

Glossary

Abbreviations and terms of the domain world

ccTLD

Abbreviation for country code → top-level domain, examples are .DE for Germany, .FR for France and .US for the USA. The ccTLDs are geographically defined and composed of two letters.

DENIC

→ Registry of the → ccTLD .DE (Germany).

DNS

Abbreviation for Domain Name System, if requested the service finds the → IP address, the access number which belongs to a → domain name. → IP addresses are long chains of numbers. The DNS simplifies the use of the Internet by making it possible to employ the → domain name instead of the → IP address. The DNS is – similar to the system of phone numbers – a hierarchical → name space.

Domain

An internet address, also called web address, e.g. key-systems.net. The domain is part of the → URL of a web site (e.g. http://www.key-systems.net). It is composed of a term (key-systems), a subsequent point (.) and a → top-level domain (e.g. .NET). The term which prefixes the → top-level domain, can be divided into further levels (→ subdomain). A domain describes a → name space on the Internet.

Domain extension

Synonym for → top-level domain and / or → second-level domain.

Domainer

A Person who possesses a generally huge domain portfolio and who uses his domains as investment by renting them, selling them, by forwarding visitors to other web sites or the like.

Domain owner

The entity with substantial ownership rights to a → domain, often referred to as the → registrant. The → domain owner is sometimes hidden from the public record through the use of private records or trustee services but the owner still holds responsibility for the use of the → domain name.

Domain name

Synonym for → domain, refers only to the character string a → domain represents (e.g. key-systems.net) and not to the technical underpinnings. Domain names are composed of a sequence of characters which are separated by points.

gTLD

Abbreviation for generic → top-level domain, examples are .COM, .INFO or .ORG. The gTLDs are defined with regards to content. .COM indicates especially commercial offers on the Internet, .INFO refers to information offers of all kind, .ORG stands for organizations.

IANA

Abbreviation for Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, a division of → ICANN. It coordinates several of the technical conditions of the Internet. The organization operates, among other things, the Domain Name System (→ DNS) and regulates the allocation of → IP addresses.

ICANN

Abbreviation for Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, non-profit organization, which establishes a basis for the administration of the → top-level domains and regulates technical aspects of the Internet as it is the supreme internet agency. Via the Domain Name System (→ DNS) ICANN insures that → domain names and → IP addresses are allocated worldwide only once. Furthermore, ICANN coordinates the → registration of → gTLDs, which it has delegated to subordinate → registries.

IDN

Abbreviation for Internationalized Domain Name, a → domain name, which contains non-ASCII figures. This contains characters with accents, umlauts, and characters from languages which do not use the Latin alphabet.

Internet service provider

Abbreviation: ISP, a provider of technical services or contents which form a condition for the use or operation of internet contents and services in general.

IP address

Is used on the Internet similar to the address on an envelope for sending data from a sender to a receiver (e.g. 212.227.111.247). Through the IP address, sender and receiver are definitely identifiable. An IP address can indicate one or more receivers. Additionally, several IP addresses can be related to one computer.

Name space

An organizing principle of the information technology which is used to avoid conflicts within the allocation of names. The Domain Name System (→ DNS) is a hierarchical name space, which means, the → DNS itself is composed of other name spaces. The single elements of a → domain name, separated by a point, point to the single, hierarchical name spaces of the → DNS. The → domain name is always resolved from the right to the left, which means the first name space in the hierarchy is the → top-level domain, the second is the → second-level domain, the third is the → third-level domain and so on. In this way, the term key-systems can be used for several, distinguishable → domains, e.g. for the → domain key-systems.net or for key-systems.asia.

new TLDs

→ gTLDs, for which public and private sector organizations can soon apply to the supreme internet agency, → ICANN. The new TLDs may comprise letter combinations of three to 63 characters. They can be classified into three groups. The generic → gTLDs are defined by content, similar to the existing .COM or .NET. The geo TLDs represent cities and regions or ethnic groups. The third group of the new TLDs form the company and trademark TLDs. Some examples are .ECO and .FOOD for generic TLDs, .MADRID or .SAARLAND for geo TLDs, and .NIVEA or .EBAY for company and trademark TLDs.

NIC

Abbreviation for Network Information Center (usually called → registry), organization for the allocation of → domains within the → name space of one or more → top-level domains according to their own allocation rules. Thus a NIC also administers a part of the resources needed for the technical operation of the Domain Name System (→ DNS).

Registrant

A person or organization which registers a → domain with the responsible → registry for a dedicated time period. The registrant purchases the → domain either for himself or for another → domain owner and is displayed in the public record.

Registrar

Organization or company, which executes the → registration of → domains. The registrar functions as a gateway between the → registrant and the → registry.

Registration

Process for the purchase and technical implementation of a → domain, which is executed for a → registrant either by a → registry directly, a → registrar, an → internet service provider or a → reseller.

Registry

Synonym for → NIC

Reseller

In general, a seller of purchased services or products. Within the process of → domain → registration, a reseller or a chain of several resellers can stand between the → registrar and the → registrant.

Second-level domain

Abbreviation: SLD, viewed from the right hand side, the second character group (key-systems) within the → domain name (key-systems.net). → Domain names are composed of a sequence of characters separated by points. Those character groups match hierarchically arranged → name spaces. The hierarchy of the character groups declines from right to left.

Subdomain

Part of a larger domain in the naming hierarchy, for example subdomain.key-systems.net where key-systems.net would be the domain and subdomain.key-systems.net would be the subdomain. This is often referred to as a → third-level domain or a "child domain".

Third-level domain

Viewed from the right hand side, the third character group (key-systems) within the → domain name (key-systems.co.uk). → Domain names are composed of a sequence of characters separated by points. Those character groups match hierarchically arranged → name spaces. The hierarchy of the character groups declines from right to left. Sometimes refers to → subdomain.

Top-level domain

Abbreviation: TLD, viewed from the right hand side, the first character group (.NET) and thus highest level of the → domain name (key-systems.net). → Domain names are composed of a sequence of characters separated by points. Those character groups match hierarchically arranged → name spaces. The hierarchy of the character groups declines from right to left.



URL

Abbreviation for Uniform Resource Locator, a sequence of characters, which among other things identifies and locates a web site. An example of a URL is <http://www.key-systems.net>.

Web hosting

Allocation of → web space

Web space

A disk space for files on a server, which can be continuously accessed through the Internet. → Internet service providers offer web space so that clients can save and publish their documents and data or internet pages there.

Whois

Request service for the information about → a domain name or → IP address. This information typically contains name, address and phone number of owner, administrative, billing, and technical contacts of a → domain name. Other information such as creation date, expiration date and servers may also be included. Via a whois request at the responsible → NIC, such data becomes accessible.

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