

Registrar Experience

TAGIdomains

(Member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization)

Accreditation Process with ICANN

- Apply for Registrar Accreditation through completing the Registrar Accreditation Application (\$2,500)
- Receive notification that you qualify for registrar accreditation
- Sign an Accreditation Agreement with ICANN and pay accreditation fee (\$4,000)
- Complete preparation of your agreement with customers
- Inaugurate your service

Document to be submitted to ICANN

- Application
 - Supporting documents
 - Commercial general liability insurance coverage
 - Proof of adequate working capital
- Registrar Accreditation Agreement

After ICANN Accreditation

- Once the registrar become accredited, ICANN will notify the appropriate registry operators that registrar has been accredited.
- Registrar then becomes eligible to offer registrar services for each TLD once entered into a Registry-Registrar Agreement with each registry operator

Financial Considerations

- \$2,500 non-refundable application fee, to be submitted with application.
- \$4,000 yearly accreditation fee.
- Transaction-based gTLD fee (quarterly). This fee is a flat fee (currently \$0.25) charged for each new registration, renewal or transfer.
- For a registrar to qualify, they must have \$70,000 in working capital.

Process with Registry Operators

- After receiving ICANN accreditation, registrars should contact registry operators of TLDs of interest
- Process with registry operators:
 - Confidentiality Agreement
 - Complete registrar information forms
 - Sign Registry-Registrar Agreement (RRA)
 - Meet financial requirements
 - Complete Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E)

Top-Level Domains (TLDs)

- .aero
- .biz
- .cat
- .com
- .coop
- .info
- .jobs
- .mobi
- .museum
- .name
- .net
- .org
- .pro
- .travel

Registrars

- 826 ICANN accredited registrars distributed in 41 countries, 3 of them are in Arab countries.
- 561 (65% of the total number of registrars) in the United States of America

Registrar Operations

- Registrar is required to maintain close monitor to transactions specially transfer requests
- Transfer requests usually require more attention, since it involves several parties

Domain name transfers

- Parties of a transfer request:
 - Registrant
 - Losing Registrar
 - Gaining Registrar
 - Registry Operator
- It is sometimes referred to as “Inter-Registrar Domain Name Transfer”

Transfer process (1)

- Registrant places a transfer request with the gaining registrar
- Gaining registrar retrieves registrant's info from whois database and contacts the registrant to validate the request
- In case the registrant did not verify or denied the request, the transfer request fails

Transfer process (2)

- In case the registrant confirms the transfer request, the request will undergo further inspection by the gaining registrar.
- The gaining registrar inspects the request and if approved, the request will be sent to the registry operator.
- Once the registry operator receives the transfer request from the gaining registrar, it will send a notification to the losing registrar

Transfer process (3)

- The losing registrar can deny the transfer request provided it submits evidence or proof that the transfer request should not be completed.
- In case the losing registrar acknowledges the request or does not answer in 5 days, the registry operator transfers the subject domain name and notifies both, gaining and losing registrars.
- Gaining registrar notifies registrant of the successful transfer

Services provided by registrars

- gTLDs ICANN accredited registrars provide online services, where no human interference is required
- Domain name registrations, renewals, transfers, and providing whois info are provided online
- Payments are accepted online and electronically. Registrants pay using credit cards, and payments are processed using payment gateways.

Registry-Registrar Structure (1)

- The benefit of using a registry-registrar structure is that registry operators focus on setting policies and monitoring daily transactions, and passing the hard job of marketing to registrars.
- Registry operators can set restrictions and ask for specific requirements that registrars and registrants should meet.

Registry-Registrar Structure (2)

- An Example of requirements imposed on registrars, the lately introduced .EU domain name extension, where the registry operator requires that registrars should be domiciled in the EU.
- On the other hand, an example of requirements imposed on registrants, also a lately introduced TLD, .mobi, where the registry operator requires that the registrant meets the technical requirements to provide their websites under .mobi to be compatible with PDA's.

ccTLDs

- There are many successful ccTLD operators who followed the registry-registrar operators.
- Some ccTLD operators adopted an unrestricted approach, while others followed a semi-restricted approach, and the rest adopted a restricted approach.

ccTLDs (1)

- Country-code Top-Level Domains can be a source of revenue for ccTLD registry operators, specially when taking into consideration the growth in all industries and sectors in the Arab region.
- There is a huge interest in this region, foreign investments are trying to reserve to themselves a place in this region.

ccTLDs (2)

- At the same time, these foreign investments and companies are also trying to reserve a virtual place for their investments to reflect their interest in this region

Thank you . . .

- Questions?
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