.pl domain name market
NASK's report for the second quarter of 2020
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NASK’s report for the second quarter of 2020
Introduction

Dear Readers,

At the end of the second quarter of this year, there were 2,455,561 active names in the .pl domain registry, i.e. almost 4.5 thousand more than in the previous one. In the discussed period, the number of registrations decreased by 0.84%, while the renewal rate increased and amounted to 65.53% in the second quarter.

The number of .pl domain registrants increased by almost 11 thousand. On average, there were 2.28 .pl domain names per one registrant.

In the second quarter, the registrants most often registered the names directly in the .pl zone. The share of that zone in the registrations increased from 81.51%, in the first quarter, to 83.75% at the end of the second quarter.

In order to counteract abuse of the .pl domain names, the Registry blocked 288 domain names violating the provisions of the .pl Domain Name Regulations and the Policy against abuse. The identified abuses concerned mainly the use of domain names for phishing.

It is also worth mentioning that on 17 May the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was celebrated. At that time NASK ran a promotional campaign on the activities it undertakes for the development of the information society and online security.

In the article from the Internet 24/7 series, this time you can find information on what the authinfo code is and what role it plays during the transfer of the domain name service.

I invite you to read the latest Report.
Facts and figures

- Over 2.45 M active .pl domain names
- Over 194 K new names
- Over 433 K names secured with DNSSEC
- 214 NASK Partners
- Over 26 K transfers

- Nearly 65.53% renewal rate
- 1.08 M registrants
- 2,161 registrations daily average
- 64.92% of registrants constitute organizations
- 35.08% natural persons

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.pl domain names active in DNS

Domains in .pl domain registry

At the end of the second quarter of 2020 in the .pl domain registry there were 2,455,561 domain names active in DNS. From the beginning of April to the end of June, the number of maintained domain names increased by ca. 4.5 thousand (0.18%). From among all the names active in DNS, 1,939,750 were being maintained directly in the .pl domain, 411,686 in the functional domains (e.g. .org.pl, .info.pl), while in regional domains (e.g. .waw.pl, .olsztyn.pl) 104,125 names.

Year of registration of .pl domain names active in DNS

- 15.97% (1994-2009)
- 20.64% (2010-2014)
- 27.82% (2015-2018)
- 19.71% (2019)
- 15.85% (2020)

Number of .pl domain names in DNS

![Number of domain names active in DNS as divided into the type of zone, Q2 2020](chart.png)

- 78.99% second level domain names
- 16.77% functional
- 4.24% regional

NASK's report for the second quarter of 2020
.pl domain names active in DNS

Transfers

During the second quarter of 2020 288 names were being transferred daily average, and totally, during the discussed period, registrants 26,195 times changed a registrar servicing .pl domain names maintained for them. 764 transfers of service were executed with a simultaneous renewal of a domain name, active in DNS, for a consecutive billing period, while 461 were effected with a simultaneous renewal of a domain name, no longer active in DNS.

1,225 transfers with renewal in Q2 2020

Number of .pl domain name transfers

95.32% active domain names
2.92% active domain names with renewal
1.76% inactive domain names

NASK's report for the second quarter of 2020
Renewal of a domain name for a consecutive billing period

The renewal rate of the .pl domain names at the end of the second quarter of 2020 equalled 65.53%.
From the beginning of April to the end of June 2020 nearly 397 thousand names were renewed, while for 1611 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, Q2 2020

Second level domain names: 78.27%
Functional: 17.28%
Regional: 4.45%
New names in the .pl domain registry

During the second quarter of 2020 194,476 .pl domain names were registered, by 1,648 (0.84%) names fewer than in the preceding quarter. The most numerous names were registered in April when the number of registered names equalled 71,059. In May 65,932 names were registered while in June 57,485.
Registrants of .pl domain names

Registrants in the .pl domain registry

At the end of June 2020, in the .pl domain registry, there were 1,077,561 entries of unique data of .pl domain name registrants. The number increased by 10,894 (1.01%) as compared to the result recorded in the first quarter of 2020.

2.28 .pl domain names fell for one registrant on average

From the beginning of April to the end of June 2020 there were 27,811 changes of .pl domain names

Division of Registrants of .pl domain names, Q2 2020

Organizations: 64.92%  
Natural persons: 35.08%

Division of .pl domain names for Registrants, Q2 2020

Organizations: 66.22%  
Natural persons: 33.78%

Division of .pl domain name registrations for the type of registrant, Q2 2020

Organizations: 52.52%  
Natural persons: 47.48%
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, Q2 2020

- Poland: 93.08%
- Germany: 1.55%
- USA: 0.69%
- Great Britain: 0.67%
- Seychelles: 0.41%
- Czech Republic: 0.37%
- Netherlands: 0.35%
- France: 0.34%
- Cyprus: 0.22%
- China: 0.21%
- Sweden: 0.20%
- Remaining countries: 1.91%

Division of .pl domain name registrations for a registrant’s country, Q2 2020

- Poland: 89.65%
- Germany: 1.04%
- China: 0.68%
- Great Britain: 0.64%
- Czech Republic: 0.63%
- Remaining countries: 4.04%

NASK’s report for the second quarter of 2020
Additional services of .pl domain registry

DNSSEC

In the .pl domain registry, at the end of June 2020, there were 433 436 names secured with the DNSSEC protocol. In the second quarter of 2020 the number of names, secured with that solution, decreased by more than 28 thousand (6.13%).

