NASK’s report for the fourth quarter of 2019
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Introduction

Dear Readers,

In the last quarter of 2019 the .pl domain registry accomplished a record number of domain names secured with the DNSSEC protocol. At the end of the quarter there were 524 343 names, that’s almost 60 thousand more than in the previous one. A noticeable increase in interest of domain name registrants in the DNSSEC protocol, which enhances the security of using DNS, was undoubtedly influenced by NASK’s activities, aimed at promoting and developing DNSSEC.

It is also worth mentioning that last year the .pl domain registry expanded its own anycast cloud, starting cooperation with other providers of this service. Thanks to those actions the security and stability of the DNS service of the .pl domain was increased.

I invite you to read the article in the Internet 24/7 series, where you will find more information on this subject.

In November and December 2019 NASK conducted intensive information and promotional activities for different environments. The most important of them were the 14th edition of the IGF conference in Berlin and IGF Poland in Warsaw. Both events were co-organized by NASK together with the Ministry of Digitization.

Issues concerning security of .pl domain names were presented during industry meetings, such as E-commerce Standard 2019 and SECURE 2019 conference.

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

- Over 2.5 million active .pl domain names
- Nearly 189 thousand new names
- Over 524 thousand names secured with DNSSEC
- Over 213 NASK Partners
- Over 30.8 thousand transfers
- Over 65.43% renewal rate
- Over 1.07 million registrants
- Over 2 thousand registrations daily average
- 65.30% of registrants constitute organizations
- 34.70% of registrants constitute natural persons
.pl domain names active in DNS

Domains in .pl domain registry

In the .pl domain registry at the end of 2019 there were maintained 2,513,491 domain names active in DNS. During the last quarter there followed a decrease by 1.60% in the number of domain names.

Directly in the .pl domain there were registered 1,935,407 names. In the functional domains (e.g. .com.pl, .net.pl) there were registered 459,146 names, while in regional domains (e.g. .waw.pl, .wroclaw.pl) 118,938 names.

Number of domain names active in DNS as divided into the type of zone, Q4 2019

- 77.00% second level domain names
- 18.27% functional
- 4.73% regional

Number of .pl domain names in DNS
.pl domain names active in DNS

Transfers

In the fourth quarter of 2019 registrants 30,831 times changed a registrar servicing .pl domain names maintained for them.

During the discussed period 1,169 transfers of service were executed with a simultaneous renewal of a domain name for a consecutive billing period with 479 of them being effected after the previous billing period had been completed.

1,169 transfers with renewal

Number of .pl domain name transfers

- Active domain names without renewal: 96.21%
- Active domain names with renewal: 2.24%
- Inactive domain names: 1.55%
Renewal of a domain name for a consecutive billing period

At the end of the fourth quarter of 2019 the renewal rate of the .pl domain names equalled 65.43%. From the beginning of October to the end of December over 412 thousand .pl domain names were renewed, while for 1674 names the end date of a billing period was shifted by an individually defined number of days.
During the last three months of 2019, 188,939 .pl domain names were registered, by 18 thousand more than in the preceding quarter. The number of names registered in particular months amounted to 69,080 in October, 64,291 in November and 55,568 in December.

**New registrations in the .pl domain**

- **2,054** daily average number of registrations
- **Number of .pl domain name registrations**

![Number of .pl domain name registrations](chart1)

- **77.12%** second level domain names
- **17.39%** functional
- **5.49%** regional

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Registrants in the .pl domain registry

At the end of December 2019, in the .pl domain registry, there were 1,072,587 entries of unique data of .pl domain name registrants. The number was by 3,570 lower than at the end of the third quarter of 2019.

From the beginning of October to the end of December 2019 there were 21,888 changes of .pl domain names registrants. On average, 2.34 .pl domain names fell for one registrant.

