



**ICANN**

**An overview of  
the ccTLDs scenario**

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# ***The international scenario***



## The growth of ccTLDs \*

- In April 2006 there were 245 country code top-level domains (ccTLDs), compared with 19 generic top-level domains (gTLDs)
- Yearly growth of ccTLDs averaged 36% in 2005
- Some of the higher growth rates are found in countries that have liberalised their registration requirements (e.g. China, Brazil, India)
- The top-10 ccTLDs represented 60% of the global ccTLD market in 2005, and the German and UK registries alone represented over 50% of ccTLDs registered
- ccTLDs represent 35% of top-level domain registrations, a proportion that has been slowly increasing over recent years

\* Source: OECD



## The growth of ccTLDs \*

- The vast majority of ccTLD registrations are attributable to a small number of ccTLD registries
- Out of the 245 ccTLDs, the top ten account for 70 percent of all ccTLD registrations. Nearly all of the top ten ccTLDs experienced growth from mid 2005 until the date of writing. .eu entered the scene very quickly, .be benefited from a free 3-month promotional offer, and .cn (China) experienced sustained high growth
- High growth in some previously small(er) ccTLD registries, including some experiencing double-digit or triple-digit growth such as .in (India), .ru (Russia), .pt (Portugal), .mx (Mexico) or .es (Spain)

\* Source: OECD



# ***Registries: policies and figures***



## Registry status\*

- Registry set up depends on various reasons, even though almost every registry was historically part of an academic network – today TLDs are highly competitive and there is a very dynamic market.
- The legal status can be classified as:
  - Private company
  - Part of academic network
  - Foundation
  - Association
  - Government agency
  - Telecom operator
  - Miscellaneous

