

The .nlyst

COVENANT BETWEEN SIDN AND DUTCH GOVERNMENT EXTENDED

On 30 September, SIDN and the Ministry of Economic Affairs extended the covenant under which both parties undertake to assure the continuous availability of the .nl domain. Thomas de Haan, Policy Coordinator at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Maarten Simon, Legal & Policy Advisor at SIDN, reflect on this milestone.

Self-regulation

Back in 2008, signing a covenant with the Dutch government was by no means an obvious step for SIDN. "A lot of our peers thought we were crazy," recalls Maarten Simon. "What registry would want to do a deal with the huge, meddling machinery of state?" The fear was that an agreement would enable the government to influence SIDN's policy. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. The covenant confirms that it is SIDN that defines the policy for .nl, not the government. As Thomas de Haan clarifies, "The Ministry works on the principle of self-regulation where possible, regulation where necessary."



Maarten Simon,
Legal & Policy Advisor SIDN

First contact

The covenant's formal history goes back to 2005, when the Ministry and SIDN signed a joint statement of intent. However, informal contact began well before that. "Even when the number of registered domain names was relatively

small, we were well aware that the .nl domain was becoming something very significant for the country," says Thomas de Haan. "An evaluation led us to conclude that self-regulation was working, but that there were a few points of concern. For example, we wanted to be sure that .nl would remain essentially Dutch. In the covenant, SIDN undertakes to remain in the Netherlands and operate under Dutch law. Having that reassurance is important for the Ministry."

Clear arrangements

Despite certain initial misgivings on both sides, contact between the Ministry and SIDN led to the original covenant being signed in 2008. But why did the understanding between government and registry need to be formalised at all? "The covenant enables the Dutch government to take up the



Thomas de Haan, Policy
Coordinator at the Ministry of
Economic Affairs



Foreword

In 2008, SIDN made a covenant with the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, in which both sides committed themselves to assuring the continuous availability of the .nl domain. On 30 September this year, I signed an extension to the covenant. Over the seven years since the original agreement, the .nl domain has remained available without interruption and has grown considerably. Much else has changed, however. Registration and resolving remain central to what we do, but our activities nowadays span a much wider range of fields. This edition of The.nlyst reflects the multifaceted, dynamic nature of our organisation and our work.

Because we act as registry service provider for .amsterdam and other domains, our ongoing research into internet use in the Netherlands now focuses not just on how people use .nl, but also on how they use new gTLDs. The findings of that research have great value for our registrars. By sharing what we find with registrars, we seek to further increase the quality and versatility of the internet in the Netherlands. That's also the reason why we monitor and analyse .nl registrants' satisfaction with services linked to the domain.

The way we use our expertise both inside and outside the Netherlands is also apparent from the Root Zone Stability Study, which we are carrying out in partnership with TNO and NLnet Labs. The results will help the ICANN community to make decisions about the future introduction of new gTLDs. The .nl domain is one of the most secure domains in the world. The security of our domain is very important to Dutch society and the Dutch economy, and we are fully committed to its continued reinforcement. One example of that commitment is the new abuse204.nl programme ('abuse to zero for .nl'), set up to tackle phishing and malware on .nl websites.

This edition of The.nlyst is packed with information about our various activities. I hope you enjoy reading it, and I wish you a professionally and personally joyous 2016!

Roelof Meijer
CEO, SIDN



⊕ reins in the event of SIDN no longer being able to fulfil its role,” explains Thomas de Haan. “It’s very unlikely that that will ever happen, but it’s theoretically possible. And, if it did happen, the government wouldn’t have the power to step in and sort things out if that hadn’t been formally agreed in advance.” SIDN wanted various points in black and white too, Maarten Simon stresses. “The covenant provided additional certainty for our partners. It made the nature of our relationship with the government completely clear and firmly established the principle of self-regulation.”

