



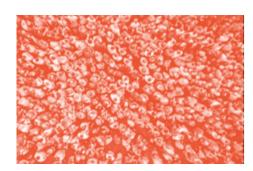
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HEAD OF REGISTRO .IT

Marco Conti

Quarter in short

Cybersecurity, online business and the digital future. The (known) themes of the autumn at Registro .it

by Francesca Nicolini

Businesses, schools and the digital revolution remain central focuses of the .it names registry, even in the last four months of the year. An autumn full of activities and events for Registro .it, which always puts enterprises (SMEs) and digital transformation at the centre of its communication.

a regular commitment, for some years now, to talk to medium and small enterprises about digital transformation and online business, as an opportunity for growth and investment, is coming to an end. And speaking of digital and future in this sector, from September to December, the Registro's podcast covered topics such as the Internet of "Things", Artificial Intelligence, Industry 4.0, up to the sixth episode that closed the year with the theme of Digital Brand Identity.

The pool of companies and freelancers is a large sector that deserves a lot of attention, not least because of the post-pandemic economic growth, but the Registro continues to dedicate space to the youngest, dedicating initiatives on cyber security, on how to properly use the digital devices and on how to stay protected from external "enemies" and cyber attacks.

The video game is at the centre of the lessons and initiatives of the Ludoteca, which - with its experts - teaches young Internet users how to disentangle themselves from a virtual world, which they know more about than adults, but with lurking risks which they are not always prepared to combat.

"Cybersecurity4Teens", Ludoteca's project for secondary schools, has also been created for the very young and to teach them about computer security, as part of the former school-work alternation scheme.

Autumn is the period of the Internet Festival, which takes place in Pisa every year and which, once again, has dedicated space to every theme (direct or transversal) linked to the Web. The Registro, which is one of the creators and promoters of the Pisa event, fits fully into this context, speaking to businesses with the closing of the PMD 2021 season and the launch of "Presente Digitale", a portal for free online teacher training on digital and the Web.

Finally, the last quarter of the month reviews data and numbers on operational, technical and legal statistics. The .it domains continue to grow, reaching a total of almost 3.5 million, with a slight decrease compared to 2020, when the "pandemic" domains had marked an "unusual" increase, with a break from the numbers of annual growth, which had not occurred in a few years.

Happy reading!





Quarter Front Page

How can a small or medium-sized enterprise evolve thanks to digital transformation? This was the central theme of the 2021 edition of PMD, the web talk of the Registro .it dedicated to SMEs and freelancers.

Over the course of the various episodes, Enrico Pagliarini (journalist and Radio24 presenter) interviewed experts, successful entrepreneurs and Registrars to understand what new challenges the near future holds for businesses and how digital technology can help overcome them.





Digitalizzazione e Internazionalizzazione: le sfide per le PMI del Made in Italy

Several events took place in the last four months.

In May, PMD dedicated a space to the publishing sector and the changes it is undergoing. Publishers and booksellers have always looked at digital as an opportunity: one of the main objectives remains the use of the Web to maintain the relationship between publisher, author and reader, as well as the discovery of trends that can direct the editorial choices of a publishing house such as, for example, books of poetry in vogue for the diffusion of poetry slams (challenges by verses).

In June, tourism was in the spotlight, with all the new potential that the future holds for tourism, which is increasingly oriented towards two distinct but related directions: sustainability and digital. Identifying a place or structure as truly sustainable also involves communication, especially digital communication, and if a business is not present online it is as if it did not exist, which is why the website and social media play a key role, even in this sector.

The sixth edition of Piccole Medie Digitali took place in October, in a live edition, on the occasion of the Internet Festival 2021, with the focus on digitisation and internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises thanks to the Web. Despite the growth of this period, according to the report "Digital and Economy Society Index" (DESI), only one in ten small and medium-sized enterprises sell online against the European average of 18%. Moreover, the companies that have moved to digital in this period, driven by the pandemic, have four times more foreign trade than non-digitalised SMEs. The data speak for themselves: digitisation and internationalisation go hand in hand.

Finally, December closed the 2021 edition of PMD with an episode dedicated to the measures for the digitisation of SMEs provided by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) and the 4.0 Transition Plan. According to the DESI Index, in 2021 Italy is in twentieth place among the 27 EU countries in terms of digitisation, but - thanks to the funds made available by the Government's Plan - our companies will have the chance to take an important step forward in terms of innovation.

