

Consultation on the release of two letter, one character and other reserved .uk domain names

We are planning to release two letter, one character and other reserved .uk domains.

If you have an interest in the registration of these domains then we would like to hear your thoughts on how we should release these domains.

Domains that may be released:

- All currently reserved one character domains in .co.uk, .org.uk, .me.uk and .net.uk
- All currently reserved two letter domains in .co.uk, .org.uk, .me.uk and .net.uk*
- We may also release a series of domain names previously reserved e.g.
 - Domain names that use a gTLD at the third level, e.g. biz.org.uk
 - Domains that use a Second Level Domain at the third level, e.g. sch.org.uk

See Appendix 1 for a list of domains that could be released.

*There are a number of exceptions. These domain names were registered before Nominet started operation in 1996.

1. What is it all about?

The current rules for registering .uk domain names do not allow the registration of two letter domain names.

Nominet's Policy Advisory Body (PAB) has recommended that two letter domain names should be available for registration and a PAB sub-committee agreed on the principles of how two letter domain names should be released.

In addition the PAB also suggested the release of one character domains and some other short names which are identical to existing generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs).

These recommendations and suggestions have been reviewed internally and we consider that in general where there is no longer a technical or policy reason for a restriction in our rules, then those rules should be removed.

This consultation paper explains the background to the decision to release the domains and outlines our proposal for releasing them.

We are running the consultation to seek feedback from any interested stakeholder on the:

- Potential deletion of Rules 5.5, 5.6, 5.8 and 5.9 from the Rules of Registration, and any exceptions that may be made for specific technical or policy reasons
- Potential release mechanism ("sunrise") and the qualifying rights required to participate in the sunrise

2. How to respond to this consultation

This consultation will run for three months, from 8 March 2010 until 8 June 2010. Please give us your feedback. You can either do this by completing our online survey or by emailing your answers to shortdomains@nominet.org.uk

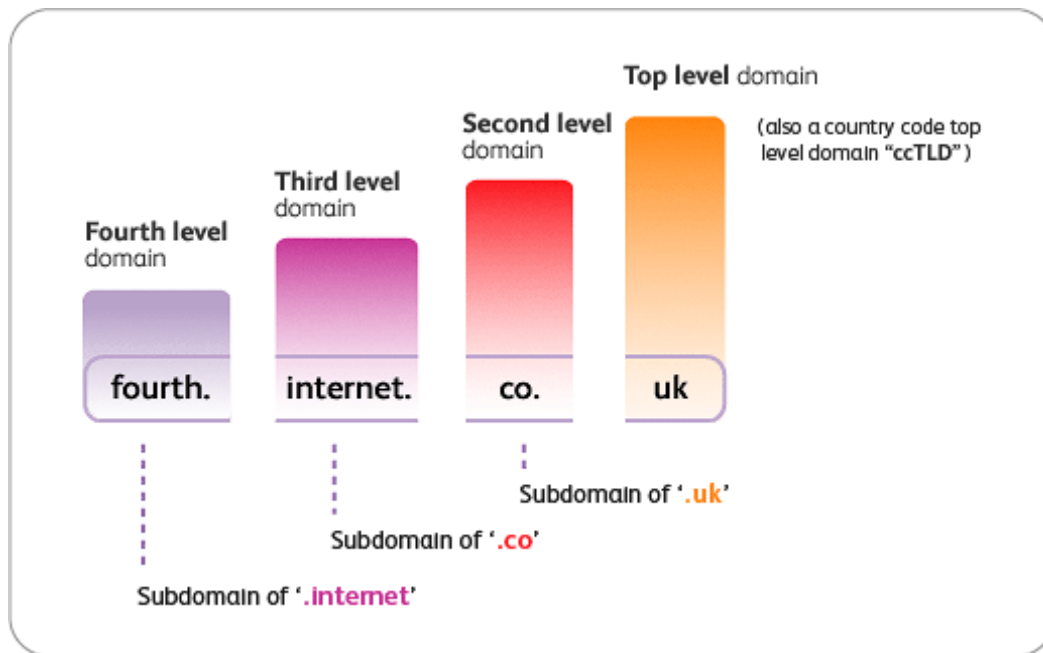
We may publish your response to the consultation on our web site (without your email address) but if you do not wish us to publish your response you can specify this. We reserve the right to remove any materials that in our reasonable opinion are defamatory, offensive or unintelligible.

