ICANN Registry Request Service

Ticket ID: X3Q5T-1H6O7
Registry Name: Telnic Ltd.
gTLD: .tel
Status: ICANN Review
Status Date: 2010-10-08 16:59:08
Print Date: 2010-10-08 16:59:12

Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

Proposal to allow allocation of numeric-only domains

Technical description of Proposed Service:

Appendix S of the Registry Agreement between Telnic and ICANN (located at http://www.icann.org/en/tlds/agreements/tel/appendix-s-04feb08.htm) contains a provision that does not permit the Registry Operator to register numeric-only .tel domains.

Telnic proposes removing this restriction so that numeric-only domains become available for registration to bring it into line with other TLDs.

Consultation

Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?:

See below

a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?:

Telnic as the registry operator is in constant contact with the .tel sponsored community. Telnic has held many community consultations through a number of community outreach channels, including forums, trade shows and ICANN meetings. Telnic organizes community gatherings called TelCamps which are attended by .tel stakeholders. The topic of removing restrictions on numeric-only strings has been brought up a number of times in our consultations and this is a feature highly sought by the community.

b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?:

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We have discussed this opportunity with many registrars who are actively involved in promoting .tel to the market and collectively sponsor a significant share of .tel names. Most of the registrars gave us positive feedback about this new opportunity. No concerns were raised by any registrars.

c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

To our knowledge, no gTLDs except .name and .tel have contractual restrictions on numeric-only domains and most of them make such domains available for registration (e. g. 12345.mobi). We therefore believe that the proposed service is non-contentious as all other TLDs except .name and .tel can already offer it.

d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

Please see response to question (a) above.

e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

As described above, both the Telnic sponsored community and the ICANN-accredited registrars have voiced their support for the availability of numeric-only domains.

ICANN itself, through an established GNSO process, has analyzed in depth the question of reserving names in a TLD. In May 2007 a GNSO working group addressed the question of reserving first and second level labels in domain names. Its final report is available at http://gnso.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/final-report-rn-wg-23may07.htm. The working group produced a number of recommendations that constitute a comprehensive list of classes of names subject to reservation. None of these recommendations suggested reservation of numeric-only strings on the second level.

We believe that the GNSO WG report treats all TLDs alike with appropriate allocation frameworks for shorter and more desirable domains.

f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were(or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?:

Telnic is not aware of any party that would object to the introduction of this service.

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Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:

Telnic intends to make numeric-only domains available as soon as operationally feasible after receipt of approval from ICANN.

Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

Telnic has a track record for smooth introduction of different services and features for its community. For example, it recently successfully implemented the launch of Internationalized Domain Names within .tel which was very well accepted by the market with no opposition or complaints from any party. The key to that success lies in the fact that Telnic is the sponsoring organisation for an sTLD. It has an existing policy making process that reflects the needs of its community, and a set of sTLD policies appropriate for that community and agreed with it. Thus whilst contractual restrictions are the same across all TLDs, Telnic has and will continue to act in the interests of its community. With the availability of numeric-only strings, the .tel Acceptable Use Policy will be changed to reflect the views of that community. This is expected to include specific restrictions such as not allowing single digits to be registered to avoid any confusion with ENUM.

Once special cases (as defined during the development of the operational plan) are resolved, the general availability phase will then proceed on a first come first served basis through ICANN-accredited registrars.

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

Neustar, the registry infrastructure provider for the .tel TLD will follow its own standard quality assurance procedures to effect the required changes in the SRS. In addition, Telnic has a dedicated team of Quality Assurance engineers that will work on the implementation. The specific details of the quality assurance procedures will be developed as part of the operational project plan.

Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.:

- GNSO   Reserved   Names   working   Group   Report   available   at

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http://gnso.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/final-report-rn-wg-23may07.htm.

- RFC 1123 (allows numeric-only labels in domain names).

Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

Appendix S of the .tel Registry Agreement, part I ".tel charter", item 4 provides that "The .tel registry will not allow numeric-only domains to be registered at the registry level".

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN:

None. Additional allocated names will be accounted for in the corresponding reports.

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?:

The Proposed Service will have no effect on WHOIS. WHOIS service will be provided for numeric-only names as normal.

Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:

We propose that the .tel Registry Operator Agreement, Appendix S, part I, item 4 be amended to delete the sentence "The .tel registry will not allow numeric-only domains to be registered at the registry level". The proposed new Appendix S is attached to this RSEP request.

Appendix A (Amendment-numeric-2010-10-07.pdf)

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

- Availability of numeric-only domains is beneficial for the .tel TLD as it is heavily used via mobile devices which often do not

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offer input methods as convenient as desktop computers do.

- Release of numeric-only .tel names increases consumer choice.

- Release of numeric-only .tel names increases competition among gTLD registry operators by removing artificial restrictions on .tel domains.

- A number of entities use numeric-only designations in good faith as legal names or trademarks. Providing them with an opportunity to register these designations as .tel domains represents a fair measure allowing these entities to be identified on the internet.

Competition

Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.:

Telnic believes that approval of the proposed service will positively affect competition as it addresses the current competitive imbalance where such names are available in some TLDs but not in .tel.

