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Ministry of Telecommunication and IT

Directorate General Chief Information Technology

Information System Security Directorate

Domain Name Registration Policy



Afghanistan Network Information Center (AfgNIC)

Domain Name Registration Policy

Domain Name Registration Policy apply to all domain names administered by AFGNIC, and registrars are required to make their customers aware of them prior to registration of a .AF domain

Any Registrant who want to register a domain name under .AF must read and agree to the Domain Name Registration Policy.

Definitions and interpretation

In this Policy, the following words have the following meanings:

'domain name' – An internet domain name ending in .af operated by MCIT AFGNIC office.

'registrar' – An agent who acts on applicant behalf in the registration, renewal and other general administration of a domain name or to whom AFGNIC allow access to .AF domain registration portal to register.

'rules' – it explain which domain names can be registered in .AF and which cannot.

'register' – The database of the domain names ending .AF that AFGNIC administer it.

'Registrant' – The person who is entered into the register as the responsible person for the domain name and who will be listed on the WHOIS.

AFGNIC: Afghanistan Network Information Center is a department which operating under in Ministry of Communication and IT. Responsible for registration of Top-Level Domain (TLD) “.af” as well as the Second Level Domain (SLD) “.gov.af” according to the internationally accepted standards for the operation of country TLD registry.

License: means the person that applies for or has obtained a license from the .af DNS authority to use a particular name in the ".af" domain.

Registry: The entity which records names as domain names in a register of domain names for the country-code top level domain name, according to policies, and following procedures, established with the Local Internet Community. (The organization which maintains the register and publishes the zone)

CoCCA (Council of Country Code Administrators): Non-profit organization and it is Technical Focal Point for AFGNIC that has the right to grant licenses to use domain names in the ".af" domain.

'WHOIS' – A free service we provide which allows members of the public to check whether a domain name exists and if so, provides further details such as the registrant and registrar, creation date, name servers and, subject to our privacy policies from time and the consent of a registrant to have their details displayed on the public WHOIS, further details such as the registrant name and contract address



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- Application is not considered filled until AFGNIC has received it without any error in the form of or content.
- Only natural persons, undertakings, or organizations meeting the Eligibility Criteria shall be eligible to register a Domain Name.
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- AFGNIC shall register Domain Names on a 'first come, first served' basis
- When an application for registration of a Domain Name is submitted to AFGNIC by registrant , or an applicant. If the application is processed successful, the Domain Name will be registered by AFGNIC.
- If registrant's application is for a Domain Name which is identical to a Domain Name which has already been registered with AFGNIC, registrant application will be rejected.
- Application for domain registration or for the modification of entries must be submitted by the registrant or by an agent authorized by the registrant.
- AFGNIC administer the .af TLD and the Second Level Domains (SLDs) **.gov.af** which is used for government organizations.
- Application by AFGNIC registrar for a Domain Name must either be an application to register Second Level Domain or Third Level Domain listed in Appendix A
- Each Second Level Domain ("SLD") listed in Appendix A has its own specific policy ("SLD Policy").
- Second Level Domain ("SLD") **.gov.af** administered by AFGNIC which is reserved for government purposes.
- AFGNIC reserve the right to check registrant application for compliance with the domain name Policy either before or after Domain Name is registered or renewed with AFGNIC or AFGNIC registrar.
- According to the Domain Name Registration Policy, AFGNIC may cancel or suspend the registration of a Domain Name if registrant breach any of the Policy.
- All domain names registered with two characters will be either redirected to minimum **three (3)** characters or will be cancelled as per Domain Name Registration Policy
 - **Names will be registered for the person whose application is completed first**, notwithstanding earlier applications for those names that are not yet complete. An application is complete when it is received with all the required data by the AFGNIC office (not when it was sent). The refusal to register a domain name by the AFGNIC does not create any rights (priority rights or other) for the registrant. The registrant may file a new application, in competition with anybody else, if that name later becomes available to the public.

