centr
Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries

The CENTR ROUNDUP

SEPTEMBER 2012

MEMBER NEWS *HIGHLIGHTS*

(.at)
nic.at campaign: "Domains machen mehr daraus"
The nic.at awareness campaign called "Domains machen mehr daraus" has now been launched.

(.be)
Wanted: Java developers
DNS.be is looking for talented people to develop a new version of the registration system using the most modern technologies.

(.ch)
Cleaning up Switzerland's internet sites
Viruses and other malware are lurking not just on porn sites, but in places you might never expect. To make it safer to surf, the Switch foundation monitors the Swiss web for malicious code.

(.cz)
ICANN appoints Czech rep its security committee
The board of ICANN, appointed Ondřej Filip, Executive Director of CZ.NIC Association, as a member of its key consulting body SSAC.

CZ.NIC Unveils a New Logo and .CZ Brand

(.de)
Launch of signed output in DENIC whois
DENIC web-whois will offer customers the option to obtain in response to a whois query a signed output with a .de domain's holder data.

(.ee)
New director of Estonian Internet Foundation
Heiki Sibul takes up the post of director of the Estonian Internet Foundation (EIF)

(.eu)
.eu continues robust growth in Q2 2012
.eu's strong performance continued in Q2 2012 with 7.6% growth in domain name registrations compared with one year ago

Autumn issue of .eu Identity available
Includes tips about complying with the EU's Cookie Directive and more

(.ie)
15 Companies Receive Funding from IEDR's OPTIMISE Fund
IEDR announced fifteen recipients of the company's OPTIMISE 2012 Fund.

(.fr)
The Afnic Domain Name Industry Report issues key figures
The Afnic Domain Name Industry Report has changed format – every month a key market figure will be highlighted and discussed.

(.me)
Comedian T.J. Millers in New .ME Registry Video
The .ME Registry announced the release of a new video with standup comedian T.J. Miller.

(.nl)
Over 1million .nl domain names secured with DNSSEC
SIDN, announced that the Dutch country-code domain now has more than 1 million DNSSEC domain names.
Now out: The.nlyst 8, featuring the new gTLDs

(.nz)
InternetNZ awards funding for legal research projects
InternetNZ is pleased to announce that it has awarded over $53,000 of community funding in its Policy and Legal Funding Round

Launch of kiwi.nz .NZ Registrations Over Half-Million Mark

(.ru)
.RU Hits 4 Million Domain Milestone
The Coordination Center for TLD RU/.РФ reached the registration of its 4 millionth .RU domain names.

(.uk)
Consultation on new .uk domain name service
The proposed new service, is aimed at businesses and would potentially offer shorter domain names registered at the second level (i.e. www.yourbusiness.uk)

Recent CENTR Reports

Below is a short summary of selected responses from the above mentioned survey. CENTR Members have access to full results

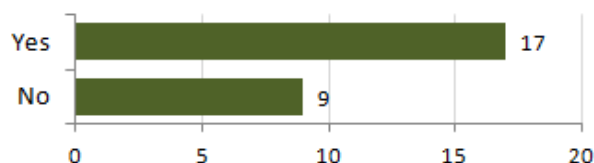## Do you set any limits to registrars Whois queries?

