

# Registration Policy

8/03/2018

## Classification

Public

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Definitions .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>About this document .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Purpose.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Policy Statement .....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	Eligibility.....	6
4.2	Requirements for the Composition of a Domain Name .....	7
4.3	Reserved and Restricted Domain Names.....	11
4.4	The WHOIS Service.....	13
4.5	Zone File Access .....	14
<b>5</b>	<b>Definition and Review .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix A .....</b>		<b>18</b>
	Using the WHOIS Service .....	18
	Sample WHOIS Query and Response Formats .....	18
<b>Appendix B .....</b>		<b>22</b>
	Domain Name Lifecycle.....	22
	Registration Periods .....	22
	Operations on a Domain Name.....	22
	States a Domain Name may be Assigned .....	23
	Grace Periods .....	25
	Transitions Between States.....	28
	Locks on Domain Names .....	30



# 1 Definitions

In this policy:

**Allocation** means the method by which a domain name is created and assigned to an Applicant;  
**Allocated** shall have a corresponding meaning.

**Applicant** means a natural or legal person, company or organisation in whose name an Application is submitted.

**Application** means the complete and technically correct request for a domain name, which complies with the Published Policies.

**Central Registry Organisation** means the organisation designated by the Pontificum Consilium de Communicationibus Socialibus responsible for the operation of the Catholic TLDs.

**Claims Notice** means a notice provided to an Applicant indicating that the applied for Label is a Trademark Match to a Trademark Record in the Trademark Clearinghouse.

**Claims Services** means the services that collectively provide:

- applicants with a Claims Notice; and
- Trademark Holders, with a corresponding Trademark Record, with notice that a Label that is a Trademark Match to the Trademark Record is Allocated.

**Customer Registration Agreement** means an agreement between a Registrar and a customer.

**ICANN** means the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, its successors and assigns.

**Label** means a string of characters used to form part of a domain name.

**Premium Domain Name** means any domain name so designated by us.

**Published Policies** collectively means:

- those specifications and policies established and published from time to time by us or any of our designated representatives; and
- any ICANN Temporary Specifications or Policies and Consensus Policies or any Rights Protection Mechanisms and associated rules, policies, requirements and procedures (as defined in our agreement with ICANN).

**Registrant** means a natural or legal person, company or organisation in whose name a domain name is Allocated in the TLD.

**Registrar** means an entity that is authorised to offer domain name registration services in relation to the TLD.

**Registry** means the systems used to record, store and maintain details of domain names in the TLD.

**Service** means the services that we provide in relation to the TLD.

**SMD File** means the Signed Mark Data file provided by the TMCH Sunrise and Claims Operator to a holder of a Validated Mark which is encoded with certain information.

**TLD** means Top Level Domain and for the purpose of this policy shall mean any one of the TLDs operated by us:

- .catholic;
- 天主教.:
- كاتوليك و ل بئك : or
- .католик

**TMCH Sunrise and Claims Operator** means the providers appointed by ICANN to serve as the Trademark Clearinghouse by accepting, authenticating, validating and facilitating the transmission of information related to certain trademarks.

**Trademark Clearinghouse Guidelines** means the guidelines which can be found at the following link [www.trademark-clearinghouse.com](http://www.trademark-clearinghouse.com) (as may be updated from time to time) which provide an overview of the requirements for the inclusion of trademarks in the Trademark Clearinghouse and the issuance of a SMD File.

**Trademark Clearinghouse** means the central repository for information to be authenticated, stored, and disseminated, pertaining to the rights of Trademark Holders.

**Trademark Holder** means holders of marks that have been verified by the TMCH Sunrise and Claims Operator as meeting the requirements specified in the Trademark Clearinghouse Guidelines.

**Trademark Match** means that a Label is a match to a trademark, as described in the Trademark Clearinghouse Guidelines.

**Trademark Record** means a complete and correct set of information concerning a trademark or other mark submitted to the Trademark Clearinghouse.

**Validated Mark** means a mark that has been verified by the TMCH Sunrise and Claims Operation as meeting the requirements specified in the Trademark Clearinghouse Guidelines including those relating to proof of use.