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License

- After the registrar completes the registration process and pays the registration fees, the AFGNIC grants an exclusive license to the registrant to use the domain name in the application.
- The license is valid for one year and is renewable as long as the registration fee has been settled.
- The license is not transferable unless the domain name is transferred with the business assets of the registrant. The license for a domain name that is on hold cannot be transferred, with exception for the appointment of a new registrar, If the registrant does not appoint another registrar within one month, the license agreement between the AFGNIC and the registrant will be terminated at the end of its term with no possibility of renewal.
- In case the **registrant** decides not to use the domain name, it is the responsibility of the **registrant** to let the AFGNIC know via email so the AFGNIC can remove the domain name from the system.
- The AFGNIC may terminate the license if the **registrant** breaches any points in Domain Name Registration Policy, including non-payment of the license fee by the **registrant's** registrar.
- In case of a breach of the Domain Name Registration Policy, the AFGNIC can send a reminder by e-mail to both the registrar and the **registrant** informing them that the license will be terminated if the breach is not remedied within 10 days.

Fees and Payment

- The applicable fees charged by the AFGNIC to Registrars for the registration, renewal, transfer, and reactivation of Domain Names.
- The registrant is aware that the registrar acting on his behalf must pay the initial registration fee and the renewal fee according to the agreement between the registrar and the AFGNIC.
- The registrar has access to the registration portal of the AFGNIC in order to verify the status and expiration date of the domain names that he/she manages.
- The registrar is responsible for the timely advice to the registrant that the license for his/her registered domain names is due to be renewed.
- The AFGNIC is not responsible for the registrar's non-payment of registration or renewal fees, which may result in the non-registration or cancellation of a domain name (even if the registrant has paid the registrar).
- AFGNIC is under no obligation to inform the Registrant in advance when the Term is about to expire.

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Obligation of Registrant

- The registrant must have a working e-mail address, which is inserted in the AFGNIC database.
- The AFGNIC and the registrant must use the registered e-mail address for official communication between registrar and registrant.
- The registrant must keep the address up-to-date through his/her registrar. If the e-mail address is not kept up-to-date, the registrant is in breach of Domain Name Registration Policy and the AFGNIC may terminate the license.
- The registrant shall use the Domain Name in such a way that does not violate any third-party rights, applicable laws, or regulations, including discrimination on the basis of race, language, sex, religion, or political view
- Not to use the Domain Name in bad faith or for any unlawful purpose.

Agreement between Registrant and Registrar

- A registrant may use a registrar for the purpose of registering and administering a domain name.
- The registrar acts as the registrant's authorized agent.
- The registration and renewal process with the AFGNIC can only be conducted by the registrant through an authorized registrar who is acting on behalf of the registrant (Except those registrant who directly registered through AFGNIC office), but for its own account.
 - I. The AFGNIC must make available on its web site a list of the authorized registrars, and a copy of the typical agreement between the AFGNIC and the registrar.
 - II. The AFGNIC is not a party to the agreement between the registrant and his registrar incurs no obligation or liability from that agreement.
 - III. Domain names are registered on a annual basis and require the registrant to renew the domain name in order to maintain the rights to the domain name.
- If a registrar is no longer an authorized registrar because the agreement with the AFGNIC is terminated:
 - I. The AFGNIC must send an e-mail to the registrant's informing them that their domain name is put on hold and asking them to appoint another registrar within one month.
 - II. Registrants must keep his/her data and email address up to date all the time
 - III. If the registrant does not appoint another registrar within one month (30 days), the license agreement between the AFGNIC and the registrant will be terminated at the end of its term with no possibility of renewal.
 - IV. The registrant's domain name will remain on hold until the later of three months after the AFGNIC sent the on hold notice to the registrant , or two months after the license was terminated. While the domain name is on hold, the registrant may appoint another registrar who may send a request, including its reasons, to the AFGNIC to become the new registrar of the registrant and restore the license if terminated.
- If a registrant terminates the agreement with his registrar:
 - I. He/She must at the same time designate a new registrar who must inform the AFGNIC of the proposed change of registrar.

