

# **.ug ccTLD, Which Way?**



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# What is DNS

- Domain Name System (DNS) is a database system that translates a computer's fully qualified domain name into an IP address.  
(<http://kb.iu.edu/data/aakl.html>)
- The Domain Name System (abbreviated DNS) is an Internet directory service. DNS is how domain names are translated into IP addresses.  
(<http://www.dns.net/dnsrd/docs/whatis.html>)

# What is DNS

- A fully qualified domain name (FQDN) is the complete domain name for a specific computer, or host, on the Internet e.g `www.bbc.com`.
- Your IP address is your computer's unique address on the Internet; it consists of four numeric segments separated by periods (e.g., `212.58.251.197` for `www.bbc.com`)

# What is a TLD?

- A **top-level domain** or domain name (**TLD**) is the highest level of domain names in the root zone of the Domain Name System of the Internet. For all domains in lower levels, it is the last part of the domain name, that is, the label that follows the last dot of a fully qualified domain name. For example, in the domain name `www.example.com`, the top-level domain is *com*.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top-level\\_domain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top-level_domain)

# What is a TLD?

- A top level domain (TLD) is the "suffix" or the end of each domain name.

[http://www.apluskb.com/scripts/What\\_is\\_a\\_Top\\_](http://www.apluskb.com/scripts/What_is_a_Top_)

- Examples include;

**.com** , **.net** , **.biz** , **.org** , **.name** , **.mobi** , **.info**

# CcTLD – Country Code Top Level Domain

- Two letter domains established for countries ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top-level\\_domain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top-level_domain))
- It is ideally for entities which reside in a specific country.
- Examples;
  - x .ug – Uganda
  - x .ke – kenya
  - x .ng – Nigeria
  - x .za – South Africa

# About .UG

- Was initially assigned to Mr. Charles Musisi to manage.
- Later, he transferred management to his company Uganda Online Ltd which eventually became Computer Frontiers International (CFI - [www.cfi.co.ug](http://www.cfi.co.ug))
- Currently one of the most technically well managed ccTLDs in Africa.

# ccTLD Registry

- **This is the entity (whether an organisation, enterprise or individual) responsible for managing and administering a ccTLD.**
- The primary duty of the ccTLD Manager is one of Public Service, and to manage and operate the ccTLD Registry in the interest of and in consultation with the Local Internet Community. ccTLD Managers are entrusted with the management of the TLD Registry.

# ccTLD Registry

## **Specific duties may involve;**

- Technical management of the ccTLD setup
- Assigning of domains under the ccTLD
- Dispute Resolution
- Promotion / Marketing of the ccTLD
- Price Setting
- Registrations
- Public Relations

# ccTLD Registry

- **Should this resource, being a national resource be managed by a private company or an all embracing entity representative of the public, industry and Internet community in Uganda?**



# dot **UG**, the case for a change

- Being a key national resource, there is a need for management of this resource to be in line with the interests of the public and industry.
- While the technical aspects have been well handled, a lot is lacking in the other areas to do with the overall management of the resource like the policy and commercial elements.

# dot **UG**, the case for a change

- The task of managing the .ug ccTLD is best suited to an organization which is representative of the public, industry and local Internet community and has been established with the appropriate resources to move Uganda forward in the global world of the Internet with the full support of the Government.

# dot **UG**, the case for a change

- It is crucial that despite its hands off approach, the Government needs to play a direct role in the management of the .ug due to the growing importance of the cyber-world in all our operations.
- One can not rule out national sabotage if in future a private entity chose to turn off the .ug root name servers as a way of hindering national and international communication.

# dot **UG**, the case for a change

- The registry (ccTLD manager) competes with registrars (resellers of the service). It is advisable to have an overseeing body as opposed to one that is in direct competition with other promoters.
- What is the primary use of the domain income? Profit for a private company? How much of it is used to develop the .ug namespace? To raise awareness? To educate customers? In infrastructure development?

# dot **UG**, the case for a change

- How much information about the .ug namespace is available to the general public? Is a private entity willing to disclose as much as would have been by a public entity acting in public interest?

# .za DNA

- ZaDNA stands for the .za Domain Name Authority.
- Is a public entity non profit corporation that is a trustee and manages the .za ccTLD.
- Stakeholders include; *Domain name community; academic and legal sectors; science, technology and engineering; labour; business and the private sector; culture and language; public sector; internet community.*

# KENIC

- Kenya Network Information Center – KENIC
- KENIC was established to, among others:
  - Act as a trustee for the .ke country-code-top-level-domain
  - Become the .ke domain administrative contact as well as technical contact
  - Administer the .ke ccTLD and its Second Level Domains

# KENIC

- Maintain and promote the operational stability and utility of the .ke ccTLD
- Ensure a cost-effective administration of the .ke ccTLD and its sub- domains
- Notify the Internet Corporation of Names and Numbers (ICANN) of any change to the contact information about the.ke ccTLD

# KENIC

- Provide name service for all .ke, and ensure that the database is secure and stable
- Allow ICANN to access .ke zone files and registration data (up to date) continuously maintain a KENIC website at all times with all the registration information meet all its financial obligations to ICANN comply with all global ICANN Internet policies and help in their development.

# Recent ccTLD Changes

- Mauritius recently successfully transferred the .mu management to a public entity from a private company.
- .ng was re-delegated to the Nigerian Internet Registration Association.

# 'model' ccTLD organisation

- Be inclusive of and accountable to all members of the country's online community
- Be led by the private sector and include representatives of the user, business, academic and NGO sectors
- Operate as a fully self-funding and not-for-profit organisation

# 'model' ccTLD organisation

- Administer the ccTLD to foster development of the national and global internet community
- Employ open, transparent and consultative processes
- Not acquire any property rights in the ccTLD, in line with the emphasis on trusteeship
- Enhance benefits to internet users by promoting competition, fair trading, and consumer protection and providing access to technical support

# 'model' ccTLD organisation

- Establish dispute resolution mechanisms that take into account intellectual property, consumer protection and other internationally accepted laws
- Abide by ICANN's policies
- Endorsed by but operate independently of the government.

# What are we waiting for?



***A Crisis?***

**Thank You !!!**

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