

## **InterNIC FAQs on New Top-Level Domains**

The following is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the new top-level domains (TLDs) that are being introduced to the Internet. This list will be updated frequently; please check back often.

### **What is the status of ICANN's New TLD Program?**

ICANN is working to add seven new TLDs to the Internet's domain-name system. In November 2000, after extensive discussions throughout the global Internet community, the ICANN Board selected seven TLD proposals to be included in the first addition of a global TLD to the Internet since the 1980s. The selected TLDs are: .aero (for the air-transport industry), .biz (for businesses), .coop (for cooperatives), .info (for all uses), .museum (for museums), .name (for individuals), and .pro (for professions).

- \* [.biz](http://www.nic.biz/) is already fully operational and accepting live registrations. For more information on these .biz, please visit the website of NeuLevel, Inc., the company selected to operate this new TLD: <<http://www.nic.biz/>>.
- \* [.info](http://www.nic.info/) is also fully operational and accepting live registrations. More info on .info registration is available at the website of the .info registry operator, Afilias Limited, at <<http://www.nic.info/>>.
- \* [.name](http://www.nic.name/) is already operational for test purposes. The company selected to operate .name, Global Name Registry, has posted an informational page at <<http://www.nic.name/>>. The Sunrise and Landrush periods for .name are running concurrently and will both end on 17 December 2001. Domains registered in .name are scheduled to go live (resolve) on 15 January 2002.
- \* [.museum](http://www.nic.museum/) is also operational. The .museum TLD is sponsored by Museum Domain Management Association (MuseDoma). MuseDoma's informational site can be located at <<http://www.nic.museum/>>.
- \* The registry agreement for [.coop](http://musedoma.museum/) has been approved and signed. .coop is sponsored by the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA). An informational site for .coop is available at <<http://musedoma.museum/>>.
- \* The [.aero](http://www.sita.com/aero/info/compinfo.asp) registry agreement has been authorized for signature. .aero is sponsored by Societe Internationale de Telecommunications Aeronautiques SC (SITA). For more information on .aero, please visit <<http://www.sita.com/aero/info/compinfo.asp>>.
- \* The [.pro](http://www.registrypro.com/) registry agreement is still under negotiation. More information on .pro is available at the website of the registry operator, RegistryPro, LTD, at <<http://www.registrypro.com/>>.

### **Where do I register a .biz, .info or .name domain name?**

Domain names in .biz, .info, and .name can only be registered through ICANN-accredited registrars and their resellers. Over 100 registrars have already signed new accreditation agreements making them eligible to register in the .biz, .info and .name TLDs. A list of accredited registrars is on the InterNIC website at <<http://www.internic.org/regist.html>>.

### **How can I protect my trademark in the New TLDs?**

You should consult your attorneys for advice regarding intellectual property issues in the new TLDs. All of the new TLDs are subject to ICANN's [Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution](#)

**Policy** (often referred to as the “UDRP”). Also, each new TLD has established procedures to minimize customer confusion and cybersquatting by allowing trademark holders to assert rights to their trademarks in the new TLDs before registrations are opened to the general public.

*.biz*: Neulevel’s start-up plan included an Intellectual Property Claim service, which provided notification to prospective .biz applicants of conflicts with intellectual property claims, and allows claimants to challenge any start-up registrations made in conflict with pre-existing trademark rights.

*.info*: Afiliis implemented a “sunrise” period during which trademark holders were able to register their exact trademark as a second level domain in .info. A “sunrise challenge” period is currently underway in which anyone can challenge unqualified sunrise registrations.

*.name*: The Global Name Registry is offering a “NameWatch Service” and “Defensive Registrations” in order to prevent consumer confusion and protect intellectual property holders. These protections are subject to challenge by persons seeking to register their own personal name.

For more detailed information about intellectual property protections in the new TLDs, please visit the registry operators’ websites (above.)