All episodes of our web talk are available in the dedicated section of the Registro website and on our YouTube channel

Quarter Front Page

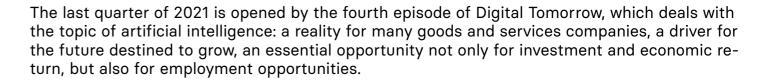
The Registro's podcast tells SMEs about digital success

by Stefania Fabbri

Four new episodes of Digital Tomorrow, the podcast of Registro .it are online, with the aim of spreading knowledge about the tools available to companies, with a focus on necessary technologies, uses of the Internet and the advantages of digital enterprise.

Representatives of national entrepreneurs, researchers from the CNR's Institute of Informatics and Telematics, and other experts from the organisation take turns for ten episodes - one per month - during the format hosted by Pepe Moder, in order to talk about how the world of SMEs is changing and what issues need to be known in order to look at the digitalisation of their business.





The fifth podcast is dedicated to Industry 4.0, which for SMEs brings several advantages: there is greater efficiency in projects and consequently in the quality of products, not to mention the fact that you can monitor the process; this translates into an increased speed of implementation, at reduced costs and time. For those who equip themselves with these technologies, which already exist and are within everyone's reach - such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and virtual reality - the competitive advantage increases.

Digital brand identity is the theme of the sixth podcast.

The episode is based on a reflection: while in the past the focus was on the product, today it is necessary to focus on the brand, especially in digital communication. Digital brand identity is part of an ecosystem made up of different online touchpoints, starting with the website and social media accounts.

Digital Tomorrow podcast no. 7 addresses the issue of privacy for SMEs, which handle a large amount of data, from suppliers' data to customers' data through multiple tools, such as customer service and advertising campaigns. It is therefore important that each company defines the "life" of data within the company, identifies how it will be treated, the right measures for its security and its preservation.

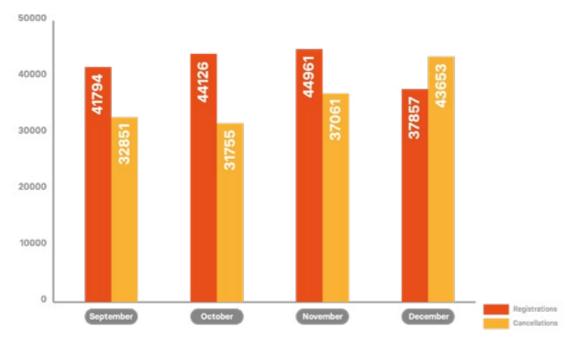


Digital Tomorrow is available on the Registro .it website and on the main listening platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts) Discover all the episodes!



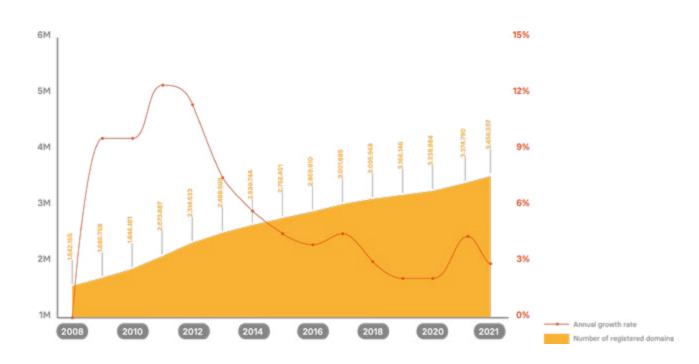
Growth of the New Registrations

Analysis of the trend in registrations of .it names shows that, in general, new registrations exceed cancellations, with significant peaks recorded particularly in September and October. The total difference, during the last four months of 2021, is more than 23 thousand domains, decidedly lower than in the same four-month period of last year, but in line with the trend seen in the three-year period 2017-2019



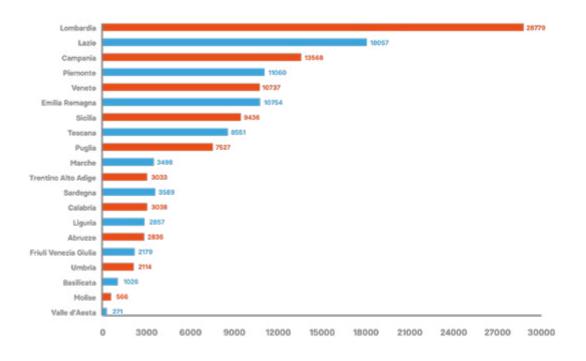
Yearly growth

At the end of 2021, the total number of registered domains amounted to 3,450,337, a positive growth of 2.24% (75,547 more domains), which, however, is moderate compared to the end of 2020. This growth rate is in line with the one recorded in the years before 2020 (2017 to 2019)



