ICANN Meetings, New Delhi
February 12, 2008

Serbian Registry of Internet Domains

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The New Organization

- In July 2006, following years of consensus building within the Internet community in Serbia, plans for forming a new national domain name registry organization were put in action.

- The organization was named "Registar Nacionalnog Internet Domena Srbije" (RNIDS) or in English "Serbian Registry of Internet Domain Names".

- The core mission of RNIDS: to operate national domain name registry in public interest.

- RNIDS was formally registered in February 2007 as a non-for-profit fund.

- Current membership of RNIDS includes major Serbian ISPs, telecom operators, hosting providers, system integrators, NGOs active in the area of information society and academic institutions. There are 27 members in total as of January 1, 2008.

- Membership in RNIDS is open to any Serbian organization (legal entity registered in Serbia). Current annual membership fee is approx. 150 €

- Each member delegates a voting representative to the General Assembly (GA) of RNIDS. The GA elects managing board of RNIDS and approves key policy documents and contracts (such as domain registration/registrar/dispute resolution policies, RNIDS membership in international organizations etc).

The New ccTLD

- In September 2006, ISO 3166/MA assigned two-letter code 'RS' for the Republic of Serbia.

- At the end of 2006, RNIDS agreed terms for transition of .yu domains with the registry operator in Montenegro. The agreement put RNIDS in charge of the .yu registry until removal of .yu zone from the DNS root.

- In March 2007, RNIDS submitted to ICANN/IANA requests for delegation of .rs TLD and redelegation of .yu TLD.

- At the beginning of September 2007, ICANN Board of Directors approved both requests and .rs became visible on the Internet on September 25, 2007.

- ICANN board also decided that transition from .yu to .rs should finish by the end of September 2009, with possibility of postponing this deadline if necessary.

- In October 2007, the GA of RNIDS adopted the following set of important documents:
  - Rules for registering .rs domains
  - Rules for accredited registrars of .rs domains
  - Rules for conducting transition from .yu to .rs domains
  - Rules for resolving disputes regarding .rs domains
  - Decision to exchange letters with ICANN (and join ccNSO)

Rules for Registering .rs Domains

- Any Serbian or foreign citizen or company can register .rs domains, but administrative contact for the domain must be a Serbian citizen or a legal entity registered in Serbia.

- Domains are registered within the following address spaces:
  - .rs: for all interested Serbian and foreign citizens and organizations
  - .co.rs: for Serbian and foreign commercial enterprises and entrepreneurs
  - .org.rs: for Serbian and foreign non-commercial organizations
  - .edu.rs: for Serbian and foreign educational organizations
  - .in.rs: for Serbian citizens only
  - *.ac.rs: delegated by RNIDS to Serbian academic and research network*
  - *.gov.rs: delegated by RNIDS to the Government of the Republic of Serbia*

- Registrants submit requests for new registrations/renewals/modifications/etc. and documentation through the accredited registrars of .rs domains.

- Documentation proving legal status of the registrant and local residence of the administrative contact must be submitted in electronic format within 30 days from the initial registration.

- RNIDS charges the accredited registrars immediately after successfully processing the requests, and there is no refundable grace period for errored registrations.

Rules for Registrars of .rs Domains

- Any legal entity registered in Serbia (including a registered representative office of a foreign company) can become an accredited registrar (AR) of .rs domains.

- AR enters contract with RNIDS upon approval by the managing board of RNIDS, successful passing of basic administrative and technical checks and advance payment of approx. 4,750 €

- Accredited registrar must abide by RNIDS policies and must register, renew or transfer at least 200 domains per year.

- RNIDS provides the ARs with a client application for manual registration of domain names and access to public Web services for automating domain registration (SOAP requests). Currently, the client application allows performing all domain registration tasks, while public Web services allow only registration of new domains and WHOIS requests. Full functionality of the public Web services (for performing renewal/modify/delete requests) is expected to be put in operation by mid-2008.

- Prices of RNIDS for the accredited registrars:
  - Registration/renewal of .rs domain: approx. 18.75 € / year
  - Registration/renewal of .co.rs/.org.rs/.edu.rs domain: approx. 6.25 € / year
  - Registration/renewal of .in.rs domain per year: approx. 3.75 € / year
  - Transfer of domain ownership: approx. 25 €
  - WHOIS privacy per year: approx. 3.75 € / year

Dispute Resolution for .rs Domains

- The registrant enters into legal agreement with RNIDS upon registering a .rs domain name. The registrant agrees, inter alia, to use the domain name in good faith and abide by the Dispute resolution policy of RNIDS.

- Anyone can file a request for dispute resolution over one or more .rs domains. The initiating party bears the cost of the process. The fee is not refundable, regardless of the outcome. Citizens pay approx. 1,000 €, while legal entities pay approx. 2,000 € per dispute.

- Request for dispute resolution is submitted to RNIDS, but the process is handled by Arbitration Coordinator (AC) contracted by RNIDS. Currently, this is Center for Consulting of the Belgrade University School of Law. The AC implements the dispute resolution policy of RNIDS and organizes work of arbitration panels.

- Each dispute is resolved by a three member arbitration panel in up to 60 days. Two panelists are designated by the parties and they choose the third member of the panel. All panelists must be chosen from the list of arbiters adopted by the managing board of RNIDS.

- The criteria for deciding in disputes is similar to the ones defined in the UDRP. All decisions by the arbitration panel are final and immediately implemented by RNIDS.

- Any of the parties can bring the case before the regular court of law, regardless of the arbitration proceeding or its outcome. The court decision supersedes arbitration decision.

The Launch of .rs (1/2)

- Between November 26, 2007 and January 26, 2008, RNIDS has accredited 27 registrars.

- RNIDS is currently testing and refining its system for automatic registrations, while the accredited registrars are pre-registering .rs domain names (i.e. compiling lists of domains which will be submitted for registration in the first hours after .rs launch).

- The date of .rs launch will be decided soon by the managing board of RNIDS. This decision (expected in the next couple of weeks) will be widely announced, in Serbian and English, at least two weeks in advance.

- 10 days before the launch of .rs, RNIDS will stop accepting requests for new .yu domains.

- In the lead up to the launch of .rs, RNIDS will reserve in .rs address spaces names of special interest for the Republic of Serbia (such as serbia.rs, president.rs etc), as well as all names that have been registered in the yuTLD registry. Public Web-based WHOIS service for .rs and .yu will also become available.

- All other .rs domains, which have not been reserved, will be available for immediate registration.

The Launch of .rs (2/2)

- In the first 6 months after .rs launch, only owners of .yu domains will be able to activate the equivalent domain name reservations under .rs/.co.rs/.org.rs/.edu.rs, according to the following order of priority:
  - Owner of example.yu will be entitled to example.rs reservation
  - Owner of example.co/.org/.edu.yu will be entitled to example.co/.org/.edu.rs AND example.rs reservation (only if example.rs has not been already reserved or registered)

- In case when different registrants hold example.co.yu, example.org.yu and/or example.edu.yu, the example.rs reservation will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis.

- All unused reservations (except reservations made on behalf of Serbian government) will expire after 6 months and become available for immediate registration.

- .yu domain names will continue to function normally at least until September 30, 2009. RNIDS is scheduled to submit to ICANN/IANA the final report on .yu transition in mid-2009 and by that time can request extension of the transitional period for .yu domains.

- Modification and deletion requests for .yu domains will be processed directly by RNIDS. All .yu domain name holders will be obliged to renew their .yu domains after September 30, 2008, so first massive deletion of inactive .yu domains will occur towards the end 2008.

Thank you!

Questions?
Comments?

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