

In response to your consultation questions :

1 - Bit of a silly question this one isn't it ? The technical answer is that a domain name is there to provide a simpler means to access a device on a network which is more memorable and attractive than quoting IP addresses (http://192.168.168.168 vs http://www.name.suffix). The role of the different suffixes is to help clarify who the domain is being used by or what it is being used for, although it has the side benefit of giving more chance of an individual or organisation registering the domain they want (e.g. in the US, all the best .com's are taken, but you could still have a chance with .info or .biz).

2. Yes, we provide a variety of services (for example web hosting, email) to clients as part of our wider portfolio.

3. Yes

4. 3

5(a). Not as a duplicate of .co.uk, but it could be seen as a duplicate of net.

5(b). If anyone could register, yes, perhaps it could become a duplicate of .co.uk/.com but probably not if you relaxed your definition a bit ! ;-)

6. I would define an ISP as an entity that provides internet related services to organisations and/or individuals, either through the use of routing equipment (e.g. internet access or Akamai type "content delivery") or by provisioning services on servers (e.g. website hosting /email). This could be summarised technically as an entity providing services at OSI Layer 3 and above. Auxiliary services such as website development would not be covered in my definition.

Automatic verification could be quite difficult in some cases, but it might be achievable with some form of DNS lookup or RIPE DB lookup (although RIPE LIR and/or AS should not be a requirement)>

7. Network Provider is an entity that provides the basic means for another organisation and/or individual to transmit data, anything up to and including non-routing/switching NTE. This could be summarised as services at OSI layers 1 and 2. Examples that spring to mind are ... BT, Cable & Wireless.

8. Yes, there is a clear definition both in terms of their role (see above) and the size of the entity (by the nature of the service they need to provide and maintain, there will always be fewer Network Providers than ISPs).

9(a) . No ... and if you do, you should not allow renewals either because otherwise it would be unfair !

9(b). Yes, but relax your definition ! (e..g no LIR or AS requirment)

9(c). No, it's better to relax your definition than open it up to the world

9(d). No otherwise it will just become another .com

9(e) None, I'm in favour of keeping restricted but relaxing the definition

10. See my definitions of an ISP and Network Provider, basically they would need to meet one or more of the following criteria :

- the old LIR/AS rule and/or
- provision services for third parties on servers that it manages and maintains and/or
- directly provides internet connectivity services for third party sites (i.e. they must be the first hop on to the internet).

11. Yes, they must meet all of the following:

- have a commercial presence in the UK (i.e. actually selling and sending invoices as a UK entity, not just an address and not just using LINX as a drop-off point for their UK/EU traffic)
- must be registered at companies house
- the name they want to register must match their company name
eg.. !!!!! Ltd would only be allowed to register !!!!!.net.uk and not ??????.net.uk.

12. Yes, subdomains, email addresses etc. must only be used by the organisation itself for its own purposes (e.g. support.?????.net.uk, sales.?????????.net.uk but not customername.?????.net.uk).

13. You will always get defensive/duplicate registrations but you will reduce these if the rules are followed.