned by those names that are now perceived as having a status symbol. If we consider, for example, that dot coms (.com) represent approximately 45% of the total of all domain names, then the new registries are going to take a long time to make any inroads. The project to widen the supply of registries is still a significant innovation that expands the possibility of companies and institutions to gain recognition on the web. But we will have to wait a few years before seeing any tangible success and impact on users.

So it seems like ICANN are backtracking somewhat, moving from extreme restrictions, especially on concessions of new gTLDs, to perhaps an excessive liberalization.

ICANN has proceeded with caution in the introduction of new gTLDs and most of these have been "sponsored", i.e. they are managed by organizations that select users in terms of particular categories. Liberalisation is a bit of a gamble since applicants will have to pay substantial sums and provide assurance that the rights and expectations of users will be respected, and only those applications that pass a series of evaluations of competencies will be accepted. So this is not exactly an 'easy' liberalization.

What is the so-called "sunrise" period?

This is period during which interested parties will be able to protect second level names such as trade marks or toponyms. This should decrease the need for an excess of "defensive registrations" i.e. registrations made to protect the names of "brands", trademarks, geographical names, family names, and so on.

So are there any names that will be part of a "black list"?

At this point GAC will have a significant role in that, in an initial phase of 60 days after the publication of the list of proposals (May 1, 2012), called "early warning", the board will report names that could potentially create concern in terms of "morality and public order". However, there is no pre-defined blacklist as such.

Do you think that the stability of the network is in danger?

No. The technical skills of the operators of root servers are such that we do not have to worry about the stability of the network. Comprehensive assessments are in place of the impact that new registries will have on increasing the size of the "root zone file" which contains the addresses of all domain name registries. Today, this file contains 273 records and this number may reach a few thousand in three to five years. ICANN have stated however that they do not intend to approve more than 250 registries per year.

Have ICANN already estimated how many applications they might receive and how many new gTLDs will be created?

The first "call" started on 12 January this year and will close on 12 April. The most reasonable forecasts range from 400 to 800 applications (although some believe that the number could be considerably higher), but it is difficult to predict how many of these will get through the sieve. I would say not more than 50% are likely to be approved. Those that pull out of the application are scheduled to be partially reimbursed by ICANN.

Why would a famous brand, a bank or a region apply for their own specific extension? For advertising/publicity? Security? Reliability?

Any applicant for a new registry still needs to set up a real registry and then cover all the related costs. In any case, the owners of famous brands and cities may wish to improve their image. Any such publicity thus obtained through the Internet may have a lower cost than using other media.

In this global economic crisis, are new investments likely to be made in the Internet domain industry?

Everything is relative. The cost for registering a domain name is low on a per-user basis. If there are many registrants, the manager of the registry may still be able to recover the initial cost and then become profitable. I believe that a fair number of managers of the new registries will not see any profits for several years. In some cases, if the registry has promotional aims, the cost of being in the red may nevertheless be absorbed by the return on advertising.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RIPE 64 – April 16-20 - Ljubljana

[Click here for Agenda Timeline](#)



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