CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Seven New Top Level Domain Names Proposed

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Seven New Top Level Domain Names
Proposed

The number of names available to specify Internet locations, such as Web sites and e-mail addresses, will increase and more companies will be allowed to act as registrars for the names, under a plan announced recently by the International Ad Hoc Committee (IAHC) out of Washington, D.C. The proposal is a result of efforts by an international group chosen to resolve questions critical to the current and future growth of the Internet.

Internet users will have seven new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs), in addition to the existing ones (.com, .net, .edu, and .org), under which they may register Internet names, when the plan is implemented. The new gTLDs and the intended fields of use are:

- .firm for businesses, or firms
- .store for businesses offering goods to purchase
- .web for entities emphasizing activities related to the WWW
- .arts for entities emphasizing cultural and entertainment activities
- .rec for entities emphasizing recreation/entertainment activities
- .info for entities providing information services
- .nom for those wishing individual or personal nomenclature

In addition, up to 28 new registrars will be established to grant registrations for second-level domain names under the new gTLDs. The new registrars will be selected by lottery from applicants who fulfill specific requirements established by the committee. The new registrars will share the additional domains; this means each registrar can assign second-level domain names using all the new domains. It is intended that the four existing gTLDs (.com, .net, .edu, and .org) would also be shared upon conclusion of the cooperative agreement between Network Solutions, Inc. (NSI) and the United States National Science Foundation (NSF), which allows NSI to act as the registrar for those top domains.

According to a press release of the Internet Society, representatives from organizations covering a broad range of Internet interests and activities will gather in Geneva, April 29 - May 1, to add their signatures to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the plan.

The plan calls for acceptance of applications from entities desiring to become Registrars, to begin seven days after formal signing of the MoU, for a period of 60 days. The firm of Arthur Andersen will oversee the process of applications and selection. Up to 28 Registrars will be selected in the 30 days following close of application acceptance, with others added later.

The full text of the IAHC report is available at the Internet site http://www.iahc.org.
Additional information, as of 14 February, 2000

NERDC is not involved in the creation or support of new gTLDs, and cannot answer questions regarding their availability. Some information may be found at: http://www.gtld-mou.org/.

Please do not contact NERDC with questions regarding the implementation schedule for new gTLDs.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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