Typically Dutch

Within the registry world, the covenant between SIDN and the Ministry of Economic Affairs is probably unique. “Perhaps it’s also a typically Dutch way of doing things – consultation and collaboration, instead of legislation,” ponders Maarten Simon. “The covenant shows that the best solutions are found by listening to each other.” Thomas de Haan is equally positive: “Other governments have shown a lot of interest in our approach. The Czech Republic and the UK, for example, have since adopted a similar model.”

A robust domain

In addition to the central provisions about .nl staying Dutch and remaining a self-regulated domain, the covenant includes agreements about the robustness of the domain. SIDN under-

takes to go on working to assure the continuous availability of the domain, while the government promises to assist in an emergency. And, if SIDN should ever be wound up, the government will be responsible for finding another registry to take over the job of running .nl.

Changes

Seven years passed between the original covenant being made and the extension being signed on 30 September 2015. In that time, a lot has changed. Does the covenant reflect that? “The substance of the agreement remains the same,” says Maarten Simon. “Both sides were very pleased with things as they were and were happy to continue on the same basis. We have, however, updated the report on assuring the .nl domain, which forms an appendix to the covenant. That document covers things such as what SIDN will do to ensure the continued availability of the .nl domain.”

A good basis for collaboration

The covenant provides clarity for the Ministry and for SIDN. As Thomas de Haan explains, it has been the basis for another positive development as well. “The main benefit is that it ensures we stay in contact. We keep each other informed about important developments and policy changes. The covenant creates mutual trust, which forms the basis for collaboration on all sorts of other matters.”

TNO, NLNET LABS AND SIDN STUDY THE STABILITY OF THE DNS ROOT SYSTEM

In June, ICANN put out a ‘request for proposals’ (RFP) for a study into the impact of the new gTLD programme on the stability of the DNS root system. TNO, SIDN and NLnet Labs responded by proposing a ‘Root Stability Study’. The Dutch plan has now been accepted, ahead of numerous competing proposals from other organisations interested in undertaking this important research.

Hundreds more top-level domains in prospect

For a very long time, the internet had to make do with just over twenty generic top-level domains, such as .org, .net and

.info. Then, a few years ago, ICANN decided to allow a lot more to be set up. The window for applying to create a new top-level domain opened in 2012. Since then, about ⊕





Bart Gijsen,
Consultant TNO

1,400 applications have been approved, and about half of the domains in question are now active. A further application-and-approval round may lead to many more new gTLDs. However, the addition of so many new domains to the root could potentially affect the stability of the DNS system.

Scaling the root

In 2009, ahead of the introduction of several hundred new top-level domains, ICANN commissioned a study of the potential impact. Entitled *Scaling the root*, that study was carried out by an international consortium, of which TNO and NLnet Labs were members. The Root Stability Study has a similar function, paving the way for a possible second wave of new gTLDs.

Additional expertise

The new research will be carried out by a tripartite consortium: TNO, NLnet Labs and SIDN Labs. Data scientist Giovane Moura has been assigned to the project at SIDN Labs. "What clinched it for ICANN was the collaboration between our three organisations," he says. "Each of us brings distinguishing skills to the table, which complement each other perfectly. I think we can all be very proud that the research contract has been awarded to an entirely Dutch consortium." TNO will provide the consortium's project manager. "We were

approached by a number of parties," recounts Bart Gijsen, consultant at TNO. "But, to be honest, teaming up with SIDN Labs always looked like the best option. We know each other well and SIDN's knowledge of the new gTLD programme is invaluable in the context of this study. The added value

of collaborating with NLnet Labs made that decision a no brainer too."

Important questions

The Root Stability Study will seek to answer a number of vital technical questions. What impact will the introduction of new gTLDs have? Is the DNS root infrastructure scalable enough? And can its scalability be expressed in numeric terms? Benno Overeinder, Director of NLnet Labs: "Theoretically, the new gTLDs should have very little effect on the root system. But theory and practice don't always match. We already have a situation where 90 per cent of the queries in the DNS system are nonsensical. That makes the effect of the new gTLDs hard to predict."

