

Domain Update.



I. CLOSED

Today, the so-called “application window” for new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) will close. Now, we will learn who wants to be “in” with the new gTLDs.

Until today, applications for new gTLDs could be filed via the online system for new gTLDs such as *.brand, *.auto or *.canon. However, this was no application for an IP address, i.e. registration of a domain name under a certain gTLD. This was about the gTLD itself. The applicant was requested to prove in an extensive application process its future ability to run a registry for a new gTLD, technically and financially. A registry is for instance the DENIC e.G. for the TLD *.de.

II. OPEN

On 30 April 2012, the list of applications for gTLDs is announced to be published. At the same time, the applied for “strings” shall be published. In ICANN’s understanding, a “string” is the letter sequence following the dot, i.e. the TLD itself.

In the past, ICANN has proposed to initiate a 2 months “comment period” for comments and objections of any kind. Everybody shall have the opportunity to comment on the gTLD applications.

Trademark owners shall be enabled to evoke their trademarks against identical or confusingly similar “strings”. A specific proceeding was proposed with a time window of 7 months.

It remains to be seen how many applications were received and how many comments and objections will be filed. The next weeks will show which further proceedings ICANN will start, and in which time frames.

Further evaluation proceedings will take place by ICANN which were already introduced with the various editions of the “Applicant Guidebook”. They include some measures for the protection of trademark owners. Practice will show how effective they will be.

III. TO DO!

At the beginning of May, every trademark owner should have at least a quick glance on the published list of applied for gTLDs in order to quickly decide whether further steps are necessary.

ICANN said that the list of published new gTLD applications will be available under the following link:

<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/application-results>.

If you have any questions or if you require more detailed information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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