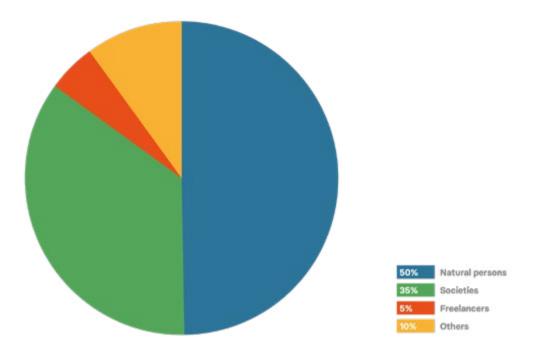
Top Regions

During the third quarter of 2021, Lombardy's percentage in terms of new registrations remains unchanged at 20%, compared to last quarter. Lazio, on the other hand, although still in second place, increased its percentage by one point to 13%. Campania also increased by one percentage point, but at the expense of Emilia Romagna, which lost one percentage point



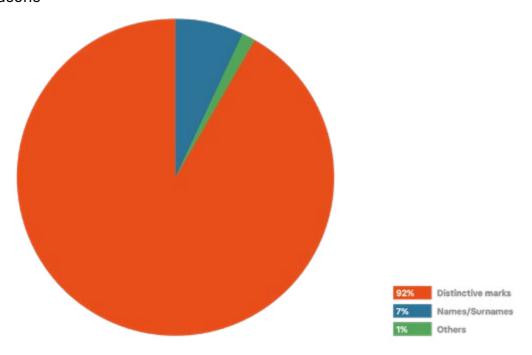
Entity Types

Compared to the previous quarter, the percentages for natural persons and companies remained unchanged at 50% and 35% respectively. However, the percentage of new .it names for self-employed persons fell by two points



Reasons for oppositions

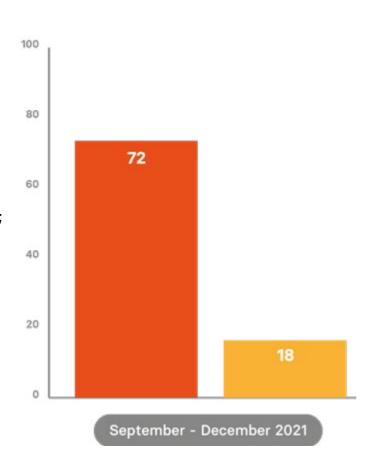
As many as 92% of the oppositions activated in the latter part of the year were due to the infringement of distinctive business signs. This is the highest figure detected in 2021 and we are respectively at: 89% in the first quarter and 90% in the second quarter. The remaining 6% is split as follows: 5% are requests aimed at protecting names/surnames, while 1% concerns "different" reasons



Reassignements

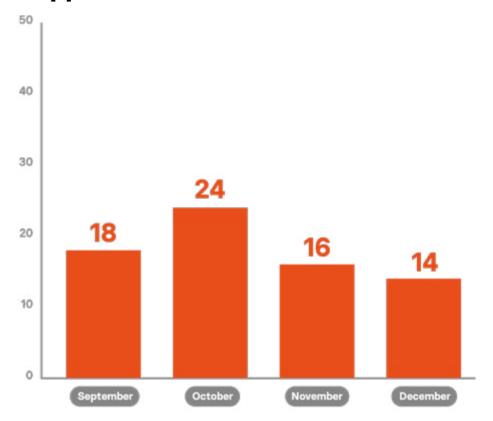
From September to December, 72 oppositions were activated: in 45 of them assignees and opponents were both Italian subjects; 20 were brought by Italian subjects against various foreign subjects; 5 involved foreign subjects, both as opponents and assignees.