Division of registrants of .pl domain names, Q4 2019

- 65.30% organizations
- 34.70% natural persons

Division of .pl domain names, active in DNS, for the type of registrants, Q4 2019

- 67.17% organizations
- 32.83% natural persons

Division of .pl domain name registrations for the type of registrants, Q4 2019

- 58.16% organizations
- 41.84% natural persons

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Registrants of .pl domain names

Place of residence of .pl domain name registrants

Division of .pl domain name registrations for a registrant's country, Q4 2019

- Poland: 93.09%
- Others: 6.91%

Division of .pl domain names, active in DNS, for registrant's country, Q4 2019

- Poland: 90.80%
- Others: 9.20%

Countries with the highest share of .pl domain names:
- Germany: 1.60%
- Great Britain: 0.70%
- USA: 0.67%
- Netherlands: 0.46%
- Seychelles: 0.40%
- France: 0.35%
- Czech Republic: 0.34%
- Cyprus: 0.30%
- Sweden: 0.19%
- Spain: 0.14%
- Remaining: 1.76%
Additional services of .pl domain registry

**DNSSEC**

At the end of 2019 in the .pl domain registry, there were **524 343** names, secured with the DNSSEC protocol. In the fourth quarter the number of names, secured with that solution, in the .pl domain registry increased by **58 712** names.

**524 343** domain names secured with the DNSSEC protocol

*Number of the .pl domain names secured with DNSSEC*

- **70.90%** of secured names were registered directly in the .pl domain.
- **24.46%** in the functional domains.
- **4.64%** in the regional domains.
Additional services of .pl domain registry

IDN

In the .pl domain registry, at the end of the fourth quarter of 2019, there were 31,889 .pl domain names with national diacritic signs (IDN), consisting 1.27% of all names active in the registry.

From the beginning of October to the end of December 2019 2,518 IDNs were registered, i.e. 1.33% of all .pl domain names registered during the period under discussion.

2,518 registered IDNs
Additional services of .pl domain registry

Options

From the beginning of October to the end of December 2019 2,480 agreements on options for the registration of .pl domain names were concluded, while 576 already existing agreements were renewed for a consecutive 3-year period.

During the presented quarter 1,007 existing agreements on options were executed with providing a domain name for registration, while in 103 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 227 thousand agreements thereof being completed with providing a .pl domain name for registration.
Additional services of .pl domain registry

.pl Registry Lock

The .pl Registry Lock service, offered by the .pl domain registry, allows to lock current data concerning a particular domain name. Activation of .pl Registry Lock prevents, among others, from deleting a domain name, changing a registrant or the delegation of the domain name.

In the fourth quarter of 2019 the .pl Registry Lock service was activated 13 times.

Number of activation of the .pl Registry Lock service*

*during the presented period one deactivation of the service occurred

27 agreements on .pl Registry Lock

36 domain names secured with .pl Registry Lock
Registrars of .pl domain names

NASK Partner Programme

At the end of December 2019, the .pl domain registry was cooperating, within the frames of the Partner Programme, with 213 registrars from 26 countries.

128 registrars had their registered offices in Poland and were servicing in total 71.49% of .pl domain names, 56 registrars, seated in other European countries, were servicing 17.62% of .pl domain names, while 29 registrars, domiciled beyond Europe, were servicing 10.89% of .pl domain names.
Increasing the security and stability of the DNS service for the .pl domain

There are many techniques to enhance the security and stability of the DNS service. One of them is anycast DNS. Thanks to its application it is possible to optimize response times to DNS queries and increase service capacity and availability. Such a result is achieved by multiplying the servers, providing DNS service, and their geographical dispersion as well as placing them in appropriate segments of the global Internet network.

NASK expands its own network of anycast DNS servers and cooperates with providers of anycast DNS service, acting as a giant backup name server for the .pl domain.

To ensure security and stability of DNS, diversification of service providers is essential. With this in mind, in 2019 NASK started cooperation with other global providers, Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA), based in Ottawa, and ipcom GmbH, a subsidiary of nic.at, based in Salzburg. Both service providers are at the same time the operators of ccTLD national domain registries, respectively Canadian .ca and Austrian .at.

Currently NASK cooperates with three providers, the two mentioned above and Neustar, the operator of .us, .biz, .co, .nyc and .in.

As an operator of key services, NASK takes the utmost care to ensure their safety and stability. Within the framework of the implemented ISO 27001 system, as well as business continuity management, we are constantly improving our services. One of the improvement areas is DNS. Within the scope of this service, we develop our own network of anycast DNS servers, as well as cooperate with other providers. I am convinced that the undertaken actions have contributed to the improvement of key parameters of the DNS service – says Krzysztof Olesik, Manager of Domain Technical Service Team of NASK PIB.
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