

Workshop to develop a Recommendation
to clarify the management of '.int'

Geneva, 15-16 September 2003

WORKSHOP DOCUMENT

Source: ITU/SPU

Title: 1996 comments on proposed INT Domain Name Registration

A number of comments were made in 1996 concerning early drafts of the proposed ITU .int Policy and Procedure. The comments were made under the assumption that the ITU would operate the ".int" domain, but this assumption turned out not to be correct. Some of the comments made in 1996 are no longer relevant, while others remain so and could apply to any body that operates the domain ".int".

The following comments made in 1996 may still be of interest:

It must be recognized that the entire subject of Internet registration is in a state of flux at the moment and certainly exists in a legal vacuum. Despite the burgeoning importance of the Internet system and its growing role in commercial matters, there is not yet any national or international regulatory or legal regime to govern actions or conduct on the Internet. Recent developments also suggest that governments may soon take an active role in domain name registration.

It is suggested that the following principles guide any ITU INT registration system, to reduce possible problems:

1. The system should be limited in scope, by narrowly defining the possible registrants. Otherwise, the ITU runs a real risk of being dragged into disputes with commercial entities and others. We should have a firm idea of the likely number of registrants.
2. ITU should have no liability for any of its registration actions.
3. We need to be particularly careful about multiple registrations or inactive usage, particularly in light of trademark principles.
4. The function of the ITU should be very limited, especially with respect to any searches.
5. Rules for acceptance or rejection need to be carefully considered, especially in instances of entities with similar second-level domain names, but different TLDs.

Contact: Robert Shaw
ITU/SPU

Tel: +41 22 730 5338
Fax: +41 22 730 6453
Email robert.shaw@itu.int

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The appropriate bodies of the Union (e.g. the CoCo and Council) should be consulted to obtain approval of the proposal that ITU should operate the “.int” domain, In addition, the following may need to be addressed:

1. Does IANA have sufficient authority or basis to delegate the task of INT registration to the ITU, as this will be an international system? If we assume this role, will we receive complaints from other organizations that would have liked to serve in this capacity?
 2. How would such a paying system of registration comport with other ITU activities (radio frequencies) for which there is no charge?
 3. What is the appropriate approval process for the assumption of this new function by the ITU? What are the likely costs to the ITU?
 4. As this system would operate in a legal void, what general principles should the ITU apply to the registration system? How would it coordinate, to the extent necessary, with national legal regimes concerning related intellectual property matters?
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