\*CENTR surveys data



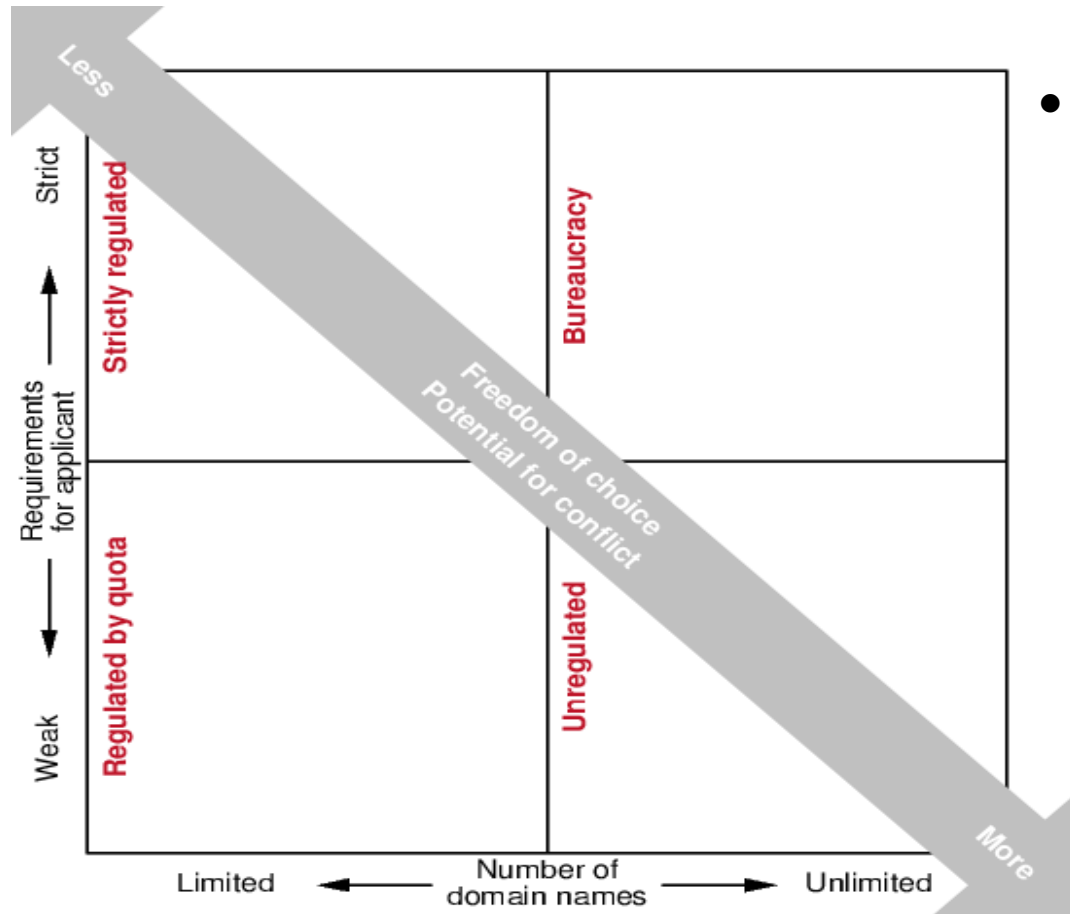
## Registry policies

Each of the 245 ccTLDs has its own policies with regards to eligibility for registrations, local presence requirements, naming structure of the sub-domains, public access to ccTLD owner's information (WHOIS), and trademark policy

\*CENTR surveys data



# Categorising the policies of the ccTLDs\*



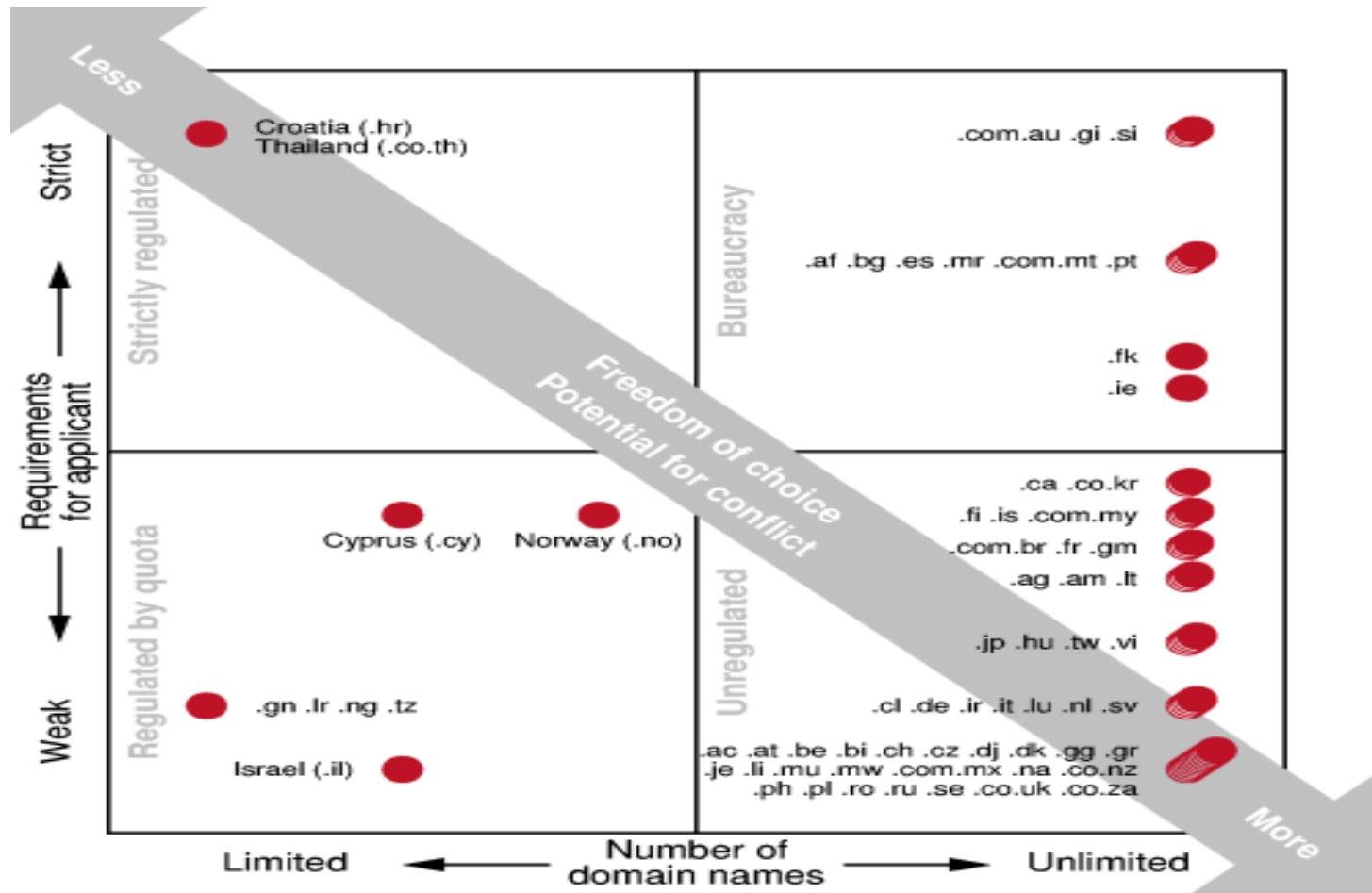
- Two central aspects shapes the domain name policy:
  - Requirements for the applicant
    - Provide documentation that he has a right to the name
    - Have a local presence in the area of the ccTLD
    - Be an organization
  - Number of domain names allowed per applicant
    - Limited/Unlimited

