

.net.uk Working Group
Chairman's Report

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WG Chair

Background

The .net.uk working group was set up to consider what, if any, changes would be desirable to the rules governing domains within the .net.uk second level domain. The group discussed the issues on the mailing list, before a consultation document was drawn up. Following a three month consultation, the group discussed the results.

Consultation & Discussion

The consultation period begun on 19 December 2005 and ended on 19 March 2006. Over 20 responses were received with a wide number of views.

Consultation Paper

http://www.nic.uk/digitalAssets/5403_netuk_consultation_paper_version_2.pdf

Consultation Responses:

<http://www.nic.uk/policy/consultations/netuk/>

The consultation process did result in noteworthy support for a change in the rules to add Nominet member/tagholders to the list of eligible parties although there were still outstanding issues on some detail of the proposal. The consultation process in general showed support for a restricted SLD (as opposed to an open one like .co.uk) to one degree or another as well as maintaining UK presence requirements. There are some questions as to the scope of the responses which should be considered in parallel with the responses. Following the consultation process the working group chair made a suggestion on changes which re-ignited a debate which has been going on since with polarised views.

Conclusion

The discussion within the working group of the consultation responses resulted in a clear division of opinion on this issue, not only whether any changes were necessary, but also what such changes should and should not include. There seems no clear way forward for the group to come to a commonly held view on any specific changes to the rules and it seems unlikely that this would change simply by extending discussion for a further two months. Any proposals would be likely to cause significant disagreement from some participants.

As such, unless the PAB feels that the group has missed an option or idea which merits further discussion, it is recommended that the existing rules remain unchanged and that the working group be wound up. This should not preclude reviewing the status of the .net.uk rules after a reasonable period of time. The working group chair would particularly like to thank Nominet for the support in gathering the responses to the consultation and producing a summary of these for the group.

Proposed Resolution

The PAB **resolves** to accept the conclusions of the .net.uk working group chair that the group is unable to come to a consensus on any proposed changes to the .net.uk SLD. The PAB further **resolves** that the rules should remain unchanged and that the working group should be closed.