How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?:

Though .tel has a unique mission and sponsored community, it may serve as an alternative to other domain names, both ccTLDs and gTLDs, especially considering that a number of existing TLDs already offer numeric-only domain names.

What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?:

Registry operators for at least the following existing gTLDs are making numeric-only domains available for registration:

.com
.net
.org
.info
.biz
.mobi

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.asia
.travel
.cat
.aero

To our knowledge, the only gTLDs that contain restrictions on numeric-only names are.name and .tel. Such restriction does not exist in the draft gTLD registry agreement for new TLDs that is part of the Draft Applicant Guidebook version 4. Verisign, the registry operator for .name, has recently submitted an RSEP request to make numeric-only labels available for registration.

We believe that ICANN should approve both Verisign's and Telnic's request to eliminate the current competitive imbalance on the registry market. We believe that the ICANN Board should vote on both .tel and .name contract changes at the same time to ensure that no commercial advantage is given to one registry over another.

In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?:

Telnic does not believe there would be any such impairment.

Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.:

Telnic works with Neustar as the registry infrastructure provider and will continue use its services for the Shared Registry System, DNS, WHOIS and other related services. These will be also utilised for the proposed numeric-only names once they are allocated.

Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.:

Telnic has discussed the possible release of numeric-only names with Neustar who fully encourages introduction of this feature.

Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).:

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Telnic does not have any additional documents.

Security and Stability

Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?:

There will be no change in the storage or input of the registry data.

Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of reponses to Internet servers or end systems:

There will be no effect on the performance of any Internet servers or end systems.

Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?:

No technical concerns were raised.

Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

Telnic believes that any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the proposed service are addressed by the established and existing processes, including UDRP.

Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?:

No.

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

Telnic does not anticipate that the Proposed Service would require any additional disclaimers beyond those that already exist in the .tel policies and contracts.

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Any other relevant information to include with this request:

None.

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Appendix {A(Amendment-numeric-2010-10-07.pdf)
(Seen on Next Page)

Amendment No. ___ to Registry Agreement

Amendment No. ___, effective as of _____ ("Amendment") to the Sponsored TLD Registry Operator Agreement dated May 25, 2006 ("Agreement"), by and between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a not-for-profit California corporation ("ICANN"), and Telnic Limited, a private limited company incorporated in the United Kingdom ("Telnic" or "Registry Operator"). Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have that meaning ascribed to them in the Agreement.

Whereas, at the _____, 2010 meeting of the ICANN Board of Directors, the Board of Directors approved certain revisions to the Agreement.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual agreements contained herein and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties hereto amend the Agreement as follows:

Appendix S – Part I shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the contents of Exhibit 1 attached hereto.

Except as expressly amended hereby, the Agreement and the Appendices thereto shall remain and continue in full force and effect. This Amendment may be executed in any number of counterparts, all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

The parties have duly executed this Amendment as of the date first written above.

THE INTERNET CORPORATION   **TELNIC LIMITED**
FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS

By:_____   By:_____
Name: Name:
Title: Title:

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Exhibit 1

Appendix S — Part I

.tel Charter

This sTLD Charter (the "Charter") identifies (a) the purposes for which the .tel sTLD (the "sTLD") is delegated, and (b) the community to be served by its delegation.

Subject to Registry Operator's compliance with this Sponsored TLD Registry Agreement, including all attachments and appendices thereto (the "Agreement") and any Temporary Specifications or Policies or Consensus Policies as defined in the Agreement:

1. The .tel sTLD will serve individuals, persons, groups, businesses, organizations, or associations that wish to store and publish their contact information using the DNS.

The .tel community is defined and distinguishable from the broader Internet community through the novel and different purpose for which registrants will use their domain names. In effect, the community is defined by the activity of its members. This is reflected in the user-defined content of their delegated zones (NAPTR records rather than Address records) as this defines the sTLD's use for finding people not machines.

2. Because the .tel community is defined by usage, it is critical that this usage be enforced to ensure integrity of the community. Therefore, each registrant will be required to agree to an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that states that their delegated domain will not include user-defined A, AAAA, or A6 resource records.

3. Registry Operator will manage the sTLD in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and will, without limitation:

   a. Establish policies and procedures for the sTLD;

   b. Establish registration requirements for the sTLD, which may, without limitation, include obligations related to verification of registrant eligibility, acceptance of the Acceptable Use Policy, and other policies and procedures for the sTLD;

   c. Permit eligible persons to register names within the sTLD in accordance with the sTLD policies;

   d. Operate a web site to inform prospective registrants about registration policies and procedures;

   e. Post on its web site information about its activities, procedures and policies, along with meeting minutes and information about decisions taken so that interested members of the community will have an opportunity to be aware of and respond to Registry Operator's actions and understand how to participate in the sTLD; and

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f. Permit the creation of and participation in a self-organizing body by stakeholders that is intended to facilitate participation in the development of policy for the sTLD in an open and transparent manner.

4. The .tel Registry will operate using the standard "Delegation Only" model. The .tel registry servers will not hold or use NAPTRs internally, and so will not return NAPTRs in response to any query.

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