Data-driven study

Big differences exist between the Root Stability Study and the research carried out in 2009, explains TNO's Bart Gijsen. "The first study was a wide-field study, looking mainly at the root server system and ICANN's administrative systems. This time, we'll be carrying out a more focused, more in-depth study. In 2009, we did a lot of interviews, whereas the new research will be much more data-driven. We'll be doing active tests – sending DNS queries ourselves – and passive tests, which involve analysing logs and data files. By establishing correlations between data from the two test types, we'll be able to build models for continuously monitoring the stability of the root, as opposed to occasionally checking on it. That is the distinctive feature of our approach."

Clear roles

Within the consortium, each partner has a clear role. "NLnet Labs is in contact with the root system operators," says Benno Overeinder. "We'll be working to make sure the right data are available. A lot of that data will be privacy-sensitive, so everything has to be done very carefully. It's important to consider the best way of going about things, the best way to anonymise the data. We'll also be contributing DNS protocol expertise – a significant proportion of root servers run our software (NSD). Obviously SIDN has plenty of expertise in that field too, particularly operational knowledge. And SIDN Labs' Giovane is very experienced in big data analysis. TNO specialises in building models and running simulations, which will enable them to pick up correlations – between query response times and the volume of queries to the root servers, for example." ↻



Giovane Moura, Data Scientist
SIDN Labs





Benno Overeinder,
CEO NLnet Labs

Expectations

What can we expect the study to reveal? None of the participants is inclined to make predictions. “The results will be used to inform discussion within the ICANN community. It simply wouldn’t be right to preempt the outcome,” Benno Overeinder points out. “Our task is to carry out the study as objectively as we possibly

can. Making policy recommendations isn’t part of the remit.” It’s also the case that the findings are inherently unpredictable. “With big data analysis, the first rule is not to make assumptions,” explains Giovane Moura. “The data sets are extremely rich and anything might come out of them.” Everyone is sure of at least one result, however: a period of inspiring teamwork.

JOINT STUDY SHOWS REGISTRANTS VERY PLEASED WITH .NL SERVICES

What do our customers think of our services? How well are we doing, compared with our competitors? To help registrars get answers to such questions, SIDN commissioned a second survey of satisfaction amongst .nl registrants. The main conclusion was that registrants are very happy with the services they receive.

High score

Our satisfaction survey found that registrants are generally very positive about the services they receive from registrars. The ‘net promotor score’ – and index of customers’ willingness to recommend a business to others – was 25.3. That is a remarkably high score, since anything above zero is considered welcome in many industries. Good service and previous experience were the main reasons for recommending a registrar. Amongst respondents who were less positive, the biggest grumbles were about prices and problems linked to the transfer of domain names.

Add-on questions

The survey was based on a questionnaire with twenty or so primary questions. New for this year were the ‘add-on questions’: participating registrars had the opportunity to add a

number of questions that only their own customers would be asked to answer. Many registrars chose to ask essentially the same question: would the customer be interested in other services? “From that question, it’s apparent that, for most registrars, domain name registration is an ancillary service,” says Sebastiaan Assink, SIDN’s Key Account Manager. “Their earnings model is founded largely on services such as hosting, e-mail and storage. The domain name is often a small part of the jig-saw, albeit a vital one.”

Building a customer panel

Participating registrars were able to compare their scores with a benchmark. Naturally, information about the performance of an individual firm was available only to that firm. The survey was anonymous, but registrars had the option of inviting respondents to give non-anonymised responses. That opened



⇒ the way for assembling a panel of engaged customers, whom they can ask for feedback in the future – in connection with planned product introductions, for example.

Contact with SIDN

The survey also included questions about SIDN. Some 11.2 per cent of respondents said that they had had contact with SIDN. Of those, 41.4 per cent gave the interaction a score of 8 out of 10. The survey did, however, highlight SIDN's website as needing improvement. Out of the respondents who had been in contact with SIDN, 60 per cent had visited the website. Their general feeling was that the site could be clearer and better laid out.

