CENTR news

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Current affairs, news and articles from
European Country Code Top Level Domain Registries

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NETmundial produces outcomes

NETmundial Global Stakeholder meeting wraps up in San Paulo with tangible outcomes and ccTLDs pledge multi-year funding for IGF Secretariat

Last week CENTR attended the NETmundial meeting in Sao Paolo, Brazil and the CENTR office also served as the Brussels hub for the live streaming of the meeting.

The NETmundial conference was hosted by Brazil (and 12 co-hosting countries) and organized by the manager of .BR and ICANN. While triggered by the revelations by Edward Snowden and the speech by the Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff that followed from it, the conference was not meant to and did not only focus on the global scaled privacy violations.

NETmundial was unique and mostly successful in a number of ways. First and most importantly, because of its format. In what looked like a cross-over between an ICANN public forum and a multilateral conference, stakeholders were divided in 4 groups (civil society, Government, Technical community/academia, private sector) and allocated each the same speaking time. Participation of the governmental delegations exceeded most observers' expectations by far.

The result is that the outcome of the meeting can hardly be neglected. Where after WCIT 2013, the government delegations were divided, NETmundial has shown them getting together and agreeing - with the other stakeholders on a common set of principles.

Secondly, because it produced a tangible outcome. Most multistakeholder forums have shied away from doing so because they want to avoid controversy or fear failure to reach consensus. The NETmundial Multistakeholder statement of Sao Paolo is a clear and structured document that will be used as a guidance for upcoming multistakeholder meetings such as the IGF. The document contains two sections: Internet Governance Principles and a Roadmap for the Future Evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem.

From the initial, rather cautious, document that was proposed to the conference, 3 principles got a lot of attention and ended up being strengthened significantly: privacy, permissionless innovation and the protection of intermediaries.

One principle was removed from the topics for further discussion: net neutrality. While private sector intervention successfully prevented Netnuetrality from ending up in the principles, the commitment to discuss it further on a global forum should not be underestimated. In the Roadmap section, most of the debate focused on the future of IGF and the IANA stewardship transition. There is general agreement that IGF should be strengthened and a pledge had been made by the ccTLDs to provide for multi-year funding for the IGF secretariat. The discussions on IANA stewardship transition zoomed in on the process, in particular on the scope of the discussion that ICANN will organize. The text concluded with "It is desirable to discuss the adequate relation between the policy and operational aspects.". However, the angle from that discussion was already removed when the ICANN CEO announced the immediate start of an ICANN improvement process, open to everyone, that will run in parallel with the debates on the IANA stewardship transition.

Was NETmundial flawless? - No

Some of the processes could be more transparent. While it was genuinely felt that the outcome document reflected the input and the organizers went through great lengths of demonstrating total transparency, the lack of definition of "consensus" was a weakness.

Almost half of a two-day conference was wasted on welcoming speeches. Of course, it is crucial to get high level (governmental) support, but that support should be recognized in ways other than queuing up thirty (30!) speakers.

NETmundial's importance is that it brought together the different stakeholders on a level playing field more as equals than ever before. It will revive multistakeholder forums all over the world and gave the Internet Governance world a tangible outcome that can be used as guidance and as a To Do list. NETmundial easily exceeded most expectations.

Domain Name Demand and Global Trade

Domains and trade - What's the link? A recent CENTR study discovered a striking parallel between the volume of new domain registrations and global trade. Analysing 5 years of domain name data shows a fall back in the registration of new ccTLD and gTLD domain names roughly around the time Global Trade slowed down after the 2008 financial crisis. Also the subsequent recovery periods suggest a strong connection between macro-economic conditions and demand for domains with new demand occupying a possible predictive role in the relationship.

This observation is part of a larger CENTR research on domain name growth during the period 2008-2013 based on monthly data provided by 39 CENTR Members. The research looked at new demand, deletions and net growth among ccTLDs and gTLDs. The report is available on the CENTR website – click the icon below for the report