Only 2 foreign subjects have activated the opposition against .it names assigned to Italian subjects. Of the 18 reassignments, however, the largest number (10) involved Italian subjects; 3 involved foreign subjects appealing against Italian subjects and 3 others were between national applicants against foreign subjects. In only 2 cases, foreign subjects faced each other both as assignee/respondent and opponent/complainant



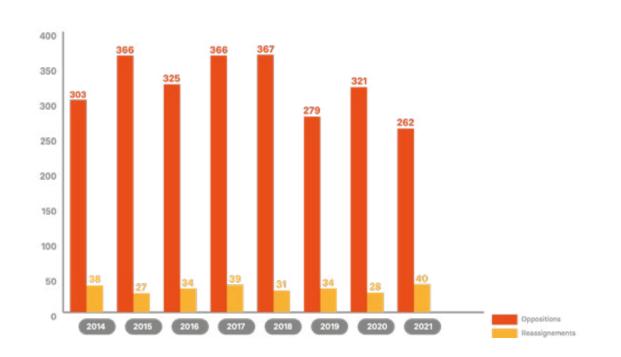
Monthly Trend of the Oppositions

The highest number of opposition activations (24) in the four-month period was recorded in October, while the lowest number was recorded in December, with only 14 oppositions, the same figure as in August. The average for the period was around 18 activations. At this stage of the year, the lowest number of oppositions was recorded, both in terms of the number of procedures activated in the month, and on average over the observation period. In fact, from an average of 22 activations in the first four months of the year, the number rose to 25 in the second and then to 18 at the end of the year



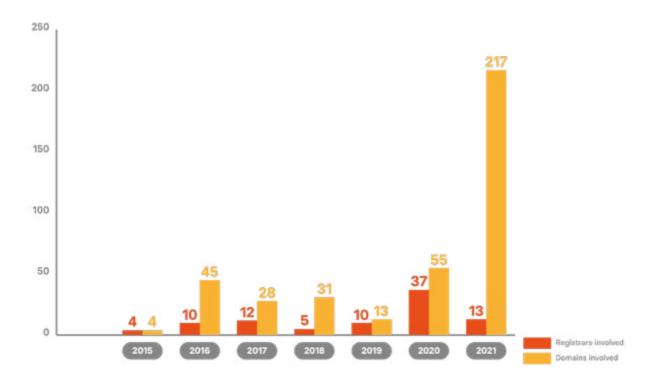
Yearly trend of the Oppositions - Reassignements

There were 262 oppositions in 2021, a decrease of 59 compared to 2020. Reassignment filed with Providers of the Service of Dispute Resolution are 40, 12 more than in the same observation period of the previous year



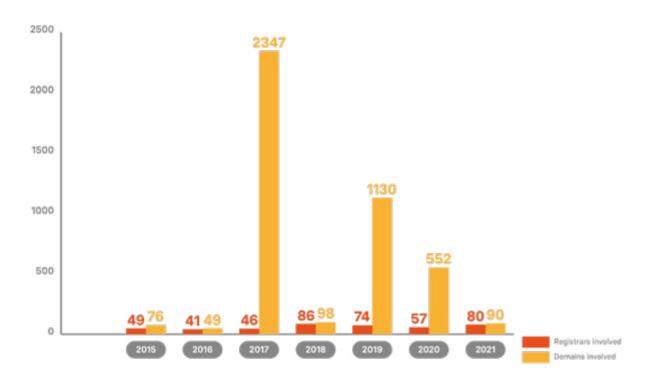
Authinfo requests

In the last four months, there has been a sharp drop in the number of requests for Authinfo code issuance. In other periods, requests peaked as a result of some Registrars no longer having an active contract with the Registro



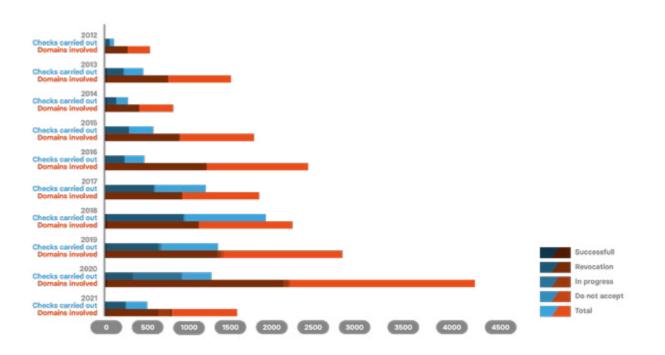
Requests from competent authorities

Requests from the competent authorities in the last four months are in line with the figures for the previous months. In some cases, requests concerned domain names also registered in other TLDs