Number of the .pl domain names secured with DNSSEC

- 75.39% second level domain names
- 20.88% functional
- 3.73% regional

NASK’s report for the second quarter of 2020
Additional services of .pl domain registry

IDN

At the end of the second quarter of 2020, in the .pl domain registry there were 29,204 names with national diacritic signs (IDN), consisting 1.19% of all active .pl domain names.

From the beginning of April to the end of June 2020 2,708 IDNs were registered, i.e. 1.39% of all .pl domain names registered during the period under discussion.

2,708 IDNs registered in Q2 2020

Number of .pl IDN domain names active in DNS

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Additional services of .pl domain registry

Options

During the second quarter of 2020 2,983 agreements on options for the registration of .pl domain names were concluded and 835 agreements were renewed for a consecutive 3-year period. The number of agreements, concluded in particular months of the second quarter of 2020, amounted to: 1,121 in April, 914 in May and 948 in June. 1,114 existing agreements on options were executed with providing a domain name for registration, while in 92 cases, registration failed for reasons attributed to an option holder, thus domain names in question being released for public registration.
Additional services of .pl domain registry

.pl Registry Lock

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

In the second quarter of 2020 the .pl Registry Lock service, allowing to block current data of a domain name, was activated 2 times.

Number of activations of the .pl Registry Lock service

* during the presented period 3 deactivations of the service occurred
Registrars of .pl domain names

NASK Partner Programme

The .pl domain registry, at the end of June 2020, was cooperating, within the frames of the Partner Programme, with 214 registrars from 25 countries.

130 NASK’s Partners had their registered offices in Poland, 55 in other European countries, while 29 were domiciled beyond Europe.

Partners of NASK, division by place of residence, Q2 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>60.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>25.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13.55%</td>
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.pl domain name market share among Partners considering the place of residence, Q2 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>69.32%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>19.29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining</td>
<td>11.39%</td>
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What should every registrant know about authinfo codes?

Not all registrants know that one of their basic rights is the right to change the registrar servicing their domain name, i.e. the transfer of domain name service. In order to do that, what the registrant needs is an authinfo code. The code contains unique information authorizing a given domain name, and for the sake of its security, it should not be shared with third parties. It should be particularly protected and treated similarly to e.g. a PIN for a credit card. Authinfo code is created by the registrar handling the domain name. In order to retrieve the authinfo code to the domain name, the registrant should follow the procedure set by the registrar. Some of the registrars make authinfo codes available in their client panels; on the list of registrars they are marked with a flag.

With the help of the authinfo code, passed by the registrant, the new registrar initiates the domain service takeover, that is transfer. At this moment a message with a link is automatically sent from the .pl domain registry. By clicking the link, the registrant confirms that they want to move the domain service to the new registrar, and thus authorizes its transfer. The message with the link is sent to the registrant’s e-mail address indicated e.g. at the moment of domain name registration, and stored by the Registry in accordance with the .pl Domain Name Regulations. Before starting the domain name transfer procedure, it is worth checking with the current registrar whether the registrant’s e-mail address is up-to-date. It is worth adding that the e-mail addresses of the .pl domain registrants are not published in the WHOIS database. After the transfer is confirmed by the registrant, i.e. after the registrant clicks the confirmation link, received in the message, the transfer procedure is completed and the domain name service transferred to a new registrar.

It should be noted that the domain name service can be transferred only to the registrar cooperating with NASK within the Partner Program. The procedure of transfer of the DNSSEC secured domain name service is the same as for the unsecured domain name. However, before starting the transfer procedure, it is necessary to make sure that the chosen registrar offers handling DS records to NASK.
On the other hand, it is not possible to transfer the service of a domain name secured with the .pl Registry Lock service. For such a transfer to be effective, the .pl Registry Lock service must be deactivated.

What if the registrar refuses to release an authinfo code despite meeting by the registrant the specified conditions? The registrant should submit a complaint to NASK. Tips on how to do this can be found here.

Taking into account the number of domain name registrants, complaints about services provided by registrars are recorded incidentally.

"Registrants most often report to NASK problems with obtaining an authinfo code from a registrar, dissatisfaction with the procedure on releasing codes, e.g. necessity to send a request in the original, too long waiting time for the authinfo code to be released."

- such a comment on complaints is shared by Bartosz Łachowski from the Customer Service Center of the NASK Domain Department. Some registrars require, in their procedures on releasing authinfo codes, a registrant to deliver a request by traditional postal service, which may increase the time of the domain name transfer. Often the primary reason for lodging complaints is lack of knowledge on the conditions of service provision. Customers often do not get acquainted properly with the regulations of the chosen registrar, which may in turn lead to misunderstandings later on.

The subject of complaints, received by the Registry, is also the issue of outdated registrant’s data during the procedure of transferring the domain name service to another registrar.

"First of all, outdated registrant’s e-mail address, sometimes not updated for years, is troublesome. Therefore, in order for the transfer process to be successful, it is necessary to make sure that the current registrar provided the .pl Registry with a current and correct e-mail address of the domain name registrant."

underlines Katarzyna Nitychoruk from the DNS Partner Program Development Team at NASK. It is also necessary to make sure that both registrars (current and future) have correct and up-to-date remaining data of the registrant, necessary to provide the service. More information on domain name service transfer can be found here.
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