**We, us** and **our** means the Central Registry Organisation or our designated representatives.

**You** and **your** means the person or entity accessing the Service.

**Zone** means a distinct, contiguous portion of the Domain Name System (DNS) for which administrative responsibility has been delegated to a single manager.

**Zone File** means the file containing information about domain names that are active in the TLD and as further described in section 4.5.

---

**Active Variant** means a Variant of a domain name that has been activated by the registrant and has name server information associated with it such that it can be resolved by users of the DNS.

**ASCII** means the American Standard Code for Information Interchange. ASCII is an encoding scheme based on the ordering of the English alphabet. ASCII is set of common numerical Code Points for computers and other devices that work with text.

**Code Point** means an assigned code that uniquely identifies a character or glyph in certain languages and scripts. These Code Points are unique numbers for each character, or an aspect of a character such as an accent mark. The Code Points used by the Service are described further in the Unicode standard—please refer to the definition of Unicode for further information.

**Diacritic** means a mark that is placed over, under, or through a letter in some languages to show that the letter should be pronounced in a particular way.

**Primary Domain Name** means the initial domain name, which may or may not have Variants associated with it.

**Unicode** means the single scheme that provides a unique number for each character or glyph across a variety of languages and scripts. The Unicode standard contains tables that list the Code Points for each character identified. The Unicode standard and tables are available at the following link <http://www.unicode.org>.

**Variant** means two domain labels or two domain names that are considered to be 'equivalent' to each other.

**Inactive Variant** means a Variant of a Primary Domain Name that has not been activated and thus is not provisioned within the DNS. An Inactive Variant will not function on the Internet. An application to activate an Inactive Variant may be considered, however Blocked Variants may not be activated under any circumstances, the activation of any Inactive Variant is at all times subject to our policy.

**Blocked Variant** means an Inactive Variant of a Primary Domain Name that may not be activated and thus is not provisioned within the DNS. An Inactive Variant will not function on the Internet.

## 2 About this document

This document describes our policy regarding the registration of domain names in the TLD.

Document Identifier: CRO-POL-001

Publication Date: March 2018

Status: CURRENT



### 3 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe:

- the eligibility requirements for registering a domain name in the TLD and the required criteria for domain name registration;
- the technical requirements for the composition of a domain name;
- what domain names may be reserved or restricted by us;
- information about a domain name that is displayed publically in the WHOIS Service; and
- how the Zone File for the TLD may be accessed.

We have developed this policy with reference to applicable industry standards, ICANN mandated requirements, and to meet our operational requirements for the TLD.

## 4 Policy Statement

### 4.1 Eligibility

The purpose of this section is to describe the eligibility requirements for registering a domain name in the TLD.

#### **Mission and Purpose of the TLD**

The mission and purpose of the TLD is to share the teachings, message and values of the Catholic Church (the 'Church') with its own members and with the wider global community, by creating a dedicated, authoritative online space for the exclusive use of the Church and its constituent institutions, including dioceses, religious orders, institutes of consecrated life and organizations affiliated to the Church, and for the benefit of its adherents globally.

The TLD will serve as an important method of communication for the Church, by establishing a formal and official channel for online communications via the appropriate channels of the Church. This function of the TLD is consistent with the Church's core activities, as communication is important in the life of the Church insofar as it facilitates the sharing of information and helps build a sense of community and belonging amongst its adherents.

The TLD will complement the Church's long established global network of communications activities including print and digital media, television and radio.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

To support the mission and purpose of the TLD, all domain name registrations in the TLD will be registered to, and maintained by us for our exclusive use and that of the constituent institutions of the Church.

We will be displayed as the Registrant Contact in the Registry WHOIS Service.

We will not sell, distribute or transfer control or use of any registration in the TLD to any third party that is not identified within the TLD, as such, individual adherents will not be eligible to register or be granted use of domain names in the TLD.

