

Variable Registration Periods

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Introduction

Many domain names, particularly com, net and org (CNO) domains, are available for registration or renewal for periods of between one and ten years. Feedback from the Nominet member lunch program has suggested that many members feel that this would be a desirable addition to the Nominet feature set.

Proposals

- Nominet could support variable length registration of between one and ten years.
- Nominet could support 1.N years of registration, to allow members to offer customers the chance to synchronise their domain name renewal dates with their hosting/service contract dates.

Feedback from member lunches

- Of the 82 that we met with, 19 commented that they would like to see variable registration periods of between one and ten years.
- Two members also commented that if there were to be a one year period, the Nominet price should be set the same as the two year period as many of the costs would be the same.

Pros and Cons

Clearly, there are advantages to tag holders and registrants in having single year registrations/renewals in that:

- It allows for a billing cycle, which ties in with a customer's annual hosting package.
- It provides parity with CNO (and other) domains, reducing confusion.
- It allows a greater frequency of data update for Nominet.

Multi year registration – e.g. up to 10 years, is likely to be of benefit to people who own key domain names and hold them for brand protection and/or security purposes.

However, the problem of having domain names registered for 10 years is that there is an increased chance those registrants will “forget” about their domain names, or move/change job/location etc. and thus Nominet's register will become increasingly inaccurate.

Proposal

The PAB is invited to consider:

- Whether Nominet should support one year, and “one+n” registrations to bring a renewal date forward in time to a specific month.
- Whether Nominet should support multiple year registrations, beyond two year registrations, or whether further investigation and consultation on this issue is required.