Response rates

Fifteen registrars participated in our 2015 survey – six more than the year before. Each of them provided contact details for at least two thousand customers who had used the registrar's services in the year before. The customers were then approached by market research agency Conclusr. A total of just less than 2,400 people responded. Interestingly, the response rates varied considerably. About 10 per cent of some

registrars' nominated customers completed the questionnaire, whereas the response rate for others was just 2 per cent.

Direct approach

One of the participating registrars was concerned that customers might be annoyed by an unsolicited approach from a market research agency. The registrar therefore e-mailed its

own customers with a link to the questionnaire. The strategy went down well, reports Sebastiaan Assink: "Next year, we intend to offer all registrars the option of inviting their own customers to do the survey. We hope that that will encourage more registrars to take part, which will make the findings even more useful. We'll also be looking at the possibility of a closer tie-in with hosting services, which represent many registrars' core business."



Sebastiaan Assink,
Key Account Manager SIDN

PRIVACY PRACTICES WHITE PAPER: ONE OF THE INSPIRING PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY SIDN FUND

SIDN Fund supports projects that make the internet stronger or use the internet in innovative ways to benefit the community or the economy. The Privacy Practices White Paper – a project by Bits of Freedom and Studio Spomenik – is a good example. The SIDN Fund is financing the first phase of the project. Bits of Freedom's Evelyn Austin has been talking to The.nlyst about the initiative.

What is the Privacy Practices White Paper?

"The aim is to develop a handbook for young internet enterprises. Consumers nowadays pay a lot more attention to what businesses do with their data, and they take a more critical

view. Our experience is that lots of businesses want to do the right thing, but don't fully understand what a responsible approach to customer privacy actually means in practice. So the Privacy Practices White Paper aims to highlight good ⇒



⇒ practices in the field of privacy. The focus is on the technology and usability, but legal aspects are covered as well. So it's everything from analytics to code and conditions of use. How do you build a privacy-friendly 'Share' button, for example? What's the best way to ask for consent? Why is it important to use https protocol? It's questions like those that the White Paper is designed to answer."

The SIDN Fund is supporting the first phase of the project. What will that phase involve?

"It's the research phase, during which we'll be cooperating with the Studio Spomenik design consultancy. We'll start by finding out more about the target group. A data and contextual analysis will be carried out to define the target group, how they work and what networks they belong to. Then we'll be conducting in-depth interviews with relevant founders, designers and builders. The intention is to compare their challenges and requirements with the external context. Finally, we'll try to establish what form the Privacy Practices White Paper should take. We expect to present the interim results and a proposal for further development in January. A usable product should be ready in the course of 2016."

How did you find out about the SIDN Fund?

"Like a lot of SIDN's contacts, we'd known about the plan to set up the SIDN Fund for a while. However, we weren't sure what its focus would be. So we were very pleased to learn that the Fund's first funding round was going to focus on exactly the kind of initiative we were planning. We've been pleasantly surprised by the way that the Fund operates. It's very accessible and lean. The application form was less than three pages. Yet it actually gave us a lot of scope for explaining what we wanted to do. We certainly hope to

work with SIDN Fund again in the future. Like Bits of Freedom, the Fund operates at an interesting interface, where technology and society meet. You only have to look at the various projects that the Fund is supporting to see what a rich and complex interface that is... just how many different players and

challenges there are. We may try to get funding for the second phase of the Privacy Practices White Paper as well. But I think it'll be harder second time around, because a lot of people in our network are now aware of the Fund and are planning their own applications. There are a lot of worthwhile projects that match the objectives of the SIDN Fund extremely well."

"The Privacy Practices White Paper is a project that recognises the huge growth in the number of start-ups and aims to help SMEs develop new applications that are sensitive to user privacy issues. The project therefore supports SIDN Fund's first objective: to realise an open and free internet that people can have confidence in and rely on."