Use of a domain name within the TLD may be granted, at our sole discretion, to an affiliate such as recognised dioceses, religious orders and other Church-affiliated institutions. We maintain a list of affiliates formally recognised by the Holy See as being part of the Catholic Church and thus being eligible to be granted use of a domain name within the TLD. This list is primarily based on, however not exclusively, on the *Annuario Pontificio*, the official annual directory of all institutions related to the Holy See.

All domain names, and their subsequent use, must be consistent with the mission and purpose of the TLD as determined by us at our sole and absolute discretion.

## Monitoring and Review

We may take certain steps to substantiate whether the use of a domain name meets the requirements described in our policy.

Where we determine that:

- the eligibility requirements described in this policy are not met; or
- the domain name or its use is not consistent with the mission and purpose of the TLD;

we may in our absolute discretion cancel, lock, place on hold, transfer or delete the domain name.

## Application of the Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy

Any person or entity may challenge a Registrant's eligibility in accordance with our Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy.

## Our Rights and Responsibilities

We reserve the right to deny any request for, or Application for, a domain name, or cancel, lock, place on hold, transfer, delete, or take any other action on any domain name or transaction that we deem necessary, in our sole discretion:

- 1 to protect the integrity and stability of the Service;
- 2 to comply with our obligations to ICANN;
- 3 to comply with any applicable laws, government rules or requirements, requests of law enforcement, or in compliance with any dispute resolution policies or process;
- 4 to avoid any liability, civil or criminal, on our part, as well as our affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, employees and subcontractors;
- 5 to ensure compliance with the Published Policies;
- 6 to stop or prevent any violations of any terms and conditions of the Customer Registration Agreement;
- 7 for the non-payment to us of any fee; or
- 8 to correct mistakes made by us, any Registrar or any of our service providers in connection with an Application for a domain name, or a domain name.

## 4.2 Requirements for the Composition of a Domain Name

The purpose of this section is to describe the elements that make up a domain name, how those elements are commonly described, and the technical requirements for those elements.

## General Information about Domain Names

In the operation of the TLD we use the word 'label' to describe a sequence of characters. A domain name is made up of one or more Labels, separated by a period ('.'), before the TLD, for example name.catholic or domain.name.catholic.

Labels that may be used to make a domain name are subject to composition requirements described in this policy.

## Levels of Domain Names

A domain name is often described in relation to its 'level', a:

- 'second level' domain name consists of one Label before the TLD, for example name.catholic; and a
- 'third level' domain name consists of two Labels before the TLD, for example domain.name.catholic; and so on.

## ASCII Composition Requirements

Domain names in the .catholic Zone will only allow domain names composed of ASCII characters.

We validate that all domain names created in the TLD meet the technical composition requirements described in this section.

All domain names must conform to certain requirements. Each label in the domain name must:

- have a minimum of 1 character, and a maximum of 63 characters;
- only contain letters (a-z, A-Z), digits (0-9) and hyphens (-), or a combination of these;
- begin with a letter or a digit and end with a letter or a digit;
- neither begin with, nor end with a hyphen (-);
- not contain hyphens (-) in the third and fourth positions (e.g. www.ab - - cd.catholic); and
- not include a space (e.g. www.ab cd.catholic).

## Internationalised Domain Names

A domain name consisting of characters other than those in basic Latin ASCII characters (upper and lowercase letters A-Z and numbers 0-9) is called an Internationalised Domain Name or 'IDN'.

Internationalised Domain Names can be represented in two forms; a 'User Form', which is how the domain name appears in the chosen script, and a corresponding 'DNS Form', which is how the domain name is represented technically in the DNS.

The ability to register domain names in characters other than ASCII characters is a relatively recent innovation and as such these two forms exist to allow the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names whilst maintaining backwards compatibility with legacy infrastructure and software. This is due to the fact that much of the infrastructure of the Internet assumes domain names consist of only Latin characters.

As a result of needing to use these two forms, some additional steps are required to ensure that Internationalised Domain Names both function correctly in the DNS and that the domain names are meaningful to end users.

An example of an Internationalised Domain Name in the two forms is:

- User Form: كاتڤ ول يك.كاتڤ ول يك (Note: Right to Left)
- DNS Form: xn--mgbi4ecexp.xn--mgbi4ecexp

Labels that may be used to internationalise domain names have composition requirements in addition to those specified for Latin only domain names.

