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Dear Readers,

In the first quarter of 2020 NASK carried out intensive activities in the area of cybersecurity. Within the framework of those activities, the .pl domain registry implemented in its systems a new method of handling the DNSSEC protocol. Thanks to the introduced changes, the time of signing and validating zones is 9 times faster than in the previously used solution.

At the beginning of the year the project of withdrawing the facility to reserve .pl domain names by registrars was completed. Currently the registration of the .pl domain name is not preceded by a 14-day reservation period. Thanks to that, the registration process has been significantly simplified, in accordance with our clients’ expectations, and become similar to the model occurring in other top-level domain registries.

At present, it is hard not to mention the ongoing COVID-19 virus pandemic which has also had a great impact on the Internet services market. This topic is described in more detail in the article from the Internet 24/7 series.

I invite you to get acquainted with the report!
FACTS AND FIGURES

Over 2.4 million active .pl domain names

196 thousand new names

Nearly 462 thousand names secured with DNSSEC

212 NASK Partners

31 thousand transfers

65.07% renewal rate

Nearly 1.07 million registrants

2155 registrations daily average

65.43% of registrants constitute organizations

34.57% of registrants constitute natural persons
Domains in .pl domain registry

At the end of the first quarter of 2020 the .pl domain registry there were 2,451,074 domain names active in DNS. As compared to the end of the fourth quarter of 2019, there followed a decrease of 62,417 names, i.e. by 2.48%.

From among all the names active in DNS, 1,915,145 were being maintained directly in the .pl domain, 425,746 in the functional domains (e.g. .net.pl, .edu.pl), while in regional domains (e.g. .waw.pl, .katowice.pl) 110,183 names.

Number of .pl domain names in DNS

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Transfers

From the beginning of January to the end of March 2020 341 names were being transferred daily average, and totally, during the discussed period, registrants 31,042 times changed a registrar servicing .pl domain names maintained for them.

725 transfers of service were executed with a simultaneous renewal of a domain name, active in DNS, for a consecutive billing period, while 754 were effected with a simultaneous renewal of a domain name, no longer active in DNS.
Renewal of a domain name for a consecutive billing period

The renewal rate of the .pl domain names at the end of the first quarter of 2020 equalled 65.07%.

During the first quarter of 2020 nearly 479 thousand names were renewed, while for 1 715 names the end date of a billing period was shifted by an individually defined number of days.

Renewal rate of .pl domain names

Structure of renewed .pl domain names, Q1 2020

- 78.32% second level domain names
- 17.63% functional
- 4.05% regional
During the first quarter of 2020, 196,124 .pl domain names were registered, by 7,185 names more than in the preceding quarter. The most numerous names were registered in March when the number of registered names equalled 72,324. In January, 65,890 names were registered while in February, 57,910.

Number of .pl domain name registrations, daily average, Q1 2020

Number of .pl domain name registrations, as divided into a type of zone, Q1 2020

- 81.51% second level domain names
- 13.83% functional
- 4.66% regional
Registrants in the .pl domain registry

At the end of March 2020, in the .pl domain registry, there were 1,066,668 entries of unique data of .pl domain name registrants. The number was by 5,920 lower as compared to the result recorded at the end of 2019.

Division of Registrants of .pl domain names, Q1 2020

- 65.43% organizations
- 34.57% natural persons

Division of .pl domain names for Registrants, Q1 2020

- 66.99% organizations
- 33.01% natural persons

Division of .pl domain name registrations for the type of registrant, Q1 2020

- 52.84% organizations
- 47.16% natural persons
REGISTRANTS OF .PL DOMAIN NAMES

Division of registrants by account of the number of maintained .pl domain names, Q1 2020

Place of residence of .pl domain name registrants

Division of .pl domain names, active in DNS, for registrant’s country, Q1 2020

Division of .pl domain name registrations for a registrant’s country, Q1 2020

2.3 .pl domain names fell for one registrant on average.

From the beginning of January to the end of March 2020 there were 25 037 changes of .pl domain names registrants.