Mieke van Heesewijk,
SIDN Fund Programme Manager



Evelyn Austin, Bits of Freedom



SUCCESSFUL PILOT FOR ABUSE204.NL

Levels of abuse are relatively low in the .nl domain, but security can always be improved. That's why SIDN set up abuse204.nl ('abuse to zero for .nl'). Operated in collaboration with registrars and hosting providers, the abuse204.nl programme is designed to tackle phishing and malware in the .nl zone. SIDN's security officer Bert ten Brinke looks back at a successful pilot.

Influence on the security

SIDN wants .nl to be the most reliable and secure domain in the world. However, there is only so much that a registry can do. Bert ten Brinke: "We have good policies that discourage the abuse of domain names. But we don't have much control over the way domain names are used. However, we found that SWITCH, the Swiss registry, had a tool for warning registrars, hosters and registrants about domain names that were being used for phishing and malware."

Collect, check, mail

Abuse204.nl is based on a service provided by Netcraft, an international company specialising in the detection of malware and phishing on the internet. Netcraft collects abuse information from various sources, such as the Anti Phishing Working Group. It then checks the abuse reports to see whether they are accurate. If abuse is indeed in progress, Netcraft mails all the addresses associated with the domain name. The message that goes out includes a link to the Netcraft website, where information about removing abusive content is available.

Mixed reactions

Registrars don't need to register for abuse204.nl. An alert goes out automatically whenever abuse is detected, without the registrar having to do anything. As Bert ten Brinke explains, reaction to the service has been mixed. "Some registrars are very pleased to receive the alerts and thank us for tipping them off," he says. "Others say that they can do without the service. Sometimes because they already have abuse detection systems in place. And sometimes because doing something about abuse costs time and money."

Fine-tuning the system

SIDN supervises the system. "We monitor the alerts and we help registrars when they need it," says Bert ten Brinke.

"We also work closely with Netcraft to fine-tune the tool. It's important, for example, that the communication is matched to the way registrars operate. To begin with, some registrars complained that they were getting too many e-mails. So now we send messages only to the registrar's special abuse mailbox – provided we've been given the address, of course. Blanket mailing of all the addresses linked to a domain name that's being used for abuse happens only if the alert doesn't lead to action."

Pressure

SIDN also acts as a 'cajoler'. Bert ten Brinke elaborates: "After a while, if nothing has been done to cut out the reported abuse, we phone the registrar. Sometimes it's just a quick conversation to give them a nudge, and sometimes we have to invest more time. But the calls do work. By really committing ourselves to following up reports, we've been able to get the number of unresolved cases down to less than half what it was, and the average 'up time' of abuse-sites has been reduced spectacularly. In September, 75 per cent of the abusive websites were taken down within twenty-four hours. Now the figure is 84 per cent. And half are taken down within six hours." That is a significant achievement, because phishing sites do most of their damage in the first twenty-four hours. Rapid action is therefore important.

Towards a more secure domain

Having slashed the up time of abuse sites, the pilot of ☺



Bert ten Brinke,
Security Officer SIDN



➔ abuse204.nl has clearly been successful. The service makes an important contribution to tackling phishing and malware, but can't completely eliminate such problems. "There's always been abuse and there always will be abuse," Bert ten Brinke concedes. "We are gaining the upper hand now, but cybercri-

minals are very creative. So it's vital that SIDN, registrars and hosters stand shoulder-to-shoulder against them. In the future, we may also need to widen the scope of the system to include other forms of abuse. And we will definitely be looking to tailor abuse204.nl to registrars' wishes."

USE OF NEW GTLDS GROWING BUT STILL MODEST

SIDN continuously studies how the internet is used in the Netherlands. This year, we widened the scope of our research to include the use of new gTLDs. Analysis of the findings brought a number of interesting points to light.