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- II. The AFGNIC must inform the registrant and the new registrar of the proposed change by e-mail and the registrant may object to the proposed change by sending a reply e-mail to the AFGNIC within seven (7) days.
- III. The change of registrar will take effect if the registrant confirms the change to the AFGNIC within seven days after the e-mail from the AFGNIC.
- IV. If the registrant does not respond within **seven days**, the AFGNIC must send a reminder by e-mail to the new registrar informing him/her that the transfer will only take effect if the registrant confirms the change to the AFGNIC by e-mail within 7 days.

Policy for Domain Name Use

- Domain name registration is strictly prohibited by any of the following purposes:
 - i. The display of sexually offensive contents.
 - ii. Spamming activities including the development of tools used to spam ; or any software or resources to be used for illegal activities, including viruses and hacking tools.
 - iii. Any other activity which is illegal under Afghanistan law.
- A Domain Name is available when:
 - i. It is not already registered as a Domain Name
 - ii. it is not reserved, blocked, or known to the AFGNIC as 'not registrable' in accordance with the policy
- If the Domain Name in registrant's application does not meet the requirements in this section then the application cannot be accepted by AFGNIC.
- The following names are not acceptable for registration if:
 - i. Names that consist of characters other than "**a-z**", "**A-Z**", "**0-9**" and "-", or that start or end with "-" (as recommended in **RFC 1035**).
 - ii. Names of less than **three (3)** characters or more than **sixty-three (63)** characters.
 - iii. Proper names such as **Afghanistan, Kabul, Ahmad** and more will not be registered unless approved by AFGNIC authorities.
 - iv. Names with "-" on the third and the fourth position.

Required Documents for Domain Name Registration

- The registrant must bring the following documents for the registration of domain names under .af domain.
 - 1) If the registrant wants to register a domain name ending in ".af" and ".com.af" .
 - a. Trade license / Business authorization or approval from the Ministry of Commerce for any other Ministry or body responsible for registration or licensing of such bodies.
 - 2) If the registrant wants to register a domain name ending in ".org.af"
 - a. Approval of registration documents from the ministry of Economic for verification of the specified organization or any other Ministry or body responsible for registration or licensing of such bodies.
 - 3) Business plan and business strategy for reserved/premium domains are mandatory.

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Personal data

AFGNIC process data in accordance with its data privacy policy

AFGNIC will make your **personal data** available in the following ways, but not release it for any other purpose to any other person.

- AFGNIC will:
 - Include it on the **register**;
 - Include it on the **WHOIS** and **Searchable WHOIS**
- Give registrants **personal data** to their current or proposed **registrar** (or both)

Representations and Warranties of the Registrant

- The registrant agrees and warrants that:
 - I. All information provided to the AFGNIC during the Domain Name registration process is true, complete, and accurate
 - II. Registering the domain name will not infringe or otherwise violate the rights of a third party.
 - III. The domain name is not registered for an unlawful purpose.
 - IV. The domain name is not used in violation of any applicable laws or regulations, such as a name that helps to discriminate on the basis of race, language, sex, religion or political view;
 - V. The domain name is not contrary to public order or morality (e.g. obscene or offensive names).