We will publish the responses on our web site at the end of each month of the consultation period.

We encourage all stakeholders to take part and appreciate your feedback on this proposal.

3. Background

Internet domain names comprise various different levels:



Our Rules of domain name registration

<http://www.nominet.org.uk/registrants/aboutdomainnames/rules/>

currently prevent registration of the following domain names in .uk:

- One character domains at the third level (e.g. a.co.uk), see Rule 5.5;
- Two letter domains in the third level of co.uk, me.uk, org.uk and net.uk (e.g. aa.co.uk), (but they do allow one letter, one number e.g. a1.co.uk), see Rule 5.6;
- A third level registration in co.uk, me.uk, org.uk and net.uk that is identical to an existing .uk second level domain (e.g. ac.co.uk, co.org.uk, etc), see Rule 5.8; and
- A third level registration in co.uk, me.uk, org.uk and net.uk that is identical to an existing top level domain (e.g. com.co.uk, gov.org.uk, edu.me.uk etc), see Rule 5.9. In practice this is not enforced for new gTLDs.

Clearly there are potential domain names that would break one or more of these rules.

For example, co.co.uk would breach Rule 5.6 (the third level being two letters), Rule 5.8 (the third level already being an existing second level) and Rule 5.9 (co being the country code top level for Columbia).

4. PAB recommendation and our response

The Policy Advisory Body (PAB) recommended to the Nominet Board that two letter domains ought to be made available for registration in the co.uk and org.uk sub-domains via a staged sunrise for rights holders, and on a cost recovery basis.

The PAB sub-committee reviewing the two letter domain question also touched on the application of Rules 5.8 and 5.9, together with the release of one character domains. The PAB concluded that the release of these domains should also be considered, subject to further consultation and debate.

The PAB paper on this issue is here:

http://www.nominet.org.uk/digitalAssets/34405_PAB_Nov08_2letterDNs_sub_committee_report_ER_draft.pdf .

A further PAB sub-committee looked at names which are reserved for other reasons, and their report is here:

http://www.nominet.org.uk/digitalAssets/37113_PABMarch09_reserved_domain_names_subcommittee_report.pdf

Our general approach to these restricted domains is that where there is no longer a valid technical or policy reason for a rule, then the rule should be removed.

Given that many of these domains are likely to be highly attractive due to their intrinsic brevity, we agree that it seems appropriate to follow the PAB recommendation for a controlled sunrise release mechanism.

5. Domain names being released

In terms of policy considerations, the PAB recommended the release of domain names as follows:

- One character domains
- All two letter domains not already registered, including existing country codes under ISO 3166-1, such as fr, es, de, apart from “uk”. For reference, a list of the Pre-Nominet two letter registrations is included as Appendix 2.
- Existing generic top level domains

The PAB were divided on the issue of whether SLDs should continue to be blocked from registration, and suggested that this be the subject of further consultation.

6. Domain names not being released – technical exclusions

We are considering excluding the release of “com”, “net” and “org” from the release in .co.uk because of a technical issue. This issue is explained in detail in Appendix 3, but it concerns DNS servers receiving a substantial number of queries not intended for them due to the way search suffixes work for some resolvers, e.g. the holder of com.co.uk receiving information on searches for non-existent domain names in the .com gTLD.

7. The release mechanism

The PAB recommended a two phase sunrise mechanism:

Round 1: Applications accepted from holders of registered trademarks recognised and enforceable in the UK that must be identical to the two letter combination applied for.
Round 2: Domain names not taken up in the first round would then be open to holders of unregistered rights.

