

Domain Names “.ca”: Be Careful!

By Diane Bellavance

A domain name is a name which allows us to identify and enter a web site. Domain names are used by cybernauts instead of IP addresses (Internet Protocol), to locate computers on the Internet. Domain names have at least two levels. The top level usually indicates the type of organization or the county of origin. These are often three-letter domain suffixes such as .com, .net, .org (called gTLD, for generic top-level domains) or still, corresponding to country codes which have two-letter suffixes such as .ca, .us, .fr (called ccTLD for country code top-level domains). Registration of a domain name ending by a country code is submitted to the registration procedure and the national laws of the country concerned.

Within the next few months, new top level domains should compete with .com. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), will proceed with the release of six (6) to ten (10) new top-level domain names. Registrars shall be named shortly.

On the other hand, up until recently, domain names ending in “.ca” were managed by the University of British Columbia (UBC). The Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA), a not-for-profit organization which will act as the authority responsible for the registration of the top-level domain name .ca. CIRA is therefore responsible for setting policy, managing and operating the .ca domain database and registering Domain Names.

Current holders of a .ca domain name must pre-register their domain name if they wish to keep it once the operations of the Registry have been transferred to CIRA. Some fees apply.

Pre-registration must be made with CIRA-certified registrars prior to November 1, 2000.

ATTENTION: The .ca domain names registered with UBC and which have not been pre-registered with a certified registrar shall return to the public domain and will become available for registration by other users.

It will now be possible to register an unlimited number of .ca domain names.

Monitor your domain

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