- Yes: 21
- No: 5

Do you set any limits to registrants' WHOIS queries?
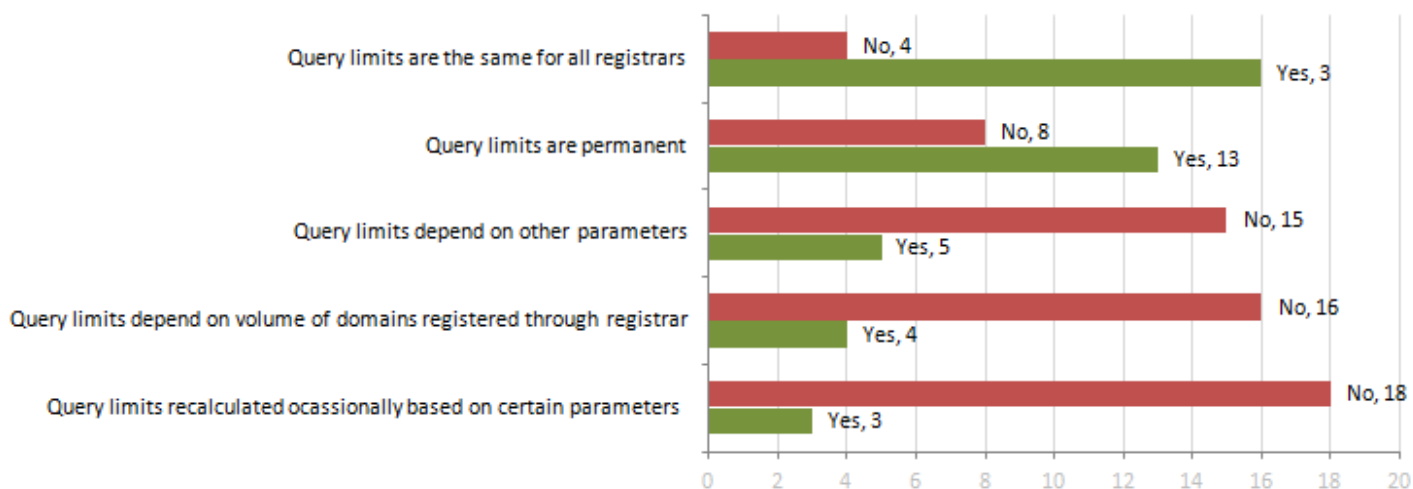
- Yes: 22
- No: 4

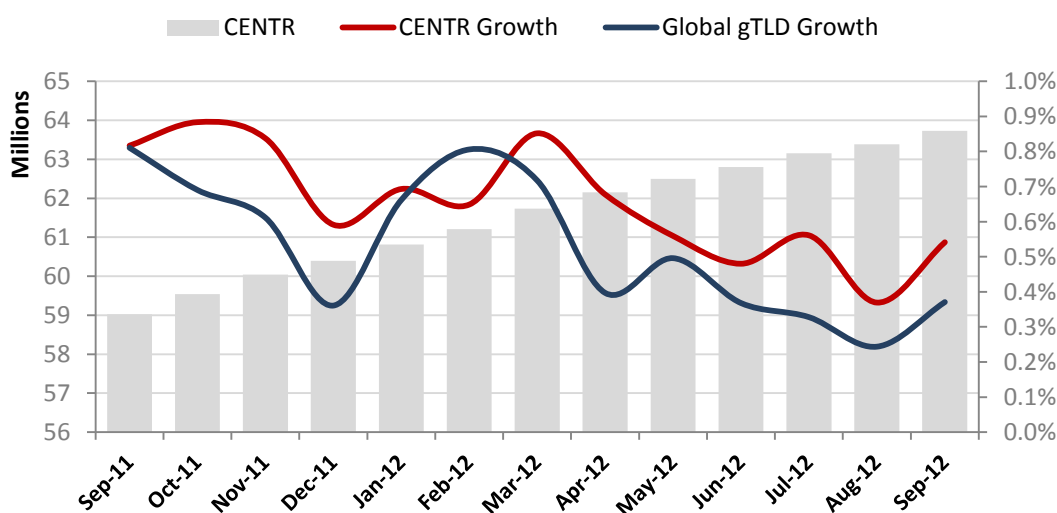## Do you set any limits to registrars' queries to Registration System

- Yes: 17
- No: 9

When there are limits to Registrar queries on the Registration System, the following apply

Legend: ■ No ■ Yes

	No	Yes
Query limits are the same for all registrars	No, 4	Yes, 3
Query limits are permanent	No, 8	Yes, 13
Query limits depend on other parameters	No, 15	Yes, 5
Query limits depend on volume of domains registered through registrar	No, 16	Yes, 4
Query limits recalculated ocassionally based on certain parameters	No, 18	Yes, 3

CENTR Statistics

Legend: CENTR ■ CENTR Growth (red line) Global gTLD Growth (blue line)

DOMAIN COUNTER:

63,726,715

SEPTEMBER 2012
CENTR Full Members

This count represents a growth of 0.54% from the previous month. The largest contribution to this growth in absolute value was Russian ccTLD .ru. In percentage terms the highest growth over the month was the Iranian ccTLD .ir (2.6% net growth over the month)

Will .SE shut down the piratebay.se?