Usage data

Anyone interested in the internet will have little trouble finding data. Numbers of registered domain names, numbers of transactions, numbers of transfers and so on... such figures are regularly made available on line. However, they tell us little about the way the internet is actually being used. How many websites does the average user look at? Do they look at them on their computers or their smartphones? How long do they spend on each site? Answers to questions like that are provided by the surveys that GfK carries out for SIDN. GfK makes use of the Media Efficiency Panel, previously known as the Kijkcijferpanel (Viewing Data Panel) to continuously monitor the internet use of ten thousand people. The scope of the research has been widened this year to include the use of new gTLDs.

.nl is market leader

One thing that is clear from the research is .nl's dominant position. All Dutch internet users visit .nl websites. Together, .nl and .com account for more than 90 per cent of website visits. The new gTLDs currently play a much more modest role. None of them is visited by more than 10 per cent of Dutch internet users. Amongst the newcomers, the most successful is the .club domain, available in the Netherlands since the start of this year. Over a quarter, 7 per cent of survey participants spend roughly two minutes on a .club site. Most .club domains are linked to communities and websites providing night-life information. Over the same period, 98.5 per cent of Dutch internet users spend an average of forty-five hours on .nl sites.

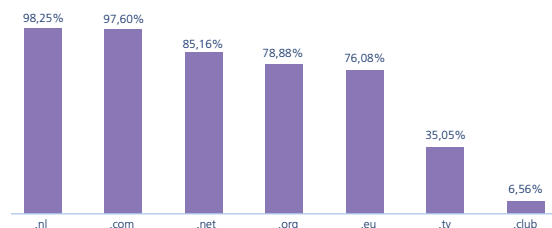
Use of .frl and .amsterdam currently very modest

The figures show that .club and a number of other new generic domains, including .science and .gifts, are attracting more traffic than the new Dutch top-level domains .frl and .amsterdam. Only 1 per cent of all respondents visited a .amsterdam or .frl website in the third quarter. Where .amsterdam is concerned, a low figure is only to be expected, because the domain wasn't launched until the end of June.

Questions for later

The most important questions for future analysis concern the relationship between sales figures and usage figures. For example, the registry for .tk claims that there are no fewer than twenty-six million registered .tk domain names. That is a huge number, but the visit data suggest that .tk websites attract no significant volume of traffic. What do such discrepancies tell us about the value of domains?

Visited TLDs in Q3



.NL Analysed

Top 25 TLDs and growth

Our TLD league table shows little change over the third quarter of 2015. Contraction of .us did allow .in (India) to move up a place. However, it should be noted that the number of .in domain names is an estimate, since the registry does not publish registration data. Another change is the removal of .ar (Argentina) from the list, after new data

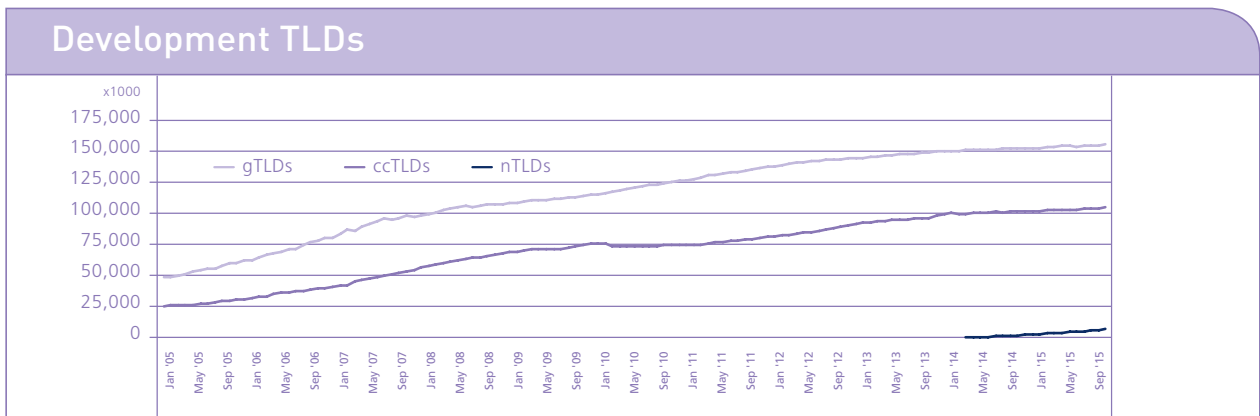
revealed that the domain contained only 650,000 names – a fraction of the previously reported number. Moving in the opposite direction and apparently destined for the top twenty-five is one of the new TLDs: .xyz. At the time of writing, .xyz was in position 26 and growing faster than the current number 25 (.se).