We consider that for consistency the same approach should be applied for one character domains and other short domains.

The PAB recommended a cut off date for qualifying rights, with 1996 (the launch of Nominet) and 2002 (the date of a series of initial discussions regarding the release of two letter domains) being suggested as possibilities. We are open to stakeholder suggestions for a suitable qualifying cut off date.

8. Handling cases where there are two or more qualifying rights holders

The PAB was unable to make a unanimous recommendation for how to allocate domain names where there are two or more qualifying rights holders, although a lottery, landrush and auction were considered.

- We consider that charities and not for profit organisations should have priority for org.uk domains, and that commercial organisations should have priority for co.uk domains.
- me.uk domains may only be registered by individuals.
- On the basis that all of the domain names which form part of this exercise may to a greater or lesser extent be regarded as premium generic domain names, we are inclined towards a sealed bid auction for cases where there are competing rights holders of the same business type, and for any domain names which are not taken up by rights holders.
- For me.uk domains being released, we are considering a Dutch auction similar to the sunrise release of the .me.uk SLD in January 2002, i.e. a decreasing registration price over time.

9. Costs

We intend to run this exercise on a cost recovery basis, with a fee payable by rights holders for validation by an appropriate independent agency. Nominet will cover all operational costs for this process as part of our general operating costs.

If any auctions generate a surplus, we intend to gift that surplus to Nominet Trust, a charitable organisation established by Nominet with the objects including the education, relief of financial hardship and protection of children in the area of the Internet and information technology. For more information see: <http://www.nominettrust.org.uk/>

10. Have your say!

Please give us your feedback on these proposals by answering the following questions:

What domains should we release?

1. Do you agree that two letter domain names should be released for registration in co.uk, org.uk, net.uk and me.uk as recommended by the PAB? Yes/No Please give comments
2. Do you agree that one character domain names should be released for registration in co.uk, org.uk, net.uk and me.uk as recommended by the PAB? Yes/No Please give comments
3. Do you agree that existing country codes under ISO 3166-1 such as fr, de, es, us etc be released for registration in co.uk, org.uk, net.uk and me.uk as recommended by the PAB? Yes/No Please give comments
4. We outlined the technical reasons why com.co.uk, org.co.uk and net.co.uk should not be released. Do you agree with these exceptions? Yes/No Please give comments
5. Do you agree that existing generic top level domains (e.g. biz, info) should be released for registration in co.uk, org.uk, net.uk and me.uk as recommended by the PAB? Yes/No Please give comments
6. Do you agree that existing .uk second level domains (e.g. co, org, ac, me, ltd) should also be released for registration in co.uk, org.uk, net.uk and me.uk? Yes/No Please give comments
7. Do you agree that "uk" should continue to be reserved from registration in co.uk, org.uk, net.uk and me.uk as recommended by the PAB? Yes/No Please give comments

What process should we use for releasing domains?

8. We propose to take the same approach for two letter, one character and the other previously unreleased domains (e.g. pro.co.uk). Do you agree with this proposal? Yes/No Please give comments
9. The PAB recommended a two stage release process: a first round for holders of registered trademarks, and a second round for names not taken by rights holders, open to holders of unregistered rights. Do you agree with this recommendation? Yes/No Please give comments
10. The PAB recommended a cut off date for qualifying rights for IP rights holders. They suggested 1996 and 2002 as possible dates. What do you think would be a suitable cut off date?
11. We propose that initially commercial organisations should have priority in.co.uk and charities and not for profit organisations should have priority in org.uk. Do you agree with this approach? Yes/No Please give comments
12. We propose to hold a sealed bid auction for domain names where rights holders are competing, and for domain names not taken up by rights holders. Do you think there is a fairer way to allocate the first registration of these domain names? Yes/No Please give comments
13. We propose to hold a Dutch auction for the general release (“landrush”) of domains not taken up by rights holders. Do you think there is a fairer way to allocate the first registration of these domain names? Yes/ No Please give comments, particularly in relation to the starting price for any Dutch auction.
14. We plan to run this whole exercise on a cost recovery basis, and any surplus funds generated from auctions would be donated to Nominet Trust, a charitable organisation established by Nominet with the objects including the education, relief of financial hardship and protection of children in the area of the Internet and information technology. Do you agree with this approach? Yes/No Please give comments
15. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the proposed release of these domain names?