Recent Growth Trends within CENTR and gTLD Registries

Analysis of 2008-2013 domain registrations
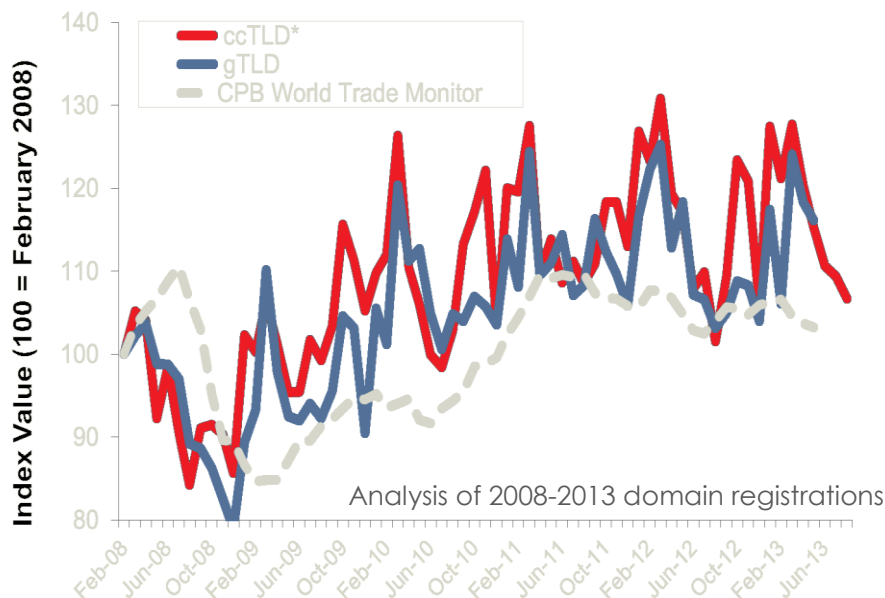
DNSSEC introduction for domain holders

A short **video** has been published by the Estonian Internet Foundation (Registry for .ee) to explain DNSSEC technology and its importance to domain owners. The video is aimed at the regular internet users and explains the protocol in non-technical terms.

DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions) protects Internet users and domain owners by giving a guarantee that the user has not been unwittingly redirected to another page from the page they were trying to reach.

The video was supported by the European Union Structural Funds programme "Raising Public Awareness about the Information Society". The video/production of the video was ordered by the Estonian Information System Authority.

Click above to open the video

Estonian Internet Foundation

More about DNSSEC and the Estonian Internet Foundation at www.internet.ee/en

A non-profit association and the incumbent manager of the *.fr* TLD, AFNIC is a multi-registry operator of the top-level domains corresponding to the national territory of France (the *.fr* TLD and those of the overseas territories) and of several French projects for new Internet top level domains (TLDs). This month CENTR asked Pascal Vella (AFNIC's Community Manager) and Clémence Davoust (AFNIC's Event Communication Manager) about their roles in the organisation.

Pascal Vella   Clémence Davoust

What does a 'Community Manager' and an 'Event Communication Manager' with Afnic do?

Pascal: The Afnic Community Manager handles all of AFNIC's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter…) publishing content and listens to AFNIC's online community. I create, manage and/or adapt texts, images and videos for the Afnic website as well as for the different types of audiences on our social networks, often coordinated with our Press Relation Manager. I am also in charge of the AFNIC Newsletter.

Clémence: The role of the Afnic Event Communication Manager is to multitask. I organize events in France and abroad from A to Z, initiated by one of AFNIC's departments (e.g. Annual Registrar Day for our Commercial Department), by external parties (CENTR Jamboree 2014 in Paris) or directly for the Communication Department (French Nights during ICANN meetings). Organizing an event includes: schedule definition, venue reservation, atmosphere design, invitation handling, goodies ordering, logistics and people coordination…

What do you like best in your job? (What keeps you going? The attractiveness? etc.)

Pascal: I love how my job needs several different skills, from writing news articles for the Afnic website to filming/editing/live-tweeting an Afnic event.

Clémence: Every day is different! I also really love to see an event come to life!

Which personal achievement(s) since the start of your careers at AFNIC are you most proud of?

Pascal: The most important would be to have (initiated from scratch) the Afnic Social Media strategy but also creating an AFNIC newsletter, making the magazine that celebrated 25 years of .fr and launching the AFNIC Blog.

Clémence: Seeing the popularity of the recurring events I organize grow year after year (French Nights, Registrar Days). The most memorable (in size and importance) event I organized was the celebration of the .fr 25th anniversary at the Eiffel Tower with incredible features.

What are your favourite type of events to organize and to attend?

Pascal: I have loved organizing the Afnic Scientific Council Open Day each year for the past three years! In addition to meeting cool scientific geeks, I get to live-tweet and coordinate a live webcast!

I also love to attend CENTR Marketing workshops each time I had the chance to go. I love how communications/marketing departments from around the world exchange their experiences and good practices during these workshops. It's a great opportunity to cultivate relations with our counterparts!

Clémence: For me personally the French Nights are my favourite events. Every time I get to discover a new culture and sometimes I get to learn new ways to negotiate according to the country I work with. I love attending ICANN meetings and see how the registry events are organized and meet other communication managers from other registries.

Afnic is kindly hosting the CENTR workshop jamboree 2014 in June. What is your role in the organization of the event?