Exclusions and Limitations of Liability

- The AFGNIC is not liable for:
 - I. any loss of profit, revenue or other type of economic loss (whether direct or indirect)
 - II. loss of business or contracts
 - III. loss of expected savings or goodwill
 - IV. any losses 'indirect' arising out of or in connection related to the registration of a **domain name** with AFGNIC, including but not limited to:
 - i. Any mistake or missing information in the **register**
 - ii. Loss of registration or use, or both (for whatever reason and whether temporary or otherwise), of the **domain name**
 - iii. Registration or renewal (or the default of registration or renewal) of a domain name in favor of a registrant or a third party due to an error concerning their identity.
 - iv. **Termination** of the AFGNIC rights to register domain names in the ".af" domain.
 - v. Rights that third parties claim to domain names.
 - vi. Technical problems or faults.
 - vii. Acts or omissions of the registrars regarding the application, registration or renewal of domain names, which may result in the non-registration, or cancellation of a domain name.
 - viii. The Registrant shall be liable for any costs, expenses, or damages incurred by the AFGNIC for any breach of these policy by the Registrant. Furthermore, the Registrant shall not hold the AFGNIC responsible in claims filed or disputes initiated by third parties, and shall compensate the AFGNIC for any costs or expenses incurred or damages it may suffer through third parties taking action against it on the grounds

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that the registration or the use of the Domain Name by the Registrant infringe the rights of said third parties

- ix. Disputes between the AFGNIC and the registrant must be brought before the appropriate Afghanistan courts which will have exclusive jurisdiction, and must be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Afghanistan.

Change of Registration Policy

- All domains are property of MCIT, which are rented upon request with a defined yearly fee as per Domain Name Registration Policy.
- If the AFGNIC decides to change its Policy, it will make the new Policy available to the public by posting them on its web site at least thirty (30) days before the new Policy take effect. Each registration procedure will be handled according to the policy in effect on the date the application is complete.
- As a deviation of the previous policy, AFGNIC can modify the technical registration Policy without the application of the mentioned minimum delay of thirty (30) days. Such modifications will take effect from the moment of their announcement on the website of the AFGNIC. AFGNIC can only make use of this specific procedure as far as those modifications seem justified within the national or international technical context and as far as they are intended to prevent registrations of speculative nature.
- AFGNIC will not personally inform registrant's, whose Domain Names have been rejected in the past, that new policy apply, even if the rejected names would be allowed under the new policy.
- As per new approval of MCIT management, no one is allowed to resell Domain Names In case of reselling without proper approval of MCIT, AFGNIC has the authority to block/terminate those domains immediately.
- The policy of the Domain Name Registration are dynamic and subject to change.

Domain Name Modification, Renewal and Transfer Policy

- AFGNIC will register the **domain name** for a period between one and five years in accordance with the **Registrant's** request.
- Registrations made directly with AFGNIC may only be made for fixed terms of one year.
- Registrant may renew their **domain name** at the end of its term in accordance with AFGNIC renewals processes.
- For modification of entries on behalf of registrant the authorized agent must declare that he/she has the proper authorization to do so.
- Upon the domain name registration the registrant must review the accuracy of the specified data without delay, at the latest within one month, corrections which are received late will be treated as modification request and processed according to relevant policy.
- If registrant want to transfer their **domain name** to someone else, they must:
 - I. use AFGNIC current published transfer process; and
 - II. make sure that the person taking over their **domain name** accepts this policy in full.
- For transferring a domain name to new registrant, both current and future registrant must issue matching declarations of intent, and the relevant form must be filled out in its entirety.
- If registrants do not transfer their **domain name** in accordance with AFGNIC published transfer process there will be no valid transfer of their **domain name**, and no document or agreement attempting or claiming to transfer their **domain name** will have any effect.

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- The Registrant shall be entitled to terminate the **Domain Name** registration in accordance with its agreement with its Registrar. Such termination shall only take effect if the AFGNIC receives a deletion request via the Registrar before the end of the Term.
- AFGNIC shall be entitled to immediately suspend or cancel the Domain Name when the Registrant is in breach of the policy.

