

CENTR Update

Peter Van Roste
ccNSO meeting – ICANN 52
Singapore
11 February 2015



Two new team members



Nina Elzer, Policy Advisor

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European Policy

Internet Governance

Working groups reform

ICANN GAC coverage





Two new team members



Alexandrine Gauvin,
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News & Publications

Outreach

Education

ICANN gNSO coverage



New gTLDs: Myths and Facts



ARCHITELOS

Myth & Fact: New gTLDs, Registries & Registrars

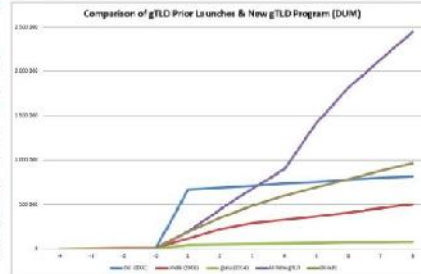
By Architelos Inc. – Sponsored by CENTR
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Introduction: In August of 2014, CENTR commissioned Architelos to conduct a study documenting the new gTLD sales channel and registry-registrar dynamic. The goal of the study was to review the most prevalent beliefs and predictions prior to the launch of new gTLDs and determine what if any had thus far proven to be accurate, and draw lessons learned from each. The agreed approach was to document the top expectations by or concerning the registrar channel for new gTLDs and determine nine (9) months into the program, which were borne out by facts thus far, which had proven to be a myth, and which were simply too early to tell. We labeled the study "Myths & Fact: New gTLDs, Registries & Registrars". As part of the analysis, we undertook independent research, conducted ten (10) one-on-one interviews with C-Level executives at prominent registrars and new gTLD registries, as well as asked CENTR to conduct a survey of its membership. The following is an initial summary of our findings. We identified six widely held or prominent predictions, none of which has been borne out by facts thus far. Of the six almost all are judged to be a myth, save two, which we deemed too early to call. We note that there are many moving parts and variables in the program and welcome discussion and feedback on the material presented.

Setting the context

This is not the first time that new gTLDs have been launched, so to set the context we compared some current and prior gTLD launch data, to see if there is any correlation with the current launches, and why or why not. The graph below contains five launch curves: .biz (2002), .mobi (2006), .guru (2014), all Donuts' strings (2014) and all new gTLD strings combined (2014). The data spans nine months of performance. The marked contrast in the different slopes of the launch curves is notable. The wide-subject generic .biz registry launched in 2002 and within the first month exceeded 600,000 domains registered before settling into a slow but steady growth pattern of 3% month over month. Whereas the narrow-subject generic .mobi launched four years later with substantially less domains within the first month or 100,000 but then grew an average 26% month over month to almost 500,000 by month 8, but it still lags 40% below .biz in total volume.

We then compared these launch profiles to .guru, possibly the highest volume new gTLD in which (we believe) all domains have been purchased. Although hard to discern from the scale of the graph, the growth curve is generally similar in profile, but not volume to .biz or .mobi, in that the first month saw over 40,000 domains and 9% average month over month growth has been steady up to over 70,000 domains by month 8.



Graph 1

CENTR BoD comments on CWG IST proposal



CENTR Board of Directors statement on the Draft Transition Proposal by the Cross Community Working Group on Naming Related Functions

CENTR is the European country code TLD organisation. CENTR has 52 Full Members and 10 Associate Members. CENTR members have played a significant role in the establishment and success of the ccNSO constituency.

We welcome the announcement made by the US government regarding its intent to transition the stewardship role it has exercised over the last decade and are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the drafting of the transition proposal.

CENTR wishes to thank the members and participants of the Cross Community Working Group for the IANA stewardship transition and underlines its appreciation for and its recognition of their significant work that lead to the current proposal.

Overall comments

Simplicity of any new structure

Overall we support the underlying ideas of the proposal as it tries to find the balance between the need to keep it simple and the necessity to cover a complex set of functions. However, we feel that as work progressed, most of the original simplicity has got lost. It is unfortunate to see that the initial starting point that any replacement of the NTIA functions should be limited to a technical performance review seems to have been abandoned. We are concerned that references to the evaluation of delegation and redelegation reports can be interpreted as assigning additional authority to new committees and bodies as envisaged in the proposal.

The mandates and scope of the different players in the proposal need to be outlined in a clearer way. In most cases this can be achieved by cutting back their roles to the strictest minimum. Unless these structures are lightweight we believe that the equilibrium that was aimed for will not be achieved.

The more complex the proposed structures become, the more relevant it will be to reassess alternatives, such as an ICANN-based solution before making a final decision.

We have followed with great interest the discussions on whether the proposed Customer Standing Committee (CSC), the Multistakeholder Review Team (MRT) and the Contract Co. should be separated or part of ICANN. In our view, both options have advantages and disadvantages. We believe that the current proposal does not provide sufficient detail to come to any conclusion on this important topic. Furthermore, most of the accountability issues that the proposal tries to solve through structural separation might come back in the proposed structure. Accountability issues could also be solved

CENTR Stat Survey (running)

CENTR training courses for EU institutions (starting Q2)

CENTR Jamboree (June 1-2-3)

CENTR Awards (October 7)

CENTR registrar day (October 7)

A large, abstract graphic in the top left corner of the slide. It consists of several overlapping, curved shapes in a vibrant red color, creating a dynamic, modern look. The shapes appear to be part of a larger, stylized design, possibly representing a logo or a decorative element.

THANK YOU!

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