#	TLD		Count Q3	Growth	
1	.com	Generic	119,174,191	1.3%	=
2	.de	Germany	15,988,419	0.3%	=
3	.net	Algemeen	14,919,970	0.4%	=
4	.cn	China	12,747,899	4.1%	=
5	.uk	United Kingdom	10,596,348	0.2%	=
6	.org	Generic	10,569,808	0.5%	=
7	.nl	Netherlands	5,593,442	0.3%	=
8	.info	Generic	5,094,875	-0.5%	=
9	.ru	Russia	4,958,171	1.1%	=
10	.eu	European Union	3,852,799	0.4%	=
11	.br	Brasil	3,717,887	1.7%	=
12	.au	Australia	3,018,303	0.9%	=
13	.fr*	France	2,920,000	0.7%	=

#	TLD		Count Q3	Growth	
14	.it	Italy	2,834,411	0.9%	=
15	.pl	Poland	2,642,497	1.9%	=
16	.ca*	Canada	2,400,000	0.9%	=
17	.biz	Generic	2,091,777	-3.8%	=
18	.ch	Switzerland	1,976,614	0.9%	=
19	.co*	Colombia	1,863,000	1.6%	=
20	.es	Spain	1,789,675	0.7%	=
21	.in*	India	1,710,000	1.0%	↑
22	.us	Spain	1,685,438	-2.0%	↓
23	.be	Belgium	1,525,395	0.8%	=
24	.jp	Japan	1,400,632	0.4%	=
25	.se	Sweden	1,376,295	1.0%	=
	* estimate				

Globally, the total number of domain names went up by 4.3 million to 266 million, the strongest growth since the fourth quarter of 2013. At the end of the third quarter, the ccTLDs had a joint total of a little over 103 million registered domain names. The gTLDs had 153 million and the new TLDs had a combined 7.3 million. The graph shows development over the last ten years. Most legacy gTLDs continued to contract, but

.net and .org bucked the trend and returned to growth in the third quarter. The contraction of .info was also a lot less significant than in the preceding four quarters: just 28,000, compared with an average of 148,000. However, it appears that growth of the smaller gTLDs – including .mobi, .asia, .name and .tel – has been halted and now put into reverse by the arrival of the new gTLDs.



↻ The new gTLDs grew collectively in the last quarter by 1.6 million domain names, to stand at 7.3 million by the close. That represents the biggest increase since the new TLDs started coming on line. The .xyz domain remains the biggest of the newcomers, with nearly 1.2 million names. The ‘oldest’ of the new TLDs have now been around long enough for names registered in the GA (general availability) period to have started coming up for renewal. Although none of the

registries concerned publishes recent renewal ratios, it’s possible to deduce from other data that the renewal ratios for many new TLDs are poor. The .berlin domain has been particularly hard hit, losing 55 per cent of its domain names over a single quarter, to leave just 68,000, compared with 152,000 at the end of the previous quarter. A total of sixty-seven of the 697 monitored new TLDs contracted in the third quarter, by a total 120,000 domain names.