Cancelling or Altering the Domain Name

- AFGNIC may cancel or put a **domain name** into a **special status** by notifying the registrant if:
 - I. in AFGNIC sole discretion, AFGNIC believe that registrant or their **registrar** have provided significantly inaccurate, not **correct**, unreliable or false contact details (including names), failed to keep their contact details up to date, or failed to give AFGNIC those details at all
 - II. In AFGNIC sole discretion AFGNIC believe the **domain name** is being used, or has a high risk of being used, in a way that is likely to endanger any part of the domain name system, other internet users (including but not limited to the distribution of viruses and malware, phishing activity or facilitating distributed denial of service attacks), or our systems and internet connections
 - III. Registrant have broken any of the Policies
- AFGNIC may (but do not have to) transfer, cancel, alter or amend the **domain name**, put it in a **special status** or prevent its renewal:
 - I. If AFGNIC reasonably believe that the changes to update the **register** or to correct any error, ambiguity or inaccuracy relating to the **domain name** registration (including any error in making the **domain name** available for registration or an error in a previous cancellation of the **domain name**) would make it more accurate
- Domain Registration can be canceled at any time; however, such cancellations must be submitted at least one day before the beginning of next service period by means of message from the registrant to AFGNIC. AFGNIC may request a confirmation from registrant in writing or by its authorized email registered in the form.
- The cancellation will become effective immediately or, if explicitly specified by the registrant in the cancelation notice, upon expiration of the current service period and the fee is not refundable.

Security and Registrars

- AFGNIC will not take any action, or make any changes to the **register**, until AFGNIC have received a valid request from the registrar.
- AFGNIC will be entitled to assume that any action requested using their identification code and password has been submitted by registrar or by someone authorized by registrar.
- registrar must keep any user identification code, password or other piece of information used as part of AFGNIC security procedures confidential.
- AFGNIC have the right to disable any user identification code or password, at any time, if AFGNIC belief the security procedures have been compromised.



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Applicable Law and Jurisdiction

These policies and any relation between the AFGNIC and the Registrant under the same are subject to Afghanistan law. In the event of any dispute, disagreement or claim between the AFGNIC and the Registrant, Afghanistan courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction

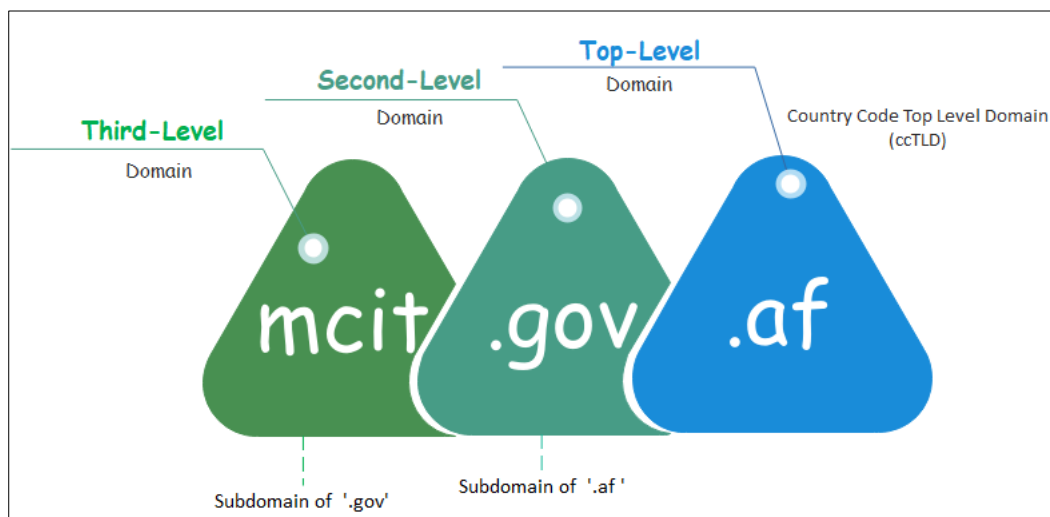
Note: This document is subject to change by AFGNIC from time to time without any prior written notice.

