

Microsoft's .Microsoft Registry Domain Name Registration Policy

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.Microsoft Registry Domain Name Registration Policy

This .Microsoft Registry Domain Name Registration Policy (.Microsoft Registration Policy) sets out the eligibility criteria for .Microsoft domain names in Microsoft's .Microsoft registry. This .Microsoft Registration Policy may be updated periodically. The current version can be found at nic.Microsoft, and Registrant's continued registration of a .Microsoft domain name after any such update shall constitute Registrant's acceptance of any such update.

The terms set out in this .Microsoft Registration Policy constitute the full agreement concerning eligibility criteria for registration of a .Microsoft domain name. It is to be read in conjunction with the .Microsoft Registry T&Cs. No other agreements or representations supplement or alter the terms of this .Microsoft Registration Policy except as expressly incorporated herein.

Any undefined capitalized term in the .Microsoft Registration Policy shall have the meaning set out in the ICANN Registry Agreement applicable to the .Microsoft registry, available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/agreement/microsoft-2014-12-18-en>.

All communications and information under this .Microsoft Registration Policy shall be in English.

General/Definitions

Authorized Employee means an employee of Microsoft or a Microsoft Affiliate who is authorized to seek registration of a .Microsoft domain name in the name of Microsoft or a Microsoft Affiliate.

.Microsoft Registry T&Cs means the .Microsoft Registry Domain Name Terms and Conditions, which set out the terms and conditions governing the registration and use of domain names in the .Microsoft Registry.

Microsoft means Microsoft Corporation (Microsoft), a company organized under the laws of the State of Washington, U.S.A. and located at One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

Microsoft Affiliate means any person or entity that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries or in combination with one or more other persons or entities, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with Microsoft, and Microsoft's Trademark Licensees, as defined in the ICANN Registry Agreement applicable to the TLD.

Registrant means Microsoft or a Microsoft Affiliate seeking, through an Authorized Employee, to initiate registration of a .Microsoft domain name (which, if allowed, means that Registrant is then a .Microsoft domain name registrant).

Registrar means an ICANN-accredited registrar.

Registry means Microsoft as a provider of TLD registry services for the .Microsoft Top Level Domain registry.

Registry Services Provider means the entity providing back-end technical and operational services for the day-to-day functioning of the .Microsoft registry.

Terms used in the singular or plural are merely for convenience, and shall apply mutatis mutandis, as the context may require.

Rules of Eligibility

Domain names are only available for registration to and maintenance by Microsoft and, in Microsoft's sole discretion, Microsoft Affiliates.

- Microsoft reserves the right to periodically verify Registrant's eligibility to maintain a .Microsoft domain name registration, and at any time to initiate an Eligibility Reconsideration process.
- The only manner by which Registrant may challenge Registrant's (non-)eligibility to register a .Microsoft domain name is through Microsoft's .Microsoft Eligibility Reconsideration process described below; any determination on Registrant's (non-)eligibility to register a .Microsoft domain name shall be made in Microsoft's sole discretion, and is not subject to any further appeal mechanism or reconsideration process.

Eligibility Reconsideration

At any time during the registration of a .Microsoft domain name, Microsoft or Microsoft's domain management team may (whether of its own volition, or at the suggestion of a third party whose identity may remain confidential) instigate an Eligibility Reconsideration process to verify your compliance with the .Microsoft Registration Policy, in particular as to the .Microsoft rules of eligibility set out above. A determination by Microsoft under the .Microsoft Eligibility Reconsideration process may result in the cancellation or revocation of the .Microsoft domain name registration and any such determination shall be made in Microsoft's sole discretion, and is not subject to any further appeal mechanism or reconsideration process.

Domain Name Registration Rules

Domain name registration in the .Microsoft will occur pursuant to a four-step process:

- (1) Eligibility Confirmation;
- (2) Naming Convention Check;
- (3) Acceptable Use Review; and,
- (4) Registration (.Microsoft domain name registrations shall be for one year).

Only if an attempted domain name registration is verified as meeting the .Microsoft Registration Policy, including the domain name being available for registration (i.e., not already registered), and only where Registrant meets the .Microsoft Rules of Eligibility, can a .Microsoft domain name proceed to registration/allocation. .Microsoft domain name registrations shall at all times be bound to all applicable .Microsoft rules and regulations including inter alia the .Microsoft Registration Policy and the .Microsoft Registry T&Cs.