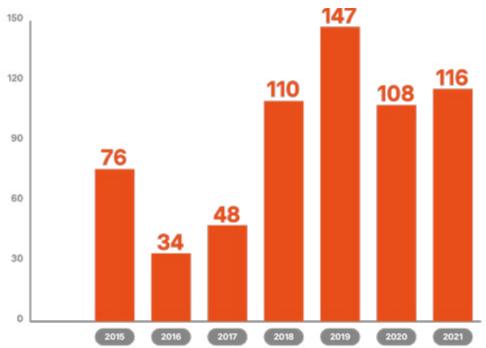
Verification of domains by Registro

The number of verifications of subjective requirements carried out is in line with other time periods examined in the past. In total, about 800 domains were checked during the four-months period: the most important thing to note is that 600 domain names were checked in just three operations



Reserved names

The number of requests for registration of domain names reserved for municipalities, provinces and regions increased considerably compared to the previous period. Partly, this increase is related to the (ongoing) reorganisation of the Second Level Domain (SLD) 'gov.it', where several municipalities had registered their institutional domain name





Quarter it News.

Business, security, schools: the events of the Registro .it at the **Internet Festival 2021**



focusing on a "phygital" dimension, halfway between physical and digital, offering its content both in-person and remotely.

As always, Registro .it played a leading role: as a founding partner of the Internet Festival and as an organiser of events, all focusing on the two main targets to which its communication is dedicated: businesses and schools.

In the headquarters of the Pisa Chamber of Commerce and online on the social channels of the Registro .it the following events took place:

- "Digitisation and Internationalisation: the challenges for the SMEs of Made in Italy", the latest episode of "Piccole Medie Digitali Web talk", hosted by Enrico Pagliarini. Guests on stage were Cristiano Savini, CEO of Savini Tartufi, a Tuscan company exporting truffles all over the world, Emanuele Vitali, Co-founder of East Media, an agency specialising in digital marketing to Russia and China, and Paolo Levaggi, Founder of Fratelli Levaggi, a company producing handcrafted chairs in Liguria.
- two appointments dedicated to teacher training as part of the Registro's Ludoteca project, on the subject of using digital technology at school and in particular the new educational video game produced by the Registry "Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail".

The Internet Festival was also an opportunity to present "Presente Digitale", the Registro's project - in collaboration with the CNR's Institute for Educational Technologies which provides teachers with a series of courses dedicated to Internet topics, from digital education to cybersecurity, from coding to the Internet of Things, all run by CNR researchers. The "Presente Digitale" methodology combines the use of courses and in-depth materials with the possibility of interacting online in a real learning community, where experiences and results can be shared.

The courses are available on www.presentedigitale.it.

Two events dedicated to cybersecurity completed the series of events organised by CNR-IIT/Registro: the Cybersecurity Day, an annual meeting with CNR researchers and figures from the world of research and innovation, and the panel "Ma se l'aspirapolvere mi spiasse? (What if my hoover spied on me?)", on the first results of the European project SIFIS-Home, led by the Institute.



Quarter .it News

Cybersecurity and the challenge of the Ludoteca: warning young Internet users

by Giorgia Bassi



The Ludoteca of the Registro .it is increasingly speaking the language of security, with the aim of warning young Internet enthusiasts of possible cyber threats.

For this reason, cybersecurity workshops continue to multiply this year and involve secondary school pupils. The Ludoteca's challenge is to try to reach as many children as possible and involve them in a path of in-depth study that is useful for enhancing their knowledge but, above all, stimulating a preventive approach, based on good daily practices, when they surf the Web. The course proposed to secondary schools revolves around the video game "Nabbovaldo e il ricatto da cyberspazio" (Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail), a "single player" adventure divided into four chapters, whose protagonist is a boy like many others, always online but sometimes a bit "noob", clueless and naive in facing risky situations (such as malware, online scams and computer attacks). In the journey, in this imaginary world with real risks, all the technical contents linked to the world of cybersecurity are introduced through the exciting language of the

game (with "puzzle" and "arcade" minigames) that children know well.

The potential of the video game was tested at the "Rome Video Game Lab" (Rome, 3-6 November), with a game session dedicated to middle school classes, followed by a lecture.

The electronic game can be conceived as a teaching tool to be used also in the classroom, with which to introduce very important topics related to the safe use of devices: the main cyber threats (malware) and types of attack (e.g., phishing and the terrible 'ransomware', which has seized the entire city of Internetopolis), vulnerabilities (e.g., computer bugs), technical countermeasures (antivirus, firewall), but also, and above all, behavioural methods. To this end, the new laboratories, which will start in early 2022, will also include a training session for teachers, so that they can not only take on board the contents of the game, but also familiarise with and experiment this type of educational method.



"Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail" also attracted the attention of various media, from the press to radio and TV. In addition to various articles in national newspapers (La Repubblica, Il Venerdì di Repubblica, La Stampa), the 'all-rounder' of the Web (this is how the protagonist of the videogame defines himself) also appeared in the episode of the popular programme "Striscia la Notizia" on 28 December, in a space dedicated to the dangers of online fraud.

The course on cybersecurity goes further and the Ludoteca has devised Cybersecurity4Teens (CS4T), the project for secondary schools, which provides 10 hours of training in total and is part of the PCTO programmes (Pathways for Transversal Competences and Orientation, formerly school-to-work alternation). The idea is to make the students acquire a vertical curriculum dedicated to cyber security, through a first theoretical session in which the cornerstones of security on the Internet, the areas of action, the main threats, vulnerabilities and types of attacks are introduced, then going on to illustrate the countermeasures.

The laboratory, on the other hand, is organised by the researchers of the Trust, Security and Privacy research group of the CNR-IIT (Institute of Informatics and Telematics), and aims to introduce students to some techniques for the attack and defence of computer systems, with a view to 'ethical' hacking.

Finally, for both training courses (middle and high school), the effectiveness of the results will be assessed thanks to the research project launched in collaboration with the Department of Education, Languages, Interculture, Literature and Psychology (Forlilpsi). The students will be given questionnaires on their online habits, before and after the workshops, in order to measure any changes in terms of knowledge and skills acquired.



Quarter From the World

The role of the Icann ccNSO for DNS abuse

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni



Although there is no formally accepted technical definition of DNS Abuse, this term refers to phishing, pharming, botnets, malware and spam as vehicles for other DNS abuse activities.

DNS abuse was the main topic in the various sessions of the Icann 72 meeting, which took place last October.

During the various workshops and consultations, which were attended by representatives of the ccTLDs, including .it, the gTLDs, the Icann community, the GAC and, more generally, the entire Internet community, the foundations were laid for a discussion on the activities that should (or should not) be undertaken by the Icann ccNSO (Country Code Names Supporting Organization) in relation to 'malicious' activities involving the DNS.

In November 2021, the ccNSO Council invited the ccTLD community to participate in a public workshop on DNS abuse, to discuss the issue and vote on the suggestions made in the various Icann 72 forums. There were various doubts about the definition of appropriate measures for all ccTLDs and the identification of the entity that should ensure compliance with the code of conduct itself and make the consequent sanctions applicable.

However, there was unanimous agreement on the role that the ccNSO should play in raising awareness of DNS Abuse and in promoting collaboration and sharing of experiences, studies and solutions proposed by the ccTLD Registries rather than by the gTLD environment, or by third parties, as is currently the case. The "one size does not fit all" principle that emerged from the discussions helped to highlight the differences between the ccTLDs and the gTLDs both in terms of contractual aspects towards Icann and in defining the mandate of ccTLD managers to deal with DNS Abuse issues (also emphasising the importance of the relationship that exists between the ccTLDs and their respective Governments).

The ccTLDs have therefore been invited to participate in Icann's DAAR (Domain Abuse Activity Reporting) project and to implement mechanisms already tested, e.g., in the TLD-OPS (the Incident Response Community for, and of, the ccTLDs), with the creation of a new mailing list and small dedicated working groups. The next steps, planned for early 2022, are to present an action plan to the ccTLD community based on the results of the workshop at the next Icann 73 meeting, scheduled for March, with the aim of subsequently launching a new DNS Abuse activity plan.

Icann on "non-DNS domains": watch out for domains that are inactive and not visible in the Domain Name System

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni

Recently, Icann (the international body that oversees the coordination and management of the technical aspects of the global DNS) sent a "warning" to domain name assignees, who are not yet experts in the sector, about the fact that not all domain names are active and visible in the DNS after the conclusion of the contract with the Registrar of their choice; it therefore follows that greater care should be taken and that the Registrar, or - in general - the Internet service provider, should ensure that the domain works and is visible in the DNS.

In fact, there are some Icann-accredited Registrars that offer "non-DNS" domains, without DNS configuration. In the eyes of the inexperienced user who approaches the Registrar, these names may seem identical to the others, working and active. However, there is a problem. When one visits a Registrar's website and clicks on a domain name, the operation fails with the error message: "these domain names are not yet compatible with more traditional DNS systems".