Appendix 1 List of .uk domain names that could be made available for registration

This list is not a complete set as some domains were registered before Nominet was set up in 1996 and the restrictions were introduced. See Appendix 2 for a list of the domains that are already registered.

In co.uk:

arpa	com	gov	ltd	mod	net	nhs
nic	org	plc	police	pro	sch	
aa	ab	ac	ad	ae	af	ag
ah	Ai	aj	ak	al	am	an
ao	ap	aq	ar	as	at	au
av	aw	ax	ay	az		
ba	bb	bc	bd	be	bf	bg
bh	bi		bk	bl	bm	bn
bo	bp	bq	br	bs		bu
bv	bw	bx	by	bz		
ca	cb	cc		ce	cf	cg
ch	ci	cj	ck	cl	cm	cn
co	cp	cq	cr	cs	ct	cu
cv	cw	cx	cy	cz		
da	db	dc	dd	de	df	dg
dh	di	dj	dk	dl	dm	dn
do	dp	dq	dr		dt	du
dv	dw	dx	dy	dz		
ea		ec	ed	ee	ef	eg
eh	ei	ej	ek	el	em	en
eo	ep	eq	er	es		eu
ev	ew	ex	ey	ez		
fa	fb	fc	fd	fe	ff	fg
fh	fi	fj	fk		fm	fn
fo	fp	fq	fr	fs	ft	fu
fv	fw	fx	fy	fz		
		gc	gd	ge	gf	gg
gh	gi	gj	gk	gl	gm	gn
	gp	gq		gs	gt	gu
gv	gw	gx	gy	gz		
ha	hb	hc	hd	he	hf	hg
hh	hi	hj	hk	hl	hm	hn
ho		hq	hr	hs	ht	hu
hv	hw	hx	hy	hz		
ia	ib	ic	id	ie	if	
ih	ii	ij	ik	il	im	in
io	ip	iq	ir	is		iu
iv	iw	ix	iy	iz		
ja	jb	jc	jd	je	jf	jg
jh	ji		jk	jl	jm	jn
jo	jp	jq	jr	js	jt	ju
jv	jw	jx	jy	jz		
ka	kb	kc	kd	ke	kf	kg
kh	ki	kj	kk	kl	km	kn
ko	kp	kq	kr	ks	kt	ku
kv	kw	kx	ky	kz		