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Appendix A: Domain Name Structure

Domain Name Definitions

A Domain Name is made up of several levels of domains. A domain name may be comprised of a number of different levels. In the Domain Name Registration Policy document Top Level Domain ("TLD"), Second Level Domain ("SLD") and third level domain ("Third Level Domain") will be used accordingly



The Second Level Domain (SLD) is a sub-domain of the Top Level Domain (TLD). The Third Level Domain is a sub-domain of the Second Level Domain (SLD).

All new domains registered with .AF must belong to one of the following Level 2 or Level 3 domains: Below are some general guidelines for each zone.

Second Level Domains Purpose

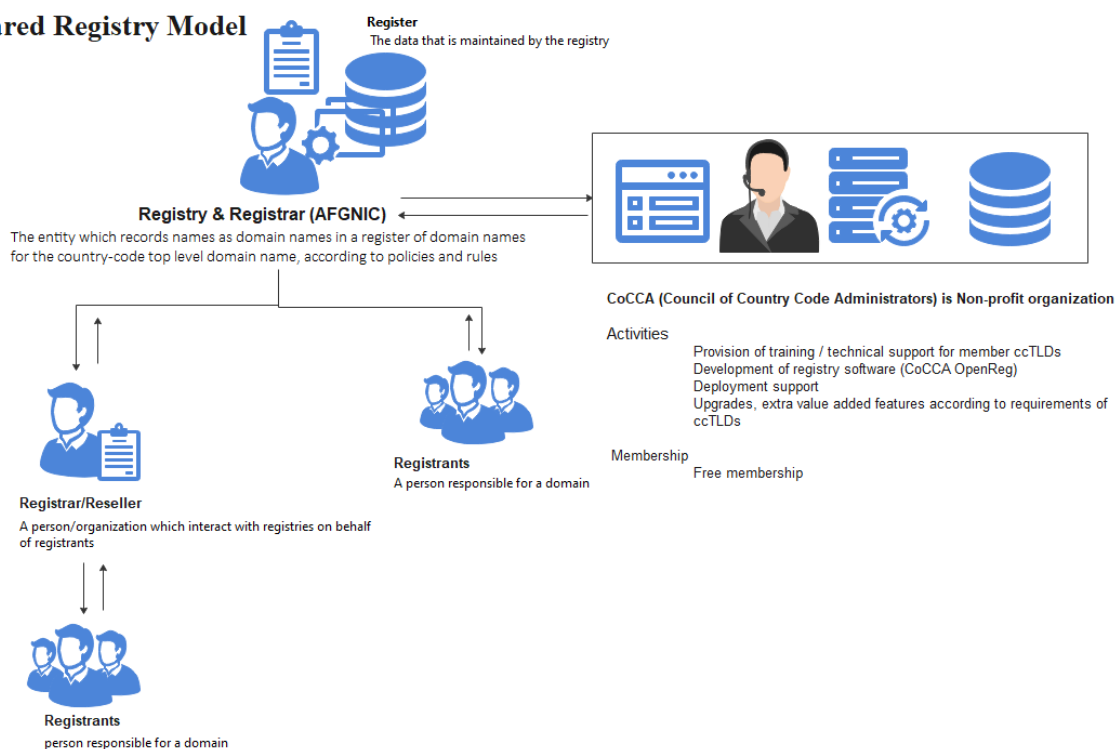
- 1) **.af** Second level domains for Afghanistan

Third Level Domains Purpose

- 2) **.gov.af** for Afghanistan government agencies
- 3) **.com.af** for Afghanistan commercial entities
- 4) **.org.af** for Afghanistan non-commercial organizations
- 5) **.net.af** for Afghanistan network providers
- 6) **.edu.af** for Afghanistan educational institutions
- 7) **media.af**
- 8) **tv.af** For Afghanistan Television Network

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Shared Registry Model



Note: The original Policy is based on uTLD policies with some modifications borrowed from relevant NICs around the world