

.zadna

A GUIDE FOR
OPEN
DELEGATION
PROCESS

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The purpose of this document is to explain (a) the manner in which web.za operation is being handled by the ZACR and (b) how the ZACR re-launched web.za to accept new domain name registrations.

WEB.ZA
DOMAIN

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1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Web.za Second Level Domain (SLD) is one of the SLDs that have been dormant for a number of years i.e. it no longer accepted new domain name applications, and only maintained already existing (i.e. historical) registrations. In this regard, following the establishment of the ZA Central Registry (ZACR)¹, ZA Domain Name Authority ZADNA² transferred the Web.za operation and administration responsibilities to the ZACR. The ZACR subsequently re-launched Web.za on 1 May 2014.

This document is intended to explain:

- (a) The manner in which the transition of Web.za operations to ZACR is set to take place;
- (b) The domain name application process that will apply once Web.za enters the general availability (first-come, first-served registration) phase;
- (c) The treatment of already existing domain names (i.e. historical registrations); and
- (d) Applicable domain name fees.

The document should be read in conjunction with the Web.za charter³ and the detailed operational measures⁴ of ZACR for this SLD. ZACR operates a registry system based on the extensible provisioning protocol (EPP), and will use the system to operate the SLD.

2. TARGET AUDIENCE

This document is targeted at the current Web.za registrants and to .ZA registrars, potential registrants, and the public in general.

3. WEB.ZA EXISTING REGISTRATIONS

For a start, when ZACR¹ assumed Web.za operation, the Web.za zone went through a freezing phase, that is, zone file was locked-down for a limited period during which no updates and deletes were allowed to the existing registrations. This was done to allow ZACR to synchronize the zone file copy with the original zone file upon transition⁵ of Web.za to ZACR.

All existing domain names within Web.za were allocated to a default, limited-functionality EPP registrar service that ZACR provides for already existing registrations. The limited functionality of the default registrar does not allow updates to and deletions of existing entries. Should historical registrants want to do updates, they must transfer their names to any ZACR-accredited registrar of their choice.

The default registrar service is intended to preserve existing registrations to ensure their continued operation. In due course, the default registrar will be cleansed with a view of identifying dormant or inactive registrations. The principle is that dormant registrations will not be maintained indefinitely, and at some point such registrations will be deleted and made available for registration on first-come, first-served basis. ZADNA will also use its discretion to decide in due course when the default registrar service should come to an end, at which point any remaining registrations will have to be migrated to accredited registrars.

3.1. HISTORICAL REGISTRATIONS

It is a requirement from ZADNA that the historical registration be preserved for the benefit of the community at large, therefore, ZACR will not publish it but have a duty to preserve it for as long as it exists. Historical registration is the historical information about a particular domain name, including its renewal and previous updates data.

4. EXISTING NON RESPONSIVE DOMAIN NAMES

Non responsive registrations are those names whose nameservers are not responsive or names that do not have the nameserver that are working properly. ZADNA² intends having non-responsive registrations deleted, but will first look at giving their listed registrants an opportunity to reclaim the names and reactivate them.

This will be done through a public release of the non-responsive registrations list for a certain period to allow the listed registrants to contact ZADNA² or ZACR¹. Should the names not be reclaimed within the set period, ZADNA will then start a process of having them deleted and made available for new registration.

5. REQUIREMENTS TO RESTORE FULL FUNCTIONALITY

Existing domain holders must first transfer their domain names from the default registrar to one of the ZACR¹ accredited registrar in order to retain full functionality, which includes making updates (such as name server changes or other DNS entries).

6. FEES FOR HISTORICAL REGISTRATIONS

Historical registrations will become paid-for on the first year anniversary of the date they were transferred from the default ZACR¹ registrar to accredited registrars. This means that:

- (a) The ZACR will not charge the chosen accredited registrar the transferred name's annual registration fee until the first anniversary of the transfer.
- (b) Effectively, a historical registrant who transfers to an accredited will have their renewal fees waived for the first year of the transfer. However, registrars are likely to charge other related fees such as domain name hosting fees immediately upon the transfer.

The default registrar service is intended to be a limited period service, and at some point will be terminated. Should there be any remaining historical registrations at the termination of the default registrar service, registrants of such names will have to transfer them to accredited registrars of their choice.

7. APPLICATION OF FEES TO NEW REGISTRATIONS

New Web.za registrations (i.e. domain names registered after ZACR¹ assumes Web.za operation) will attract registration and annual renewal fees⁶ determined and/or approved by ZADNA². The fees are payable through ZACR accredited registrars.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS

The Web.za charter³ positions Web.za as a completely unrestricted/moderated SLD that accepts domain name applications from South African and non-South African persons along the same lines as co.za.

9. WEB.ZA RE-LAUNCH PROCESS

ZADNA appreciates the importance of ensuring that intellectual property (IP) protection is of utmost importance to the health and stability of .ZA, and that in re-launching the SLD efforts should be made to give priority to registered South African trademarks and brands⁵. Accordingly, ZACR first ran a sunrise phase, which was meant to allow registered mark owners to register and/or protect their marks and brands before Web.za names could be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parallel to the sunrise phase was a land rush phase that was targeted at premium, generic domain name applications at a substantially higher price than the price that will apply during the first-come, first-served phase (called “general availability”). The sunrise and land rush phases ran in parallel that between 1 May 2014 and 4 August 2014.

9.1. GENERAL AVAILABILITY

The general availability phase is when domain name registration is available publicly on a first-come, first-served basis. Web.za entered general availability on 5 August 2014 following the completion of the sunrise and land rush phases. All domain name applications received after the commencement of general availability will attract a ZADNA-approved registration and annual renewal fees⁶.

10. APPLICATION OF .ZA ADR REGULATIONS

The Web.za charter requires all Web.za registrants to submit to the application of the .ZA Alternative Dispute Resolution⁷ (ADR) Regulations of the Minister of Communications (promulgated in 2007 based on section 69 of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002). The Regulations govern the resolution of disputes over .ZA names. More information about the ADR process, including the Regulations, is available on the ZADNA² website.

11. RESERVE NAME LIST (RNL)

A list of offensive names, abusive names, names of exclusive South African government use, names relevant to the technical operation of Web.za and domain name space, and special character names have been reserved and pre-registered.

12. HOW REGISTRARS ARE ACCREDITED FOR WEB.ZA

All existing ZACR accredited registrars⁸ qualify to register Web.za names. Non-ZACR accredited registrars may only register Web.za names as resellers through accredited registrars.

13. REFERENCES

1. ZACR (<https://www.registry.net.za>)
2. ZADNA (<http://www.zadna.org.za>)
3. Web.za charter (<http://www.zadna.org.za/news/entry/web.za-final-charter>)
4. operational measures of ZACR (https://www.registry.net.za/downloads/u/WebZA_Registry_Policies.pdf)
5. RE-Launch Plan (<https://www.registry.net.za/downloads/u/TransitionalarrangementsforWebZASLD.pdf>)
6. ZADNA-approved registration and annual renewal fees (<https://www.registry.net.za/login.php?accesscheck=%2Fcontent2.php>)
7. ZA Alternative Dispute Resolution (<http://www.zadna.org.za/content/page/domain-disputes>)
8. ZACR accredited registrars (https://www.registry.net.za/accredited_registrars.php)

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