la	lb	lc	ld	le	lf	lg
lh	li	lj	lk	ll	lm	ln
lo	lp	lq	lr	ls	lt	lu
lv	lw	lx	ly	lz		
ma	mb		md	me	mf	mg
mh	mi	mj	mk	ml	mm	mn
mo		mq	mr	ms	mt	mu
mv	mw	mx	my	mz		
na	nb	nc	nd	ne	nf	ng
nh	ni	nj	nk	nl	nm	nn
no	np	nq	nr	ns	nt	nu
nv	nw	nx	ny	nz		
oa	ob	oc	od	oe	of	og
oh	oi	oj		ol	om	on
oo	op	oq	or	os	ot	ou
ov	ow	ox	oy	oz		
pa	pb	pc	pd	pe	pf	pg
ph	pi	pj	pk	pl	pm	pn
po	pp	pq	pr		pt	pu
pv	pw	px	py	pz		
qa	qb	qc	qd	qe	qf	qg
qh	qi	qj	qk	ql	qm	qn
qo	qp	qq	qr	qs	qt	qu
qv	qw	qx	qy	qz		
ra	rb	rc	rd	re	rf	rg
rh	ri	rj	rk	rl	rm	rn
ro	rp	rq	rr	rs	rt	ru
rv	rw	rx	ry	rz		
sa	sb	sc	sd	se	sf	sg
sh	si		sk	sl	sm	sn
so	sp	sq	sr	ss	st	su
sv	sw	sx	sy	sz		
ta	tb		td	te	tf	tg
th	ti	tj	tk	tl	tm	tn
to		tq	tr	ts	tt	tu
	tw	tx	ty	tz		
ua	ub	uc	ud	ue	uf	ug
uh	ui	uj	uk	ul	um	un
uo	up	uq	ur	us	ut	uu
uv	uw	ux	uy	uz		
va	vb	vc	vd	ve	vf	vg
vh	vi	vj	vk	vl	vm	vn
vo	vp	vq	vr	vs	vt	vu
vv		vx	vy	vz		
wa	wb	wc	wd	we	wf	wg
wh	wi	wj	wk	wl	wm	wn
wo	wp	wq	wr	ws	wt	wu
wv	ww	wz	wy	wz		
xa	xb	xc	xd	xe	xf	xg
xh	xi	xj	xk	xl	xm	xn
xo	xp	xq	xr	xs	xt	xu
xv	xw	xx	xy	xz		
ya	yb	yc	yd	ye	yf	yg

yh	yi	yj	yk	yl	ym	yn
yo		yq	yr	ys	yt	yu
yv	yw	yx	yy	yz		
za	zb	zc	zd	ze	zf	zg
zh	zi	zj	zk	zl	zm	zn
zo	zp	zq	zr	zs	zt	zu
zv	zw	zx	zy	zz		
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
v	w	x	y	z		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9				

In org.uk

biz	com	coop	gov	ltd	mod	nhs
plc	police	pro	sch			
aa	ab	ac	ad	ae	af	ag
ah	ai	aj	ak	al	am	an
ao	ap	aq	ar	as	at	au
av	aw	ax	ay	az		
ba	bb	bc	bd	be	bf	bg
bh		bj	bk	bl	bm	bn
bo	bp	bq	br	bs	bt	bu
bv	bw	bx	by	bz		
ca	cb	cc	cd	ce	cf	cg
ch	ci	cj	ck	cl	cm	cn
co	cp	cq	cr	cs	ct	cu
cv	cw	cx	cy	cz		
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dh	di	dj	dk	dl	dm	dn
do	dp	dq	dr	ds	dt	du
dv	dw	dx	dy	dz		
ea	eb	ec	ed	ee	ef	eg
eh	ei	ej	ek	el	em	en
eo	ep	eq	er	es	et	eu
ev	ew	ex	ey	ez		
fa	fb	fc	fd	fe	ff	fg
fh	fi	fj	fk	fl	fm	fn
fo	fp	fq	fr	fs	ft	fu
fv	fw	fx	fy	fz		
ga	gb	gc	gd	ge	gf	gg
gh	gi	gj	gk	gl	gm	gn
go	gp	gq	gr	gs	gt	gu
gv	gw	gx	gy	gz		
ha	hb	hc	hd	he	hf	hg
hh	hi	hj	hk	hl	hm	hn
ho	hp	hq	hr	hs	ht	hu
hv	hw	hx	hy	hz		
ia	ib	ic	id	ie	if	ig
ih	ii	ij	ik	il	im	in
io	ip	iq	ir	is	it	iu

iv	iw	ix	iy	iz		
ja	jb	jc	jd	je	jf	yg
jh	ji	jj	jk	jl	jm	jn
jo	jp	jq	jr	js	jt	ju
jv	jw	jx	jy	jz		
ka	kb	kc	kd	ke	kf	kg
kh	ki	kj	kk	kl	km	kn
ko	kp	kq	kr	ks	kt	ku
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zv	zw	zx	zy	zz		
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In net.uk

