NASK's report for the third quarter of 2019

.pl domain name market

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Dear Readers,

The third quarter of 2019, when 170,754 .pl domain names were registered, is behind us. At the end of September, the registry maintained 2,553,759 domain names, active in DNS, for over 1.07 million registrants.

In September, a new comprehensive solution for registrars, cooperating with NASK within the framework of the Partner Programme, was made available. Particular procedures of the solution operate under the names of automated transfer, i.e. bulk transfer, merger of accounts and assignment. Introduction of the procedures was aimed at strengthening the security of registrants and ensuring the continuity of service of .pl domain names.

NASK and the Ministry of Digital Affairs were the organizers of the 1st Cybersecurity Forum during the 29th Economic Forum in Krynica Zdrój, which took place on 4–5 September 2019. Guests of the Forum had the opportunity to participate in discussion panels composed of the representatives of the public administration from Europe and the private sector and experts on the development of new technologies.

Worthy of note was also the increase in the number of activations of a new service, improving the security level of the Internet domain names – .pl Registry Lock. Emphasizing how important it is to be careful and take care of your safety in the Internet, I invite you to read the article on fake online shops in the chapter Internet 24/7.

I invite you to get acquainted with the report!
Facts and figures

- Over 2.5 million active .pl domain names
- Over 170 thousand new names
- Almost 465 thousand names secured with DNSSEC
- 217 NASK Partners
- Over 30.3 thousand transfers
- Over 65.68% renewal rate
- Over 1.07 million registrants
- 1.8 thousand names registered daily average
- 65.02% of registrants constitute organizations, 34.98% natural persons
- 18 new agreements on .pl Registry Lock
.pl domain names active in DNS

Domains in .pl domain registry

At the end of September 2019 in the .pl domain registry there were maintained 2,553,759 domain names active in DNS. As in the previous quarters, the largest group were the names registered directly in the .pl domain – 1,957,026 names. In the functional domains (e.g. .com.pl, .net.pl) there were registered 476,034 names, while in regional domains (e.g. .waw.pl, .wroclaw.pl) 120,699 names. During the third quarter of 2019 there followed a decrease by 1.90% in the number of domain names active in DNS.

Registration year of .pl domain names active in DNS

- 16.03% from 1994-2009
- 21.66% from 2010-2014
- 21.30% from 2015-2017
- 16.62% from 2018
- 24.39% from 2019

Number of domain names active in DNS as divided into the type of zone, Q3 2019

- 76.63% second level domain names
- 18.64% functional
- 4.73% regional
.pl domain names active in DNS

Transfers

As in the previous, corresponding periods, in third quarter of 2019 registrants were changing registrars servicing .pl domain names maintained for them. During the discussed period the registrants transferred the service of .pl domain names 30,376 times.

3.61% of transfers were executed with a simultaneous renewal of a domain name for a consecutive billing period

Number of .pl domain name transfers

96.39% active domain names
2.08% active domain names with renewal
1.53% inactive domain names
Renewal of a domain name for a consecutive billing period

At the end of September 2019 the renewal rate in the .pl domain registry equalled 65.68%, being lower by 0.26 p.p. as compared to the result recorded at the end of the second quarter of 2019 and by 0.63 p.p. higher than the outcome obtained last year at the end of September.

398 thousand .pl domain names renewed from the beginning of July to the end of September 2019

1.5 thousand names the end date of a billing period was shifted by an individually defined number of days

Renewal rate of .pl domain names

77.98% second level domain names

17.62% functional

4.40% regional

Structure of renewed .pl domain names, Q3 2019
During the third quarter of 2019 170,754 new domain names were entered in the .pl domain registry. The number of names registered in particular months amounted to 59,241 in July, 53,873 in August and 57,640 in September. The share of domain names, registered directly in the .pl domain, in the total number of registrations, effected during the quarter, was the highest ever recorded in the history of the registry and amounted to 78.97%. Remaining 31.03% constituted registrations of functional domains (e.g. .com.pl, .net.pl) and regional (e.g. .waw.pl, .wroclaw.pl).
Registrars of .pl domain names

Registrars in the .pl domain registry

At the end of September 2019, in the .pl domain registry, there were 1,076,157 entries of unique data of .pl domain name registrants. The number was by 8,872 lower than at the end of the second quarter of 2019.

2.37 .pl domain names fell for one registrant on average

From the beginning of July to the end of September 2019 there were 26,005 changes of .pl domain names registrants

Division of Registrants of .pl domain names, Q3 2019

65.02% organizations
34.98% natural persons

Division of .pl domain names, active in DNS, for the type of registrants, Q3 2019

67.12% organizations
32.88% natural persons

Division of .pl domain name registrations for the type of registrants, Q3 2019

58.30% organizations
41.70% natural persons

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Registrants of .pl domain names

Place of residence of .pl domain name registrants

**Division of .pl domain names, active in DNS, for registrant’s country, Q3 2019**

- **Poland**: 93.01%
- **Others**: 6.99%

**Division of .pl domain name registrations for a registrant’s country, Q3 2019**

- **Poland**: 89.87%
- **Others**: 10.13%
Additional services of .pl domain registry

DNSSEC

At the end of the third quarter of 2019 in the .pl domain registry, there were 465,631 names, secured with the DNSSEC protocol, which was by 9,669 names fewer than in the previous quarter.