### IDN Composition Requirements

Domain names in the TLD will be allowed to be created as follows:

- 天主教. Zone will only allow domain names composed of Chinese characters:
- كاتڤ ول يك. Zone will only allow domain names composed of Arabic characters: and
- .католик Zone will only allow domain names composed of Cyrillic characters.

We validate all attempts to create domain names against these technical composition requirements prior to allowing a domain name to be created.

In the case where only one of the forms (User Form or DNS Form) is requested, then its corresponding form will be determined automatically by the Service; both forms must meet the following composition requirements of this policy.

Each label in the DNS Form of the domain name must:

- Begin with xn - -;
- Contain between 5 to 63 characters;
- Consist only of Latin characters (a-z, A-Z), digits (0-9) and hyphens (-); and
- Not end with a hyphen (-).

Each label in the User Form of the domain name must:

- Contain a minimum of 1 character and maximum of 63 characters;
- Not contain any Diacritics;
- Only use the characters described in this policy;
- Not begin with a digit, neither 'western Arabic' digits (0-9) nor 'eastern Arabic' digits (٠-٩);
- Not contain both Western Arabic digits (0-9) and Eastern Arabic digits (٠-٩);
- Neither begin with, nor end with a hyphen (-);
- Not contain hyphens (-) in the third and fourth positions;
- Be the equivalent of a valid DNS Form.

## Languages and Characters Available for Domain Names

We will only allow Internationalised Domain Names composed of characters and Code Points described in the applicable language tables at the following link: <https://www.iana.org/domains/idn-tables>

The request for an Internationalised Domain Name must include a language tag. The language tag is an important part of the process of creating an Internationalised Domain Name and must be present. Only one language tag per domain name is allowed and at present only the Arabic language and associated language tag will be accepted.

## Variants

To reduce confusion that may be caused by certain characters that are similar to one another, we use Variants. The form of the domain name in the characters selected at the time of registration is known as the Primary Domain Name.

The intent of Variants is that if the Variant were to be substituted for the Primary Domain Name by a user, the same end result would be achieved.

Creating a domain name may not result in a Variant, however where it does the Variant will be associated with the Primary Domain Name throughout the lifecycle of that domain name. Where a Variant exists it will have the same domain name information as the Primary Domain Name and the Variant will follow the same domain name lifecycle as the Primary Domain Name. In effect the Primary Domain Name and all associated Variants are one registration and are treated as such within the Service.

By default, all Variants are Inactive Variants when the Primary Domain Name is created,

## Activation of Inactive Variants

Inactive Variants may be activated at the request of a registrant at any time during the lifecycle of the Primary Domain Name. A Blocked Variant may not be activated, and requests to do so will be denied.

Variants may only be activated by the Registrar of the domain name. The maximum number of Active Variants must not exceed five in total; requests to activate two or more Variants may be subject to review by us.

## Provisioning of Variants

It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that any details required for the correct operation of the Active Variants are in place. An Active Variant must not be managed independently of the Primary Domain Name, either in the DNS or by any other means. Active Variants must be used for the same website, email and other associated services as the Primary Domain Name

Registrants may not sell, rent, lease or otherwise relinquish control to another party, of any Active Variant to their Primary Domain Name.

## 4.3 Reserved and Restricted Domain Names

The purpose of this section is to describe the various types of Labels in the TLD that may be 'reserved', meaning that they are unavailable for registration as a domain name, or 'restricted' meaning that they may be available for registration as a domain name under certain conditions.

Where a Label is both reserved and restricted then reserved status shall take precedence.

### Our use of Reserved and Restricted Labels

Subject always to ICANN mandated requirements, a reserved or restricted Label may be Allocated or registered to us.

### Reserved Labels

The Labels that are reserved in the TLD fall into the following categories; these are Labels that may be reserved:

- for technical operations;
- that represent country and territory names;
- that represent names of intergovernmental organisations;
- which are certain Labels composed of two characters;
- that represent names of the International Olympic Committee, and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; and
- those that are reserved by us.