aero	arpa	asia	biz	cat	com	coop
edu	gov	info	int	jobs	ldtl	mil
mobi	mod	museum	name	net	nhs	nic
org	plc	police	pro	sch	tel	travel
aa	ab	ac	ad	ae	af	ag
ah	ai	aj	ak	al	am	an
ao	ap	aq	ar	as	at	au
av	aw	ax	ay	az		
ba	bb	bc	bd	be	bf	bg
bh	bi	bj	bk	bl	bm	bn
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bv	bw	bx	by	bz		
ca	cb	cc	cd	ce	cf	cg
ch	ci	cj	ck	cl	cm	cn
co	cp	cq	cr	cs	ct	cu
cv	cw	cx	cy	cz		
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ev	ew	ex	ey	ez		
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fh	fi	fj	fk	fl	fm	fn
fo	fp	fq	fr	fs	ft	fu
fv	fw	fx	fy	fz		

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rh	ri	rj	rk	rl	rm	rn
ro	rp	rq	rr	rs	rt	ru
rv	rw	rx	ry	rz		
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ua	ub	uc	ud	ue	uf	ug
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uv	uw	ux	uy	uz		
va	vb	vc	vd	ve	vf	vg
vh	vi	vj	vk	vl	vm	vn
vo	vp	vq	vr	vs	vt	vu
vv	vw	vx	vy	vz		
wa	wb	wc	wd	we	wf	wg
wh	wi	wj	wk	wl	wm	wn
wo	wp	wq	wr	ws	wt	wu
wv	ww	wx	wy	wz		
xa	xb	xc	xd	xe	xf	xg
xh	xi	xj	xk	xl	xm	xn
xo	xp	xq	xr	xs	xt	xu
xv	xw	xx	xy	xz		
ya	yb	yc	yd	ye	yf	yg
yh	yi	yj	yk	yl	ym	yn
yo	yp	yq	yr	ys	yt	yu
yv	yw	yx	yy	yz		
za	zb	zc	zd	ze	zf	zg
zh	zi	zj	zk	zl	zm	zn
zo	zp	zq	zr	zs	zt	zu
zv	zw	zx	zy	zz		
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
o	p	q	r	s	t	
v	w	x	y	z		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9				

In me.uk

aero	arpa	com	edu	gov	int	ltd
mil	mobi	mod	net	nhs	org	Plc
police						
aa	ab	ac	ad	ae	af	ag
ah	ai	aj	ak	al	am	an
ao	ap	aq	ar	as	at	au
av	aw	ax	ay	az		
ba	bb	bc	bd	be	bf	bg
bh	bi	bj	bk	bl	bm	bn
bo	bp	bq	br	bs	bt	bu
bv	bw	bx	by	bz		
ca	cb	cc	cd	ce	cf	cg
ch	ci	cj	ck	cl	cm	cn
co	cp	cq	cr	cs	ct	cu
cv	cw	cx	cy	cz		

