

Nominet PAB meeting – 14 March 2007

Statement from the Policy Advisory Body on .net.uk

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, consultation took place between 19 December 2005 and 19 March 2006 and held discussions on the working group mailing list thereafter.

Consultation

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.

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.

As such, unless there is 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.

Examples of responses

- Keep the restrictions - opening the namespace would result in countless companies being told they need to register a name in order to protect themselves
- Allow wider use, but prevent simple duplication of .co.uk/.org.uk registrations
- Restrict .net.uk for some definition of ISP/network operator with strict eligibility criteria but relaxed enough to allow for the smaller providers to register in the .net.uk DNS hierarchy without having to spend significant money on annual LIR membership
- If the UK ISP community so desperately needs their own SLD to 'identify' themselves, then I would suggest .isp.uk would be a far better SLD.

- Open up usage of '.net.uk' domains to any Nominet tag holders, and make respecting the intended usage of '.net.uk' a condition of being a tag holder.
- Introduce more SLDs, e.g. shop.uk
- Close .net.uk completely to new registrations. I cannot see any compelling reason why .net.uk should exist at all
- Open it up – not many use it anyway
- Keep things the way they are – there is no consensus for change

Conclusion

At the July 2006 meeting the PAB resolved to accept the report of the working group chair which recommended that no changes should be made as there was no clear agreement on what such changes should be.

The .net.uk issue is no longer on the PAB work programme, but may be reinstated after a reasonable period of time or if and when stakeholders felt it merits further discussion.

Consultation Paper

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

Consultation Responses:

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

Final Report

http://www.nic.uk/digitalAssets/11706_netuk-wg-jul06-report.pdf