

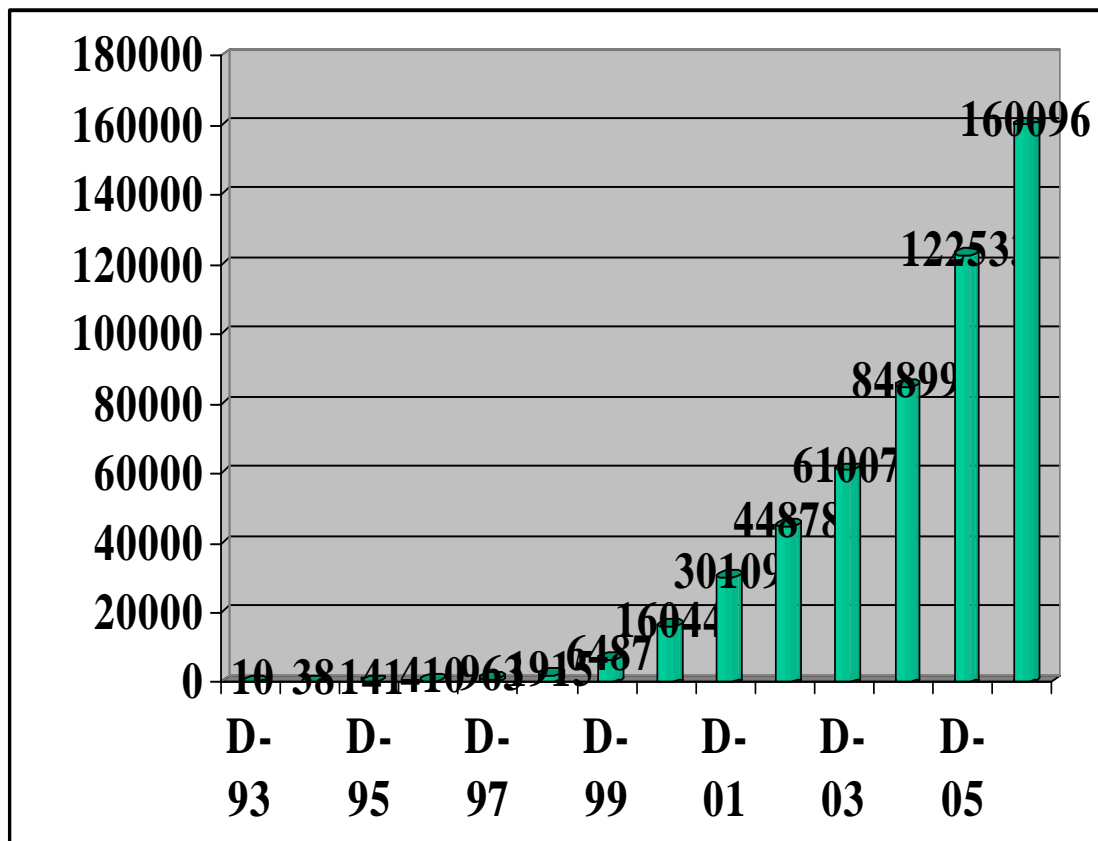
.ro ccTLD Registry

Eugenie Staicut
ICI Bucharest, Romania
estaicut@rotld.ro

.ro ccTLD Registry

- February 1993: IANA delegated the authority to register .ro domain names to ICI Bucharest;
- 1998: Founding member of CENTR (Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries)

Number of .RO domain names



Domain Registration Policy

- OPEN REGISTRY
- Registration based on “first-come first-served” principle
- it uses a robot for name registration to assure a non-discriminatory registration procedure

Restrictions

- A domain name cannot be registered with the purpose to be resell it
- Contact data provided should be complete and valid
- Domain names cannot contain obscene, pornographic, injurious, offending words (use a list of prohibited words)
- Protect famous or very well known names

Avoiding and Minimizing Conflicts Arising from Domain Name Registration

- Along with the increase of the number of .ro domain names, the number of disputes between parties regarding domain names has also increased;
- Most disputes refer to the fact of whether the domain name in question infringes the rights of a third party;
- In some cases, the holder of a domain name has registered it with the sole aim of selling it at profit;
- The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has published the report "*ccTLD Best Practices for the Prevention and Resolution of Intellectual Property Disputes*" in which formulates a number of guidelines for a policy to prevent speculative, abusive and bad faith registration of names, known as cybersquatting.

Domain name registration agreement

The registration agreement contains:

- a requirement that the domain name applicant provide accurate and reliable information and contact details consisting of: *full name of the applicant; postal address; phone number; fax number; email address; primary and secondary nameservers (hostname, IP addresses);*
- where the registrant is an organization, an association or a corporation, the name of an *authorized person for contact purposes* must be supplied;

Domain name registration agreement

- a representation that to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief, *the registration of the domain name does not interfere with or infringe the intellectual property rights of another party*
- an agreed term that *inaccurate or unreliable information in the registration agreement constitute a material breach of the contract and be a basis for the cancellation of the domain name by the registration authority;*
- an agreed term that *the domain name will not be activated by the registration authority unless payment has been received;*

. ro registration application form

- To minimize the number of possible conflicts that may arise, before sending an application for a .ro domain name, the registrant must confirm that:
 - **he accepts the rules and registration agreement;**
 - he takes over the responsibility for legal use of the domain name and that to the best of his knowledge, the requested domain name **does not infringe the rights of any other party;**
 - in case the applicant applies for a third party, he confirms that **the future domain holder has been informed about the rules and registration agreement** and his responsibility to use the domain name without infringing the rights of other parties.

Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy

- The Registry will take action when it is clear that a registrant is breaching the Registration Rules.
- It may suspend delegation of an Internet Domain Name in certain circumstances:
 - the domain name is being used in a manner likely to cause **confusion to Internet users**; the use of the domain name is misleading other Internet users;
 - the whois **contact data is inaccurate or false**
 - Fraudulent payment.

Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (continue)

- When a dispute arises between a domain name holder and a complainant, the .ro Registry will assist the two parties to arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution to the dispute by **mediation**.
- When a mutual resolution is not successful, the complain is the subject of the **Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy** endorsed and approved by ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).

Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (continue)

- If the mediation is not successful, the complainant can submit the dispute either to **WIPO** (World Intellectual Property), **NAF** (National Arbitration Forum) or to a **court of Bucharest, Romania**.
- When a party is not pleased with the WIPO decision, he/she can submit the dispute to a court in Bucharest

Statistics regarding domain name dispute resolution

Action	Number	Reason
• Transfer domains	22	WIPO decision
• Transfer domains	6	NAF decision
• Transfer domains	10	Bucharest court decision
• Suspend domains	3	Cause confusion to users
• Suspend domains	24	False contact data
• Suspend domains	7	Fraudulent payment
• Suspend domains	1	Illegal activity

Partnership for .ro domain name registration

- Domain registration is made:
 - Direct to the registry, and
 - By registrars

Future developments

- Provide online registration services to registrars using EPP
- Allow Romanian characters to be used in domain names