\*courtesy of UNINETT Norid





# A mapping of the policies of some ccTLDs\*



\*courtesy of UNINETT Norid



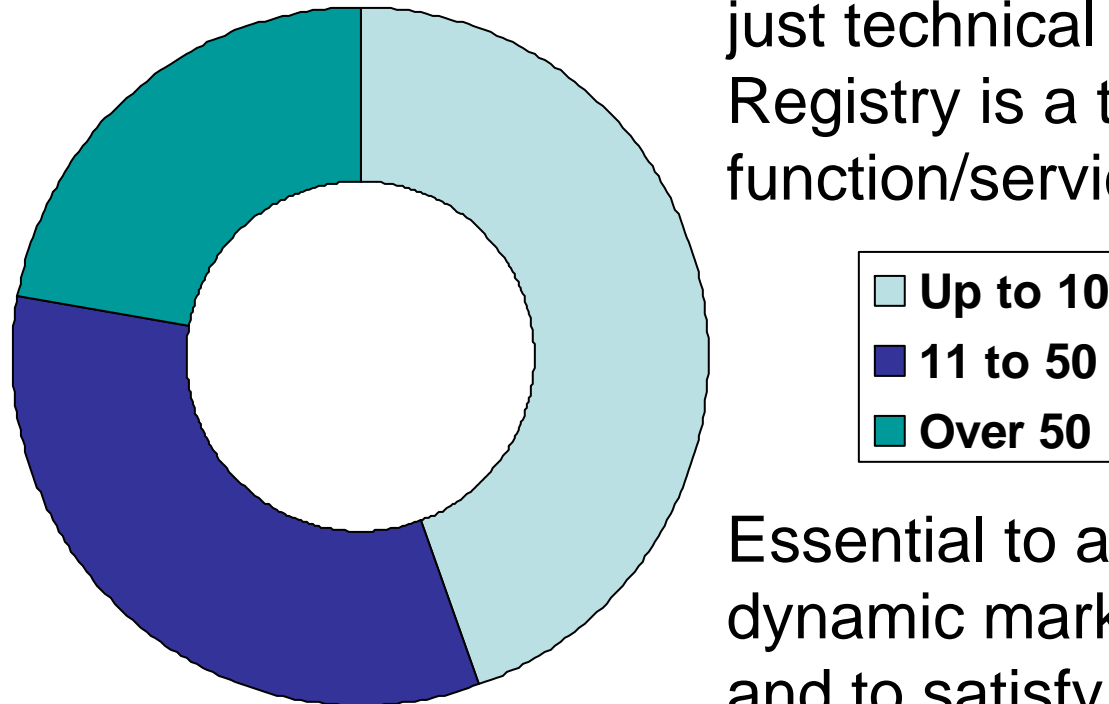
## A summary of the mapping\*

- Few of the respondents are currently in the *strictly regulated* category. This reflects the general move towards more liberalized domain name policies that has taken place
- Most respondents prefer a domain name policy with no limits on the number of names an applicant may hold
- While the majority of the respondents allows an unlimited number of domains per applicant, the degree of requirements for the applicant varies.
  - Some requires the applicant to document rights to the domain name (*bureaucracy* category)
  - Majority in the *unregulated* category – does not require any documentation of rights. Some require either a local presence, or that the applicant is an organization (or both), hence the spreading within the category.