Top 25 city TLDs

As well as the ‘normal’ new TLDs, a significant number of regional TLDs are now available. They can be divided into two general groups. First, there are geo-TLDs, for geographical or language regions, e.g. .alsace (for Alsace) and .quebec (for French-speaking Canada). Then there are city TLDs, including .berlin and our own .amsterdam. Most large, well-known world cities now have their own TLDs, as the data on this

page show. The .amsterdam domain is performing well in comparison with its peers. It already has more than 20,000 domain names and was ninth in the city TLD rankings at the end of the third quarter. It has since moved up at least one place, because .paris was withdrawn in early October. That is a respectable position for a TLD that is less than six months old and up against older extensions linked to much bigger cities.

#	TLD	City	Country	Name count
1	.nyc	New York	USA	84,512
2	.london	London	UK	69,445
3	.berlin	Berlin	Germany	68,492
4	.tokyo	Tokyo	Japan	40,705
5	.helsinki	Helsinki	Finland	31,740
6	.koeln	Cologne	Germany	25,061
7	.hamburg	Hamburg	Germany	23,331
8	.moscow	Moscow	Russia	22,772
9	.paris	Paris	France	20,937
10	.amsterdam	Amsterdam	Netherlands	20,525
11	.vegas	Las Vegas	USA	16,395
12	.wien	Vienna	Austria	13,328
13	.melbourne	Melbourne	Australia	7,962

#	TLD	City	Country	Name count
14	.sydney	Sydney	Australia	7,046
15	.brussels	Brussels	Belgium	6,059
16	.cologne	Cologne	Germany	5,702
17	.capetown	Cape Town	South Africa	5,236
18	.nagoya	Nagoya	Japan	3,994
19	.joburg	Johannesburg	South Africa	3,798
20	.yokohama	Yokohama	Japan	3,177
21	.durban	Durban	South Africa	2,718
22	.okinawa	Okinawa	Japan	2,335
23	.taipei	Taipei	Taiwan	2,101
24	.osaka	Osaka	Japan	423
25	.rio	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	386



The best domain name for your business

Many new enterprises are in the dark when it comes to choosing a good domain name and getting it registered quickly. In November, SIDN was therefore at the Chamber of Commerce Start-up Day in Arnhem for the first time – and the involvement was a big success. The Dutch-language presentation is available to view on our website. We are now also actively involved with the On-line Enterprise Desk run by the MKB Servicedesk (SME Service Desk).

Internet Thesis Prizes 2015

SIDN Fund, Google, Greenhost and law firm Brinkhof have launched the Internet Thesis Prizes 2015. € 2000 will be awarded to the best graduation thesis in each of four internet-related fields. SIDN Fund is sponsoring the prize for internet & society/humanities. Graduates have until **1 February 2016** to submit theses. See www.internetscriptieprijsen.nl for additional Dutch-language information.

Event calendar

SIDN sends representatives to many national and international events. We regard attending events as one of our responsibilities as the registry for the .nl domain. At the events we attend, we work on behalf of the Dutch internet community and .nl registrars. In addition, we regularly organise conferences ourselves. In the coming months, SIDN plans to be represented at the following events:

Date	Event	Venue
19-01	8th CENTR R&D Workshop	Montigny le Bretonneux, France
03-02	37th CENTR Administrative Workshop	Lausanne, Switzerland
09-02	Safer Internet Day 2016	n.n.b.
16-02 to 17-02	55th CENTR General Assembly / 2016 Annual General Meeting	Budva, Montenegro
05-03 to 10-03	ICANN55	Marrakech, Morocco
17-03	49th CENTR Legal & Regulatory workshop	Lisbon, Portugal
26-03 to 27-03	92nd IETF	Dallas, Texas, United States

Best wishes for the festive period and the New Year!

Suggestions

If there is a topic that you think we should be covering in The.nlyst, please send your suggestions to: communicatie@sidn.nl.

Colophon

The.nlyst is published by SIDN, the company behind .nl. The magazine provides information about internet-related themes and about (.nl) domain names in particular. The.nlyst is distributed free of charge to SIDN's registrars and other stakeholders.

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