AFNIC

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Overview

- **AFNIC Organization Model**
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  - Activities
  - Figures and trends of .fr

- **Current projects**
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.FR Organization Model
Key facts about AFNIC

- AFNIC is the ccTLD manager of .fr (France), .re (Réunion Island), .tf, .pm, .wf, .yt.

- Private-sector, not for profit organisation (Association loi 1901) founded in 1997 by the French Government and INRIA (The French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control)

- Membership open to all stakeholders

- 43 employees, located in Saint Quentin en Yvelines (near Paris)

- Budget approx. 6 M€, and approx. 1 200 000 domain names managed.
AFNIC’s Governance: Board structure

Conseil d’administration de l’AFNIC

Secteur privé 5 élus
Secteur public 5 nommés

Direction
Personnel : support technique

Ministères
- Télécoms
- Industrie
- Recherche

INRIA
Internal Governance of AFNIC

- **General Assembly of members (once a year)**
- **Board of Directors**
  - Twice a year + some “extraordinary online sessions” using an electronic voting system
- **Consultative Committees (twice a year each)**
  - Place for exchanges between AFNIC and its members on important ongoing matters and strategic orientations that may then be submitted to the Board of Directors
  - “Registrars Consultative Committee”: Registrars members of AFNIC
  - “Users Consultative Committee”: members either Legal entities or Individuals
- **Working groups with Registrars (several times a year)**
  - Technical: for technical exchanges on procedures and developments
  - Legal: for administrative and legal affairs
  - Marketing and Communication: joint actions with Registrars for .fr promotion
- **Workshops/seminars (on demand)**
  - During specific projects or on a specific topic
AFNIC’s three main goals

- 1) Excel in registry operations
- 2) Open, transparent and efficient governance of the TLD
- 3) Contribute to the development of the Information Society

  - Including promoting co-operation and co-development with other countries within our competence scope:

    - **International College of AFNIC**
      ([http://www.afnic.fr/afnic/international/college_en](http://www.afnic.fr/afnic/international/college_en))

      - Advanced training activity (FFTI2) on Internet technologies
      - Co-development promotion (*Codev-NIC* software, jointly with .CI and .MG)
      - Main actions in 2007
        - Training session (FFTI2) in October, Nouakchott, Mauritania
        - Contributed to 2 workshops at the IGF (November, Rio, Brazil)
.fr Charter

- **Territoriality** *(a relation is required with the French territory)*
- **Naming conventions (charter)**
  - Right to name
    - **Until 11/05/2004**: Only the Moral Holder of a “registered mark” was allowed to register name(s) in relation with that mark
    - **After 11/05/2004**: right to name dropped
- **Holder status**
  - **Before 20/06/2006**
    - Only allowed to Moral Holder
  - **After 20/06/2006**
    - Allowed to Moral Holder, Personal Holder and Associations,
    - Private person “anonymous” in the Whois
- **Fundamental terms (submitted to specific registration rules)**
  - **Reserved names**
    - *Singular rights since 17/05/2005*: the Reserved Names can be allocated only under particular conditions (e.g. transfer) bound by the owner identity and their rights (ie names of French cities)
  - **Prohibited terms**
    - They cannot be allocated (due to their nature) without the agreement of the AFNIC’s Board of Directors
- **Technically well installed/managed zone (check of DNS quality)**
.FR Registry’s core system

• Infrastructure
  – Main network site: Saint Quentin en Yvelines, near Paris (dual-homed)
  – Full native IPv6 support in production since 2003
  – Fully administrated by internal staff
  – 2 successful landrushes in 2004 and 2006

• DNS
  – 8 NS’s (4 in France + 4 abroad)
  – 3 NS’s supporting IPv6
  – 1 Anycast NS (outsourced)
  – 1 NS on 3 Internet Exchange Points (IXP) in Paris (SFINX, FreeIX, ParIX)

• Database
  – Logical and Physical mirror (remote site)
  – Source of data for whois info and DNS zone files (script-generated)
Figures and trends of .fr

- **1 000 000** domain names reached on 11 Jan 2008
- Around 1 200 000 today
- **+40 %** increase in 2007
- Prices starting at **4,80 €** excl. VAT

Données de janvier 2008
Average monthly creations

Average 2005 : 11 772 creations / month
Average 2006 : 27 881 creations / month
Average 2007 : 33 172 creations / month

Monthly new registrations
Impact on the Registrar side

- AFNIC has a Registrar-only distribution model
  - Prices have fallen since 2002 (less than 5 €)
- Approx. 1000 Registrars.
  - 10 Registrars account for 62% market share
  - 100 Registrars account for 91%
Government relations

• Latest executive order (Decret) from Government in Feb. 2007:
  – Competitive process to be organised before appointment of .fr (and other French territories) registry
    • Currently still in preliminary phase: public consultation on general directions for French TLDs management open till… June 24th!
  – New rules related to domain name registrations
    • Main rules of .fr Charter endorsed;
    • Extended protection granted to local and national authorities and institutions
  – New powers conferred to French ccTLD managers in terms of dispute resolution
    • Ability to block, transfer, cancel illicit registrations
    • Liability regime remains to be further defined
Current projects
24/7/365 project

- **Widening of the registration service hour range**
  - Before November 2007:
    - 5 days / week
    - Forms received outside office hours buffered and processed later
  - **Since November 2007: 24/7/365**
    - Immediate communication towards registrars upon incidents: [http://www.afnic.fr/operations](http://www.afnic.fr/operations)
    - 24/7 Monitoring system (staff on duty beyond office hours)
EPP launch scheduled beginning 2009

Current model

Target model
Forthcoming services

• DNS service
  – Strengthening of DNS expertise
    • Anycast (internal)
    • Outsourcing a 2\textsuperscript{nd} node (by a 2\textsuperscript{nd} provider)
  – Strengthening of DNS secondary service (co-operation with other registries)

• Other projects:
  – New CRM functions: registrar scorecards, new billing and contact management system…
  – Setting service level standards
  – …
Conclusion

- .FR Registry follows a multi-stakeholder organization model
  - Registrars, domain holders, public and private sector, civil society
- AFNIC has built a Registry system in conformance with International Standards and Best practices
  - Deliver services with good QoS, in a secure and stable environment
- Today’s main focus is the preparation of .fr’s competitive bid