\*courtesy of UNINETT Norid



## Number of employees within the registries\*



Most Registries have just technical staff as a Registry is a technical function/service.



Essential to adjust to a dynamic market quickly and to satisfy customer needs efficiently.

\*CENTR surveys data



# *Registry-registrar relationship*



## Registry-registrar relationship: the accreditation

Usually, the relationship between a registry and a registrar is based on a contract.

Some registries require those companies that like to become a registrar to follow an accreditation procedure.

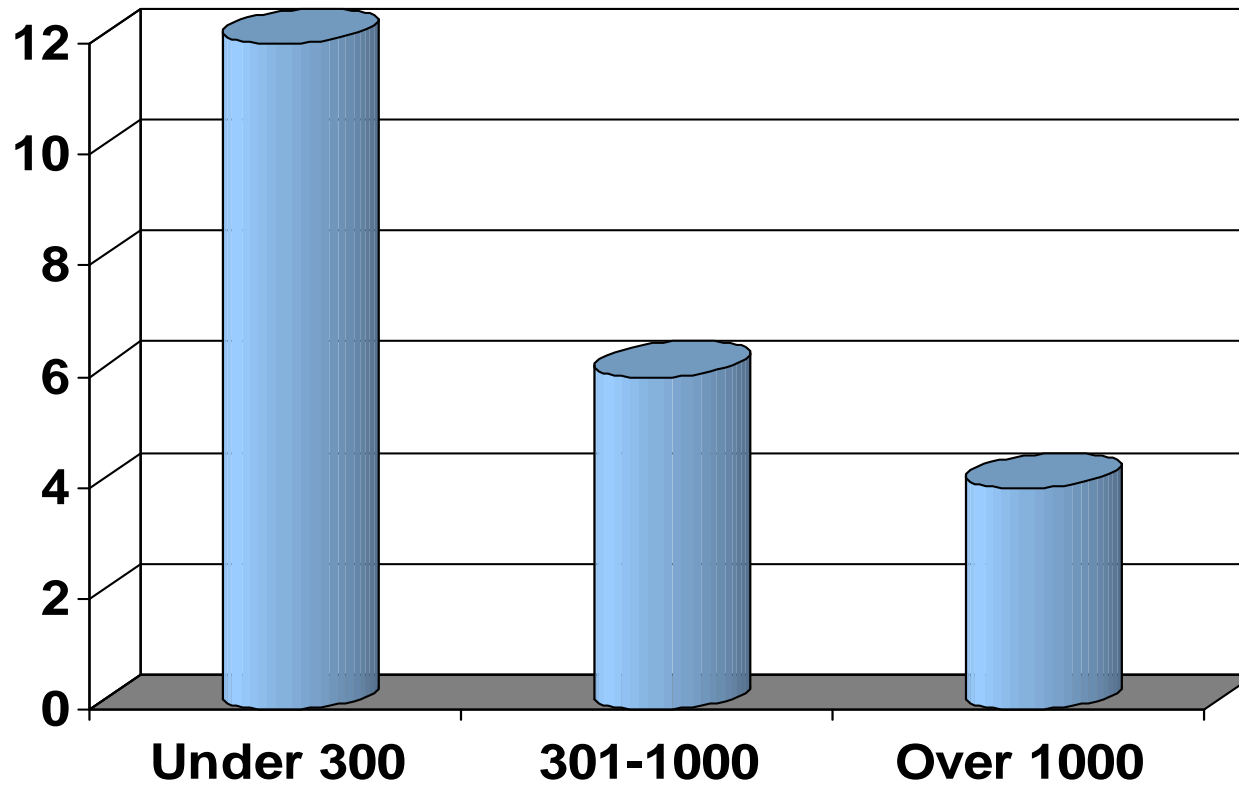
Criteria to be accredited:

- Technical stability
- Corporate status
- Financial stability
- Organisational stability
- Other

Less than 25% of registries reviews these criteria regularly



## Number of registrars\*



\*CENTR surveys data



## Registry-registrar relationship: some contractual aspects

When the relationship between the registry and the registrars is based on a contract, the registry should take into account some aspects:

- Contract transfer and related domain names transfer
- Rescue procedures for those registrants (and domain names) whose registrars “disappear”, go bankrupted, (...)
- Penalties in case the registrar is not up-to-date with the payments to the registry



# Registry-registrar relationship: the code of conduct

## Code of conduct:

- In order to ensure that the domain name holder can count on reliable information and a quality service, some registries have proposed a code of conduct to registrars
- Eg. DNS.BE



- Most code of conducts are based on voluntary principles, but **help the users to trust the all process**





## Registry-registrar relationship: the code of conduct

- The new “eu” domain registrar are invited to participate in building a code of practice.
- Those registrars who sign up to the code will be able to display the code of conduct logo and the list of accredited registrars published on *EURid*'s web site will indicate which registrars have the code of conduct label.
- *EURid* will facilitate elections from amongst the participating registrars to select a panel to assess complaints against participating registrars for alleged breaches in the code of conduct.
- **The panel will be empowered to remove the code of conduct label from a registrar for a fixed period or a permanent basis if they are found to be operating in contradiction with the code.**



# Registry-registrar relationship: training activities

## Training activities:

- Most of the registries offer their registrars training activities on:
  - Technical aspects
  - Administrative issues
  - Legal matters
- Usually these activities are free of charges
- Moreover, certain regional organisations, like CENTR, provide training activities and workshops for registries on many topics such as IDNs, registry-registrars relationship,...



# Registry-registrar relationship: communication methods

## Communication tools:

- E-mail lists
- Regular meetings
- Help-desks
- Newsletter
- Dedicated web interfaces



# Registry-registrar relationship: the help-desk

## Help-desk significant aspects:

- Working hours
- Languages
- Time for processing requests
- Appropriate archiving procedures
- Customer satisfaction follow-up
- Different expertise of the operators



# Registry-registrar relationship: the web interfaces

## Web interfaces:

- Wide accessibility highly desirable
  - EU communication on web accessibility standards
- Usually, divided in two sections:
  - Public information
  - Restricted information for registrars or ISP



## Registry-registrar relationship: shared secondary servers

- Most large registries informally offer free secondarying services for smaller registries
- Similar, some "well known hosts", RIPE etc, offer free secondaries also
- Some - usually equally sized registries - do secondary swapping arrangements, where each will host each others servers. This principle relies on registries having similar requirements and having similar facilities to share
- CENTR examines opportunities to locate secondaries via different agreements (at IXs, via Anycast networks) and presents these opportunities to its members



## Registry-registrar relationship: information sharing

- Taking advantage of other registries experiences (the grass is greener...) via:
  - Discussion lists
  - Regional organisations
  - International meetings
  - Best practices doc

## Registry-registrar relationship: key complaints\*

- Price
- Would like to have more influence on policy/contractual terms
- Bureaucracy (in case of paper based models)
- Liberalisation of policies

\*CENTR surveys data





# *Registry-registrar-registrant relationship*



## Registry-registrar-registrant relationship: some aspects

Some issues in this relationship should be considered from the beginning and carefully planned:

- Privacy aspects (WHOIS)
- Services among parties
- Interaction with the Local Internet Community
- Prices of domain names and of the operations on them
- Level of bureaucracy



## **Registry-registrar-registrant relationship: the main problems in dealing directly with customers\***

- Lack of knowledge (more support needed)
- Make mistakes, then blame the registry
- Inaccurate information in the application forms
- Delayed payments
- Web browsers not compatible with registry system

\*CENTR surveys data