(1) Eligibility Confirmation

- Only Authorized Employees may seek to register (including any renewals) .Microsoft domain names; .Microsoft domain names may not under any circumstances be registered or used by parties other than Microsoft and Microsoft Affiliates and may not

subsequently be sold, distributed or transferred to any other party without Microsoft's consent.

- Only Microsoft and Microsoft Affiliates may use .Microsoft domain names.
- Prior to approval/registration/renewal, all prospective domain name registrations will be verified by the Registrar and Microsoft's .Microsoft domain name management team for compliance with the .Microsoft Rules of Eligibility.

(2) Naming Convention Check

A second-level .Microsoft domain name must meet all of the following criteria:

- (a)** Must be at least 1 character and no more than 63 characters long.
- (b)** Must not contain a hyphen at the 3rd and 4th positions (tagged domains), unless corresponding to a valid Internationalized Domain Name in ASCII encoding (for example "xn--ndk061n").
- (c)** Must contain only letters (a-z), numbers (0-9) and hyphens, or a combination of these.
- (d)** Must start and end with an alphanumeric character, not a hyphen.
- (e)** Must not be a Reserved Name (see below).

(3) Acceptable Use Review

- Upon submission of a request to register a .Microsoft domain name, or by asking Microsoft to renew a .Microsoft domain name registration, Registrant represents and warrants that Registrant's .Microsoft domain name registration does and will at all times comply with the .Microsoft Registration Policy and the .Microsoft Registry T&Cs.
- Prior to approval/registration/renewal, Registrant's domain name registration will be verified by Microsoft's .Microsoft domain name management team for compliance as to .Microsoft Registry T&Cs.
- Domain name registrations/renewals will only be permitted in the .Microsoft registry where Authorized Employee has obtained a .Microsoft registration code from Microsoft's .Microsoft domain name management team in advance of registration; .Microsoft registration codes are granted subject to Microsoft's satisfaction that Registrant's registration and use of a .Microsoft domain name will conform with the .Microsoft Registry T&Cs.
- Microsoft may periodically review a Registrant's compliance with the .Microsoft Registry T&Cs. Any determination by Microsoft's domain name management team as to Registrant's (non-)compliance with the .Microsoft Registration Policy and/or .Microsoft Registry T&Cs may result in the cancellation or revocation of Registrant's .Microsoft domain name registration or the withdrawal of permission to use it, as applicable and in Microsoft's sole discretion.

(4) Registration

- Unless otherwise agreed in writing in advance with the Microsoft .Microsoft Registry and confirmed by the Registrar, .Microsoft domain name registrations, and renewals, are for a period of one year.
- Provided that the .Microsoft Eligibility Confirmation, Naming Convention Check, and Acceptable Use Review criteria are all satisfied, Microsoft's .Microsoft domain name management team will instruct the Registrar to proceed with the registration or renewal of Registrant's .Microsoft domain name.
- If at any point prior to the registration expiration date Registrant no longer wishes to maintain Registrant's .Microsoft domain name registration, Authorized Employee may submit a written (which shall include email) request to domains@microsoft.com for Microsoft's .Microsoft domain name management team to cancel Registrant's .Microsoft domain name registration; in such event, Microsoft's .Microsoft domain name management team is under no obligation to make such domain name available for future registration.
- At the conclusion of the registration period for Registrant's .Microsoft domain name, unless Registrant has instructed Microsoft otherwise at least 30 calendar days prior to the expiration of Registrant's .Microsoft domain name registration, we will automatically renew Registrant's .Microsoft domain name registration.

Reserved Names

The following terms are reserved from registration:

- a. terms prohibited by ICANN from availability for registration including as required by the ICANN Registry Agreement applicable to the .Microsoft Top Level Domain, and in particular
 1. the terms "example", "www", "rdds", and "whois" at all levels, which at Microsoft's discretion shall be withheld from registration or allocated to Microsoft
 2. the term "nic", at all levels, as this term shall be allocated to Microsoft for use in connection with the operation of the .Microsoft Top Level Domain
- b. any term reserved by Microsoft in its sole discretion.