As a result, the inexperienced user will not be able to use that domain name unless he or she installs specific software on his or her digital devices. In order for the purchased domain name to be visible on the Internet, it will be necessary to install a special plug-in on one's favourite browser, or to configure one's system to use a specific DNS resolver (which connects to the Handshake blockchain world).

This is a disadvantage for users wishing to assign a domain, considering that for many of them, being present on the Web with a brandable domain implies that any potential customer, anywhere in the world, can view the site and its contents, as well as the fact that it is an easy name to pronounce and type in any browser.

Although systems to resolve 'non-DNS domains' have existed for a long time, such as the Sun Microsystem Information Service (NIS), Digital Object Architecture (DOA) or the Ethereum Name Service (ENS), the fact that some Icann-accredited Registrars now propose them on their sites together with traditional domain names undoubtedly contributes to increasing the level of confusion among unsuspecting applicants. Hence the advice to users: "Before obtaining a domain name, ask the Registrar or Internet service provider if the DNS for that name is going to work. And remember, be careful!".



Quarter From the World

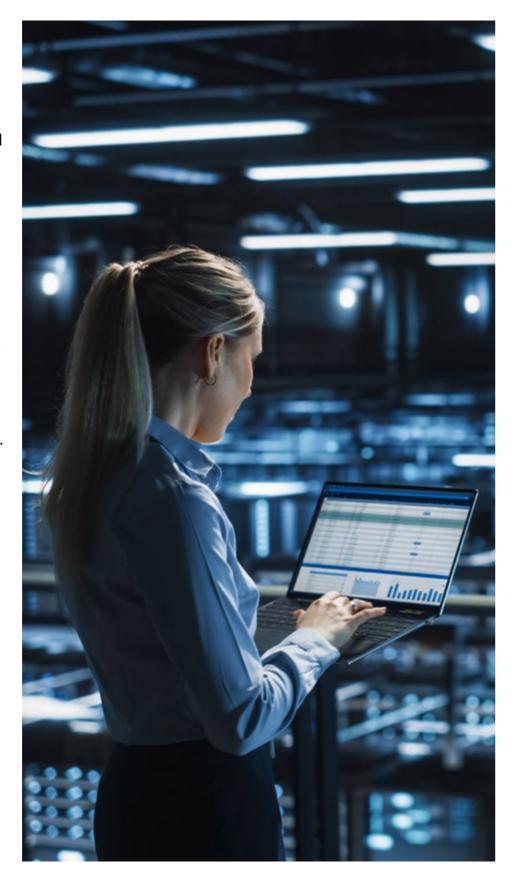
Eu Council general approch on NIS 2 Directive

by Gino Silvatici

On 3 December 2021, the European Council adopted its general approach on the proposal for a directive on measures for a common high level of cybersecurity in the Union (i.e., NIS 2, Network and Information Security).

What emerges is that
Registrars are excluded from
the scope of application of
this Directive. However, with
regard to the obligation of
accuracy of registration data
- as set out in Article 23 the European Council has
requested that TLD Registries
and Registrars, in particular,
verify the name and e-mail
address of the registrant, as
well as the relevant domain
name and date of registration.

The text also suggests that Registries and Registrars respond free of charge to requests for access to data from legitimate requesters within 72 hours, including competent authorities under Union or national law in the field of national security and criminal justice or national CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams).



The opinion of the Court of Justice of the EU on data retention electronic communication

by Gino Silvatici

Advocate General (AG) Campos Sánchez-Bordona of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has issued an opinion on the retention of personal data in the electronic communications sector, including in internet access provision.

The cases were brought to the CJEU by several Member States, fearing that the CJEU's own position on data retention "may deprive state authorities of a necessary tool to safeguard national security and fight crime and terrorism".

The Advocate General responds to the concerns of the Member States by pointing out that "regardless of the situation - justified by the defence of national security - the retention of electronic communications data must be targeted". That principle may be established on the basis of the categories of persons concerned or on the basis of geographical criteria. Furthermore, the retention scheme of traffic and location data for all users under the EU legal framework must be time-limited.

Finally, such a data retention scheme may only be implemented as long as there are sufficiently strong reasons to believe that the Member State concerned faces a serious threat to its national security, which is proven to be genuine, present or foreseeable.







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