da	db	dc	dd	de	df	dg
dh	di	dj	dk	dl	dm	dn
do	dp	dq	dr	ds	dt	du
dv	dw	dx	dy	dz		
ea	eb	ec	ed	ee	ef	eg
eh	ei	ej	ek	el	em	en
eo	ep	eq	er	es	et	eu
ev	ew	ex	ey	ez		
fa	fb	fc	fd	fe	ff	fg
fh	fi	fj	fk	fl	fm	fn
fo	fp	fq	fr	fs	ft	fu
fv	fw	fx	fy	fz		
ga	gb	gc	gd	ge	gf	gg
gh	gi	gj	gk	gl	gm	gn
go	gp	gq	gr	gs	gt	gu
gv	gw	gx	gy	gz		
ha	hb	hc	hd	he	hf	hg
hh	hi	hj	hk	hl	hm	hn
ho	hp	hq	hr	hs	ht	hu
hv	hw	hx	hy	hz		
ia	ib	ic	id	ie	if	ig
ih	ii	ij	ik	il	im	in
io	ip	iq	ir	is	it	iu
iv	iw	ix	iy	iz		
ja	jb	jc	jd	je	jf	jj
jh	ji	jj	jk	jl	jm	jn
jo	jp	jq	jr	js	jt	ju
jv	jw	jx	jy	jz		
ka	kb	kc	kd	ke	kf	kg
kh	ki	kj	kk	kl	km	kn
ko	kp	kq	kr	ks	kt	ku
kv	kw	kx	ky	kz		
la	lb	lc	ld	le	lf	lg
lh	li	lj	lk	ll	lm	ln
lo	lp	lq	lr	ls	lt	lu
lv	lw	lx	ly	lz		
ma	mb	mc	md	me	mf	mg
mh	mi	mj	mk	ml	mm	mn
mo	mp	mq	mr	ms	mt	mu
mv	mw	mx	my	mz		
na	nb	nc	nd	ne	nf	ng
nh	ni	nj	nk	nl	nm	nn
no	np	nq	nr	ns	nt	nu
nv	nw	nx	ny	nz		
oa	ob	oc	od	oe	of	og
oh	oi	oj	ok	ol	om	on
oo	op	oq	or	os	ot	ou
ov	ow	ox	oy	oz		
pa	pb	pc	pd	pe	pf	pg
ph	pi	pj	pk	pl	pm	pn
po	pp	pq	pr	ps	pt	pu
pv	pw	px	py	pz		
qa	qb	qc	qd	qe	qf	qg

qh	qi	qj	qk	ql	qm	qn
qo	qp	qq	qr	qs	qt	qu
qv	qw	qx	qy	qz		
ra	rb	rc	rd	re	rf	rg
rh	ri	rj	rk	rl	rm	rn
ro	rp	rq	rr	rs	rt	ru
rv	rw	rx	ry	rz		
sa	sb	sc	sd	se	sf	sg
sh	si	sj	sk	sl	sm	sn
so	sp	sq	sr	ss	st	su
sv	sw	sx	sy	sz		
ta	tb	tc	td	te	tf	tg
th	ti	tj	tk	tl	tm	tn
to	tp	tq	tr	ts	tt	tu
tv	tw	tx	ty	tz		
ua	ub	uc	ud	ue	uf	ug
uh	ui	uj	uk	ul	um	un
uo	up	uq	ur	us	ut	uu
uv	uw	ux	uy	uz		
va	vb	vc	vd	ve	vf	vg
vh	vi	vj	vk	vl	vm	vn
vo	vp	vq	vr	vs	vt	vu
vv	vw	vx	vy	vz		
wa	wb	wc	wd	we	wf	wg
wh	wi	wj	wk	wl	wm	wn
wo	wp	wq	wr	ws	wt	wu
wv	ww	wz	wy	wz		
xa	xb	xc	xd	xe	xf	xg
xh	xi	xj	xk	xl	xm	xn
xo	xp	xq	xr	xs	xt	xu
xv	xw	xx	xy	xz		
ya	yb	yc	yd	ye	yf	yg
yh	yi	yj	yk	yl	ym	yn
yo	yp	yq	yr	ys	yt	yu
yv	yw	yx	yy	yz		
za	zb	zc	zd	ze	zf	zg
zh	zi	zj	zk	zl	zm	zn
zo	zp	zq	zr	zs	zt	zu
zv	zw	zx	zy	zz		
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
v	w	x	y	z		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9				

Appendix 2

List of Existing Two Letter and One Character Registrations

These are all domains that were registered before Nominet was formed in 1996 and the restrictions were introduced

In co.uk

bj	bt	cd	ds	eb	et	fl
ga	gb	go	gr	hp	ig	it
jj	mc	mp	ok	ps	sj	tc
tp	tv	vw	yp			

In org.uk

bi

In .net.uk

u

When a DNS resolver looks up a record in the DNS and the domain name does not exist a "NXDOMAIN" response is returned to the resolver. The resolver then adds a search suffix, such as "something.co.uk" to the record and resubmits the query. For some systems, if this lookup is unsuccessful then it will add ".co.uk" and ".uk" to the record and check these too. This is because some DNS client resolver libraries support DNS search as described in RFC 1123, section 6.1.4.2.