Pascal & Clémence: Together with CENTR, we have benchmarked and negotiated the prices for a venue in Paris that seemed to meet the expectations for a CENTR Jamboree. We really wanted the whole event to be meaningful for people who have never been in Paris before. This is why we wanted the venue to be near to a typical Parisian landmark, the Eiffel Tower. With this same vision we organized the main social event: a boat tour on the Seine to visit Paris by night in springtime with typical French cuisine and wine! We also planned the two other social events: a welcome cocktail at the meeting venue on Sunday evening and on Monday evening a guided tour at the new AFNIC offices with typical food from our 5 new geoTLDs! We also had lots of fun designing a special CENTR Jamboree T-shirt. We are now supporting the workshop chairs and getting them in touch with AFNIC employees and French specialists to help them prepare the content of the workshops. And of course, as the local host the Jamboree attendees who are planning to spend some extra days in Paris can count on us as we are compiling information to help them out for their whole stay in France!

More information on AFNIC, visit the website

News Highlights

Belgians opting more and more for .be The share of the .be extension among Belgians rose in 2013 to 61.45%. That is a good 3% higher than its share in 2012.

100,000th domain registered in .by .by (Belarus) hit one hundred thousand domains and was also the highest growth CENTR member in the previous quarter (5.7%) - DomainWire Stat Report.

CIRA President unanimously re-elected chair of the ccNSO Byron Holland, was unanimously re-elected as chair of the Country Code Name Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

EURid confirmed as .eu registry manager EURid has been confirmed as registry manager of.eu TLD for the next 5 years

Afnic Re-Organization The new organization of Afnic will support and develop multi-registry activity against an increasingly competitive background

Registro.it publishes 'Yearbook 2013' The magazine gives a comprehensive look of the events and activities of the .it Registry over 2013.

Recommendations for DNSSEC deployment A guide designed as an aid and tool for municipalities that intending to implement DNSSEC has been released.

NORID to open .no domains to private individuals The result of a public consultation is that starting 17 June, everyone in Norway can register their own domain name directly within .no

Russian Internet Governance Forum discusses human rights and cyber security The 5th Russian Internet Governance Forum held themed panels on cyber security, online privacy and prospects for developing innovative TLDs.

Nominet opens London office for R&D Nominet London in the heart of the Tech City will be focused on research and development as they continue diversification efforts.

Publications

NETmundial - Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance

Shortly before the NETmundial Meeting held recently in San Paulo, CENTR released a background paper on the event. The paper gave an overview of what the meeting was about and why it would be relevant for ccTLDs. More detail on the outcome of this meeting is on page 1 of this newsletter. **Click here to open the paper**

Upcoming Events

Once a Year, CENTR combines all its themed workshops together in one week – the CENTR Jamboree. This year's event will be held in Paris between the 2nd and 4th of June. Click workshop titles to see more detail

CENTR Workshop Jamboree 2014

2 June	7th CENTR **Security** workshop
	14th CENTR **Marketing** workshop
3 June	30th CENTR **Technical** workshop
	32nd CENTR **Administrative** workshop
4 June	6th CENTR **R&D** workshop
	44th CENTR **Legal** & **Regulatory** workshop
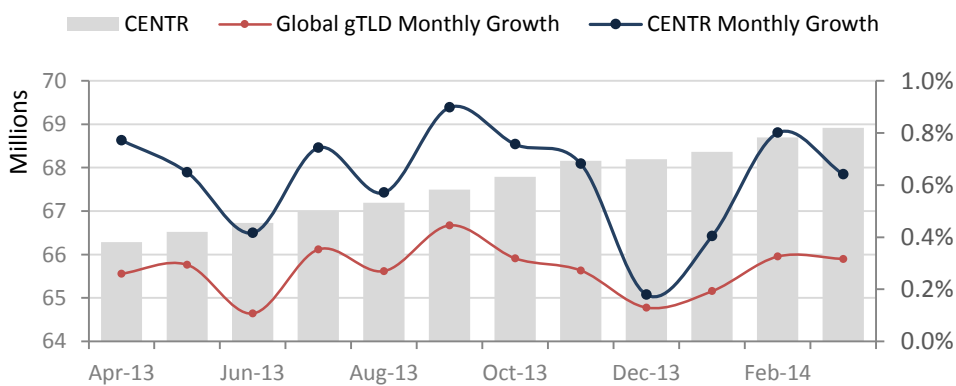
Source: CENTR stat database, gTLDs: Hosterstats.com
Note: 'CENTR' members represent more than 95% of European ccTLDs in terms of domain registrations

CENTR Total Registrations

68,918,901

CENTR Full Members

The CENTR membership grew 0.33% in March and 4.5% over the past 12 months.

The highest growth member for March was .ir (Iran) with 2.7% and in absolute terms was .de (Germany) adding over 43,000 domains net.

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