When the Supreme Court of Sweden decided in February not to examine the court of appeal's ruling in the protracted trial against The Pirate Bay (TPB), the file-sharing site was relocated from .org to .se..SE has not been issued a formal court order to take action based on the ruling. However, we receive many questions about how we would react if the situation were to come to a head, which I would now like to address.

So far, .SE has not taken any actions following the ruling against TPB since we do not consider ourselves obligated to do so based on the contents of the ruling. Nor is it possible to answer hypothetical questions regarding how we would respond if we were to receive a formal order. Our actions would largely be determined by the contents of the order and the issuing party. Accordingly, we will assess the situation on a case-by-case basis if such an order is issued.

Generally speaking, what actions can .SE take against a domain name registrant?

We always have the right to take action based on a ruling against us pertaining to a specific domain name. Under Item 6 of our user agreement, we also have the right to deactivate and deregister a domain in the event that the domain itself or the manner in which it is used constitutes an obvious infraction against Swedish law. This provision is formulated in such a way as to enable us to take action in obvious cases – for example, in the distribution of child pornography or agitation against a national or ethnic group.

However, this is a right not an obligation, and such action would only be taken after a decision is made by .SE's Board of Directors. Such a decision has never before been made. We believe that the judicial authorities should determine whether or not it is appropriate to take action against a particular domain name registrant. Unless we have been ordered to do so, there is a risk that we could call the validity of the legal process into question by taking action before a ruling is passed.

However, on a couple of occasions, we have deactivated a domain when suspicions of identity theft were raised and the domain in question had been used for what is known as phishing.

What actions could the court order us to take?
Naturally, we cannot know for certain, but a few possibilities are that the court could order the domain name to be deregistered, the name server to be removed or the domain name to be forfeited (seized) or placed on .SE's block list.

Three ways to block a domain

TPB is currently blocked in several countries. However, the methods used to block a domain are all relatively easy to circumvent and thus essentially ineffective. Three main methods exist. To illustrate these methods, we have chosen to compare them with various ways of breaking into a shoe store located in a shopping mall.

1. Block the IP address

This method is used, for example, by the Chinese state to limit its citizens' access to websites deemed to be objectionable by the regime. The IP addresses of these sites are compiled in a list and no traffic is permitted to access them. However, it is relatively easy for the owner of the website to move it to another IP address, thereby circumventing the block.

Users can also bypass a blocked IP address using an anonymity service, such as Tor, but this requires a relatively high level of technical ability.

Blocking an IP address can be compared to blocking the entrance to a shoe store. While a determined customer would undoubtedly be able to enter through an emergency exit at the back of the store, most would assume the store was closed and shop elsewhere.

2. Block or shut down the domain name

It is possible to block a domain name by contacting either .SE, which can deregister the domain name, or the name server operator – usually a web hosting company – which is responsible for keeping track of the IP address or addresses associated with the domain name. However, the domain may still be accessible through the address.

Removing a domain name can be compared to taking down the signs hanging outside the shoe store. Although this would make it more difficult for customers to find the store, it would still be there and any customers who were able to find it would be able to continue buying shoes there.

3. Seize the server

When the Swedish police cracked down on web hosting company PRQ, PRQ's servers were seized. However, it did not take long before The Pirate Bay was up and running again, since the contents of the servers had been copied in several other locations.

In the physical world, this can be compared to closing the shoe store and confiscating the shoes, but the parallels end there. Since it is not possible to make back-up copies of physical products, such as shoes, it would be much more difficult for the storekeeper to resume operations.

The domain is not the problem

We believe the problem in this type of situation is *not* the domain, but rather its contents. The domain name itself is not an accomplice in act of copyright infringement and if thepiratebay.se, for example, were to be shut down, the site would almost certainly reopen under another top-level domain.

Article Courtesy of .SE

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Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries

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