

# Reserved Domain names

## *PAB SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT*

### 1. Introduction

At PAB meeting 59 (12 November 2008), the subject of 2 letter domain names was discussed. As part of this discussion it was noted that other domain names are also reserved under rules 5.8 and 5.9. A paper outlining the issue was produced for the PAB meeting in January 2009. At that meeting it was agreed that the issue of reserved names required further discussion in a sub committee.

Mark Healey volunteered to Chair the sub-committee meeting which was held at Victoria Park Plaza, 239 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EQ on 25 February 2009. Andrew Bennett, Clive Feather, Jarrod Robinson and Michael Toth attended the sub-committee meeting from the PAB, with Eleanor Bradley and Laura Hutchison attending from Nominet.

Michael Toth declared an interest in this issue as he is the registrant of info.co.uk.

### 2. What names are reserved?

For ease of reference the appendices from the reserved names paper from the January 2009 PAB meeting are included at the end of this paper. The reserved names fall into the following categories:

Those "identical to any existing SLD" – appendix three  
Those identical to an existing TLD – appendix four  
Those identical to any TLD announced by ICANN – appendix five  
Domain names registered at the second level – appendix six

### 3. Should any names remain reserved?

There was some concern amongst the group over the proposal to release "com" at the third level. The group discussed the technical issues that may arise with com.co.uk and the "domain guessing" that occurs in a browser. <http://www.mozilla.org/docs/end-user/domain-guessing.html>. There is the possibility that some browsers with domain guessing enabled would go to "www.somedomainname.com.co.uk" instead of "www.somedomainname.com" if com.co.uk was opened up.

It was also felt that having com as a third level domain had the potential to cause confusion. There was also concern that registries would be run from com.co.uk offering registrations at the fourth level, which would not be in the best interests of the .uk namespace due to the risk of confusion.

The counter argument was that the same could happen under any of the other TLD's such as fr.co.uk. However, it was agreed that "com" is different because UK stakeholders would tend to recognise the .com TLD and many registrants register a .com domain name alongside their .uk one. Following much discussion it was agreed that in the same way as the 2 letter domain name recommendations will keep "uk" blocked at the third level, it was in the best interests of the .uk namespace to include special provision in the recommendations to block "com" at the third level too.

### 4. Reserved domain names sub-committee recommendations

The reserved names state sub-committee agreed to make the following recommendations to the PAB:

1. The PAB recognises that the registration of any .uk SLD (whether run by Nominet or a third party) at the third level could lead to confusion, and should continue to be prevented.
2. Registration of the same domain/ name/ at the 2nd and 3rd levels is standard registry practice and need not be prevented. Any issues can be addressed through the DRS system.

3. The PAB recommends that the registration at the third level of new SLDs applied for under the new SLD process before the application for that SLD has completed be prevented (if available); making such alterations to its Rules as appropriate.
4. The PAB recommends that Nominet should make any other names currently reserved under Rule 5.9 not covered by the recent discussion on two letter domain names available for registration, excluding “com”; making such alterations to its Rules as appropriate. There should be a special approach to releasing domain names with a staged sunrise period as with two letter domain names.
5. The PAB recommends that Nominet does not have to block registrations for any new TLDs which are announced by ICANN (or any replacement body which controls the creation of new TLDs); making such alterations to its Rules as appropriate.

### Appendix 3

Those "identical to any existing SLD (as listed in Appendices A, B and C to the Rules)."

|        | co.uk | me.uk   | net.uk | org.uk |
|--------|-------|---------|--------|--------|
| gov    |       | Nominet |        |        |
| ltd    |       |         |        |        |
| mod    |       |         |        |        |
| net    |       |         |        |        |
| nhs    |       | Nominet |        |        |
| org    |       | Nominet |        |        |
| plc    |       |         |        |        |
| police |       |         |        |        |
| sch    |       | Nominet |        |        |

|              |    |     |  |
|--------------|----|-----|--|
| All Variants | 36 |     |  |
| Reserved     | 36 |     |  |
| Registered   | 0  | 0 % |  |

|                   |    |     |  |
|-------------------|----|-----|--|
| Relevant Variants | 18 |     |  |
| Reserved          | 18 |     |  |
| Registered        | 0  | 0 % |  |

Grey denotes reserved, "Nominet" denotes registered to Nominet.

### Appendix 4

Those "identical to an existing TLD."

|      | co.uk      | me.uk | net.uk | org.uk     |
|------|------------|-------|--------|------------|
| arpa | Registered |       |        | Registered |
| com  |            |       |        |            |
| edu  | Registered |       |        | Registered |
| int  | Registered |       |        | Registered |
| mil  | Registered |       |        | Registered |

|              |    |         |  |
|--------------|----|---------|--|
| All Variants | 20 |         |  |
| Reserved     | 12 |         |  |
| Registered   | 8  | 40.00 % |  |

|                   |    |         |  |
|-------------------|----|---------|--|
| Relevant Variants | 10 |         |  |
| Reserved          | 2  |         |  |
| Registered        | 8  | 80.00 % |  |

Grey denotes reserved, "Registered" denotes registered to another party.

### Appendix 5

Those "identical to... any TLD the formal approval of which has been announced by ICANN (or any replacement body which controls the creation of new TLDs)."

|        | co.uk      | me.uk      | net.uk | org.uk     |
|--------|------------|------------|--------|------------|
| aero   | Registered | Nominet    |        | Registered |
| biz    | Registered | Registered |        |            |
| cat    | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| coop   | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| info   | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| jobs   | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| mobi   | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| museum | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| name   | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| pro    |            | Registered |        | Registered |
| travel | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |

|              |    |         |
|--------------|----|---------|
| All Variants | 44 |         |
| Reserved     | 14 |         |
| Available    | 0  |         |
| Registered   | 30 | 68.18 % |

|                   |    |         |
|-------------------|----|---------|
| Relevant Variants | 22 |         |
| Reserved          | 2  |         |
| Registered        | 20 | 90.90 % |

Grey denotes reserved, "Nominet" denotes registered to Nominet, "Registered" denotes registered to another party.

## Appendix 6

Domain names registered at the second level

|                 | co.uk      | me.uk      | net.uk | org.uk     |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------|------------|
| british-library | Registered | Registered |        |            |
| icnet           | Registered |            |        |            |
| jet             |            | Registered |        | Registered |
| nls             | Registered | Registered |        | Registered |
| parliament      |            | Registered |        | Registered |

|              |    |      |
|--------------|----|------|
| All Variants | 20 |      |
| "Reserved"   | 4  |      |
| Registered   | 10 | 50 % |

|                   |    |      |
|-------------------|----|------|
| Relevant Variants | 10 |      |
| "Reserved"        | 4  |      |
| Registered        | 6  | 60 % |

Grey denotes registered to registrant of second level domain, "Registered" denotes registered to another party, unshaded denotes available for registration.