### Status of Reserved Labels in the Service

Unless otherwise Allocated according to this policy, the response to a WHOIS query for a domain name containing a reserved Label includes a message indicating that the domain name is reserved.

### Technical Operations

The following Label(s) are reserved in all levels of the TLD:

- EXAMPLE
- NIC
- RDDS
- WWW
- WHOIS

## Country and Territory Names

The following Label(s) may be reserved in all levels of the TLD:

- The short form (in English) of all country and territory names (including the European Union) contained on the ISO 3166-1 list ([http://www.iso.org/iso/country\\_codes](http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes)).
- Country and territory names described in the United Nations publication: Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names, part three 'Names of Countries of the World' ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/pubs/UNGEGN%20tech%20ref%20manual\\_m87\\_combined.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/pubs/UNGEGN%20tech%20ref%20manual_m87_combined.pdf)) as published by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
- The list of United Nation member states, in each of the official United Nations languages described in the United Nations publication: List of Country Names (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/wg1.html>) as submitted by the Working Group on Country Names of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

## Two-character Labels

Certain Labels composed of two characters set may be reserved in all levels of the TLD.

## Names of Intergovernmental Organisations

Names of intergovernmental organisations may be reserved at the second level of the TLD.

These Labels can be found at the following link: <http://www.icann.org/en/resources/registries/reserved>

## Names of the International Olympic Committee, and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Names of the International Olympic Committee and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement may be reserved at the second level of the TLD.

These Labels can be found at the following link: <http://www.icann.org/en/resources/registries/reserved>.

## Reserved by Us

Labels that are reserved by us are determined at our absolute discretion. Labels may be reserved by us for our exclusive use, at any level of the TLD.

We may release reserved Labels for registration to another person or entity at any time at our sole and absolute discretion.

## Amending the List of Reserved Labels

We may at our absolute discretion from time to time, subject always to applicable industry standards, and ICANN mandated requirements:



- add to, delete from and generally amend or modify the list of Labels which are and the level at which they are reserved or restricted;
- allow a domain name containing a reserved Label to be registered; or
- delete a domain name containing a Label which is reserved.

Where we allow a domain name containing a previously reserved Label to be registered, that domain name may be subject to the Claims Services.

## 4.4 The WHOIS Service

The purpose of this section is to describe the WHOIS Service for the TLD, the information displayed by the WHOIS Service and how to use the WHOIS Service.

The word WHOIS is not an acronym, it is the phrase 'who is', which is concatenated into the word WHOIS; it can also be written as Whois and Whois, and is also known as Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS).

To operate the TLD we have entered into an agreement with ICANN, which describes the requirements that we have in relation to the provision of the WHOIS Service. Details about ICANN's requirements with regard to WHOIS and additional information can be found on the ICANN website at the following link <http://whois.icann.org/>.

WHOIS is a query and response protocol used to lookup data related to domain names. A WHOIS query returns information related to contact details, name servers, and the Registrar of a domain name.

### Who Collects the Information that is Shown in the WHOIS Service?

Our agreement with ICANN requires that when a domain name is registered or renewed, we include certain information to be displayed in the WHOIS Service.

During the procedure of making an Application to register or renew a domain name, the requestor is asked to enter into an agreement, acknowledging and authorising the collection and use of the information in the provision of the WHOIS Service.

### What Information is Returned from a WHOIS Query?

When a user queries the WHOIS Service and where information exists, a response will be returned containing details relating to the domain name, Registrar, and name server data, described in detail in Appendix A of this policy.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- domain names in the TLD will be Allocated to us;
- we will be displayed as the Registrant in the WHOIS Service.

## WHOIS Data Accuracy

### Registrant responsibilities

It is the Registrant's responsibility to ensure that any information provided when registering or renewing a domain name is complete and accurate. Additionally the Registrant is required to update their information with the Registrar if a change has occurred to the information provided.

#### **What we may do to promote accuracy**

We or the Registrar may attempt to verify the information provided. An Application to register a domain name may be rejected where incomplete information is provided, or where verification fails.