Number of the .pl domain names secured with DNSSEC

480,000 485,000 490,000 495,000 500,000 505,000
Q1 2018 Q2 2018 Q3 2018 Q4 2018 Q1 2019 Q2 2019 Q3 2019

67.09% of secured names were registered directly in the .pl domain
28.32% in the functional domains
4.59% in the regional domains
Additional services of .pl domain registry

**IDN**

At the end of September 2019, there were **35 650** .pl domain names with national diacritic signs (IDN), consisting **1.40%** of all names active in the registry.

From the beginning of July to the end of September 2019 **2 122** IDNs were registered, i.e. **1.24%** of all .pl domain names registered during the period under discussion.
Additional services of .pl domain registry

Options

During the third quarter of 2019 2,145 agreements on options for the registration of .pl domain names were concluded, while 400 existing agreements were renewed for a consecutive 3-year period.

970 existing agreements on options were executed with providing a domain name for registration. In 89 cases, registration failed for reasons attributed to an option holder, thus domain names in question being released for public registration.

Number of WLS registrations

Since launching the service in June 2004, the .pl domain registry has concluded 225 thousand agreements thereof being completed with providing a .pl domain name for registration.
Registrars of .pl domain names

NASK Partner Programme

At the end of the third quarter of 2019, within the frames of the Partner Programme, the .pl domain registry was cooperating with 217 registrars from 26 countries.

130 registrars had their registered offices in Poland and were servicing in total 72.48% of .pl domain names, 58 registrars, seated in other European countries, were servicing 16.85% of .pl domain names, while 29 registrars, domiciled beyond Europe, were servicing 10.67% of .pl domain names.

Partners of NASK, division by place of residence, Q3 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Registrars</th>
<th>Market Share</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>59.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>26.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13.36%</td>
</tr>
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.pl domain name market share between Partners considering the place of residence, Q3 2019

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>72.48%</td>
<td>72.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>16.85%</td>
<td>16.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries</td>
<td>10.67%</td>
<td>10.67%</td>
</tr>
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Fake shops – a growing threat

According to the Bisnode Polska report, in the middle of 2019 there were approximately 32 thousand online shops registered in Poland, and every year their number grows by almost 3 thousand. Among them there are also websites that only resemble shops, but in fact they are traps for Internet users.

Fake shops are becoming a serious threat. This type of fraud is increasing every year. According to the latest CERT Polska report, in 2018 there was a nearly threefold increase in incidents, related to fake shops, in comparison to the previous year. The increase in incidents, reported to CERT, is related not only to the intensification of the phenomenon, but also to the growing awareness of threats among Polish Internet users.

Unfortunately, each of us can fall victim to extortion in a fake shop. 62% of Poles already buy online, and one third of respondents declare that their spending on the Internet in the coming year will be higher (according to the Gemius report from 2019).

Some fake shops can be recognized at first glance. However, more and more of them are prepared to mislead even the most cautious buyers, e.g. by using authentic SSL certificates. In order to extort money, illegally obtain information and data, criminals are becoming more and more bold. They more often use certificates and sign their fake websites with them. It is no longer enough to be guided only by the so-called “green padlock” in the URL address of the shop and the HTTPS protocol. It is worth to click on this padlock and check for whom the certificate has been issued. However, you should remember that obtaining a certificate for a domain name does not guarantee the honesty of its registrant towards the users of the website.

In order not to become a victim of cybercriminals we should also look for opinions about a specific shop among friends. Opinions about suspicious shops, posted online, may be extreme, the enthusiastic ones often come from the fraudsters themselves and the negative ones from individuals, being the victims of a cybercrime.

What else should the Internet users pay attention to in order not to fall into the trap of criminals? Fraudsters most often tempt with heavily discounted prices. If you come across a “super sale”, it is worth to check the shop before you make a purchase, e.g. call the phone number, if provided on the website. Often, there is a typo in the address of a fake shop website pretending to be original, so it is recommended to pay special attention to the spelling.

Fake shops can use domain names that have been previously registered, but not renewed on time by registrants. In that scenario cybercriminals profit not only from the established opinion of the shop. Such a domain name has an added value for fraudsters because it has already a record and is better positioned by search engines.

It is important to remember to renew your domain names on time, and thus prevent the consequences not only of their recovery, but, above all, of the illegal use of expired domain names to set up fake shops.

Sources:
Annual report 2018 – CERT Polska
Bisnode Polska, 2019
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