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DNSSEC

In the .pl domain registry, at the end of March 2020, there were 461,746 names secured with the DNSSEC protocol. In the first quarter of 2020 the number of names, secured with that solution, decreased by more than 62.5 thousand.
IDN

At the end of March 2020, in the .pl domain registry there were 29,664 names with national diacritic signs (IDN), consisting 1.21% of all active .pl domain names.

In the first quarter of 2020 2,573 IDNs were registered, i.e. 1.31% of all .pl domain names registered during the period under discussion.
Options

From the beginning of January to the end of March 2020 3,828 agreements on options for the registration of .pl domain names were concluded, which was by over 1.3 thousand more than in the previous quarter. 1,358 agreements were renewed for a consecutive 3-year period, the highest number since providing the facility to renew options in 2011.

1,079 existing agreements on options were executed with providing a domain name for registration, while in 83 cases, registration failed for reasons attributed to an option holder, thus domain names in question being released for public registration.

Since the moment of launching the service of option for registration of a domain name in June 2004, the .pl domain registry has concluded over 231 thousand agreements, with 44.87% thereof being completed with provision of a .pl domain name for registration.

The number of agreements, concluded in particular months of the first quarter of 2020, amounted to:

- 1,513 in January
- 1,108 in February
- 1,207 in March
.pl Registry Lock

In the first quarter of 2020 the .pl Registry Lock service, allowing to block current data of a domain name, was activated 6 times.

Number of registrars providing .pl Registry Lock → 27

Number of domain names with active .pl Registry Lock → 40

Number of activation of the .pl Registry Lock service*

* during the presented period three deactivations of the service occurred
NASK Partner Programme

The .pl domain registry, at the end of the first quarter of 2020, was cooperating, within the frames of the Partner Programme, with 212 registrars from 26 countries.

127 NASK’s Partners had their registered offices in Poland, 56 in other European countries, while 29 were domiciled beyond Europe.

Partners of NASK, division by place of residence, Q1 2020

- Poland: 59.91%
- Europe: 26.41%
- Remaining countries: 13.68%

.pl domain name market share between Partners considering the place of residence, Q1 2020

- Poland: 70.27%
- Europe: 18.66%
- Remaining countries: 11.07%
The Internet in times of coronavirus

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the availability and universality of the Internet is particularly important. The Internet is helping millions of people who are forced to isolate themselves. In the first quarter of 2020, work, education and entertainment moved even further online.

The popularity of online information services has increased significantly. In Poland, it is estimated that in the first quarter of the year, they recorded an increase in visits of up to 70%.

The necessary isolation caused that most companies had to significantly reduce their activities. Wherever possible, employees were delegated to remote work, thanks to the possibility of maintaining efficient communication and professional activity via the Internet.

Some Internet services and tools that enable or facilitate remote working are of record interest. There has been a leap, even twenty-fold, in interest in videoconferencing. This is due to the fact that thanks to such services it is possible not only to do business, but also education, which has completely moved to the Web. All schools and other educational institutions in Poland try to teach via the Internet. The education of students and training for adults is provided remotely.

The need to transfer lessons, lectures and training to the Internet resulted in increased interest in domain names identified with education. In the first quarter of 2020, and especially in March, the .pl domain registry noted a significant increase in the number of domain name registrations in the .edu.pl domain - an increase of 675 compared to the last quarter of 2019. The Registry also noted an increase in the registration in the .szkola.pl domain.

However, the lack of possibility to meet in churches was most probably the main factor of the increase in interest in the domain .rel.pl, not so popular before. The number of registrations in that domain increased as many as 38 times in relation to the previous quarter.

2. Source: [https://venturebeat.com/2020/04/02/zooms-daily-active-users-jumped-from-10-million-to-over-200-million-in-3-months/](https://venturebeat.com/2020/04/02/zooms-daily-active-users-jumped-from-10-million-to-over-200-million-in-3-months/)
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Text:
Anna Gniadek, Agata Leszczyńska, Katarzyna Nitychoruk, Weronika Rakowska, Tomasz Szladowski

Compilation and description of data gathered from the .pl domain name registry system:
Alina Wiśniewska-Skura

Translation:
Piotr Studziński-Raczyński

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