If, for example, 'com.co.uk' were to be registered, the DNS servers hosting that domain name will receive queries for domain names in the .com gTLD - for example:

- User types in www.example-does-not-exist.com
- DNS resolver looks up www.example-does-not-exist.com
- DNS resolver receives NXDOMAIN response because domain name does not exist
- DNS resolver has search suffix set as search.co.uk (this means the client automatically tags this onto the end of the non existent domain and tries the look up again)
- DNS resolver looks up www.example-does-not-exist.com.something.co.uk
- DNS resolver receives NXDOMAIN response because domain name does not exist
- The Client then drops the third level from the domain name so that the original look up for a domain name in the .com gTLD now results in a look up in the .uk ccTLD and is now at the third level
- Client looks up www.example-does-not-exist.com.co.uk
- The holder of com.co.uk receives the query.

There are three possible side effects of this for the holder of 'com.co.uk':

1. They would potentially receive large amounts of nameserver traffic.
2. They would be able to analyse this traffic to provide a list of .com domain names that are not registered but have traffic on them.
3. They could use a 'wildcard record' to redirect all such look ups to their own site. (SSAC reports [SAC015](#) and [SAC041](#) address the technical issues with services such as this.)

The following table shows estimated daily traffic on our nameservers. The estimates are based on hourly 10 minute samples in a single day (10 Sep 2009). This highlights the potential levels of traffic that could hit a registration such as com.co.uk.

The estimated daily traffic (per day) is shown where an estimate can be made. For other domains, including in the me.uk sld, traffic is less than 100 in the sample taken and extrapolating up is unreliable.

Only cctlds listed in <http://www.iana.org/domains/root/db/> are listed. Domains with low levels of traffic in co.uk, e.g. ae are not listed as the samples may not be representative.

Total traffic on the nameservers for 10 Sep 2009 is estimated in the same way as 1,470,000,000 co.uk, 89,000,000 org.uk, 44,000,000 net.uk lookups

Domain Look ups in co.uk Look ups in org.uk Look ups in net.uk

com	1,700,000	120,000	60,000
net	1,200,000	30,000	60,000
org	900,000	45,000	3,500
arpa	170,000		
int	-	-	-
gov	13,000	-	-
mil	-	-	-
sch	100,000	3,000	-
police	7,000	-	-
nhs	43,000	-	-
mod	5,000	-	-
plc	-	-	-
ltd	13,000	-	-
uk	300,000	54,000	20,000
ac	40,000	-	-
co	100,000	3,000	30,000
me	5,000	-	-
ad	6,000	-	-
ar	90,000	-	40,000
au	15,000	-	-
be	6,000	-	-
bg	7,000	-	-

br	560,000	6,000	180,000
cc	40,000	7,000	-
cl	8,000	-	-
cn	80,000	-	13,000
cz	11,000	-	-
de	40,000	-	-
do	20,000	-	-
eg	30,000	-	-
es	20,000	-	-
fr	7,000	-	-
hu	6,000	-	-
id	35,000	-	12,000
il	7,000	-	-
in	200,000	-	-
jp	8,000	-	-
li	25,000	-	-
mx	55,000	-	25,000
no	6,000	-	-
pe	20,000	-	8,000
pl	25,000	-	-
ro	20,000	-	8,000
ru	70,000	-	20,000
sa	50,000	-	13,000
se	40,000	-	-

tr	160,000	-	48,000
tw	33,000	-	-
ua	14,000	-	-
vn	17,600	-	-
za	8000	-	-