During the term of registration of the domain name we, ICANN or the Registrar, may:

- perform audits of the information that has been provided; or
- attempt to contact the nominated entities associated with the domain name, requesting the review of the information that has been provided—and if required request that the Registrant contact the Registrar to make adjustments.

#### **What happens if WHOIS data is inaccurate?**

Where it is determined that information provided in relation to a domain name is false, incorrect or out-dated; we, ICANN or the Registrar may suspend or cancel the domain name.

## **Preventing Misuse of WHOIS Data**

The use of the WHOIS Service provided by us is subject to our Acceptable Use Policy which can be found at the following link: <http://nic.catholic/>. We also impose limits on the number of queries a user may make to the WHOIS Service.

No user of the WHOIS Service is permitted to utilise automated and/or electronic processes that send high volume to the WHOIS Service.

#### **WHOIS query limits**

To ensure that privacy concerns are addressed we have imposed limits on the number of queries that may be made. For general use of the WHOIS Service the following limits will apply, up to:

- twenty queries per hour from the same IP address; and
- two-hundred queries per day from the same IP address.

Please note however that we may amend these limits at any time.

#### **WHOIS restrictions**

Where the WHOIS query limits have been exceeded the IP address will be barred from the ability to make additional queries for a period of 24 hours.

#### **WHOIS query exemptions**

We may consider exemptions to the WHOIS query limits described in this section for law enforcement, government agencies, regulatory bodies, subject always to the Published Policies.

## **4.5 Zone File Access**

The purpose of this section is to describe how access to the Zone File may be granted.

ICANN requires that we in our management of the TLD follow the stated requirements to allow any user access to the TLD's Zone File. Details about ICANN's requirements for Zone File access can be found on the ICANN web site at the following link: <http://www.icann.org/en/resources/compliance/registries/zfa>.

## Submitting a Request for Zone File Access

All requests to access the Zone File for the TLD must be submitted through the Centralized Zone Data Service found at the following link: <https://czds.icann.org/en>.

## Credentialing Requirements and Agreement

Access to Zone File data for the TLD may be available to users subject to verification of the users' credentials and agreement by the user that the data will only be used for lawful purposes.

In order to grant access to the zone file for the TLD, we will request, through the Centralized Zone Data Service, each user to provide the reason for which it seeks access and information sufficient to correctly identify and locate the user.

A user will be required to enter into an agreement that will govern the access to our zone file data and its use. The agreement will be standardized, facilitated and administered by the Centralized Zone Data Access provider.

A user's access to the Zone File data is always subject to the requirements of ICANN.

## Grant and Revocation of Access

On approval, we or ICANN will grant the user a non-exclusive, non-transferable, limited right to access our Zone File data. The method of access will be defined by us and this method will be communicated to you at the time of application.

The Centralized Zone Data Access provider may reject the request for access of any user that does not satisfy the credentialing requirements. In addition, we may reject the request for access;

- of any user that does not provide correct or legitimate credentials; or
- where we reasonably believe that the user will use the data in a manner that contravenes the Published Policies.

On approval, we or ICANN will grant the user a non-exclusive, non-transferable, limited right to access our Zone File data. Such access will be facilitated by the Centralized Zone Data Service.

We may, at any time, revoke access of any user where we have evidence to support that the user's use of the data contravenes the Published Policies, or where we are instructed to do so by ICANN.

## Use of Data by the User

We will permit the user to use the Zone File data for lawful purposes, provided that:

- 1 the user takes all reasonable steps to protect against unauthorised access to, and use and disclosure of, the Zone File data; and
- 2 the user under no circumstances uses the Zone File data to:

## Registration Policy

- a allow, enable or otherwise support the transmission by email, telephone or facsimile of mass unsolicited, commercial advertising or solicitations to entities other than users' own existing customers; or
- b enable high volume, automated, electronic processes that send queries or data to our systems, or that of any Registrar.

## Term of Use

Use of the Zone File data will be for a limited time and we or ICANN may require the user to renew the grant of access.

## 5 Definition and Review

This document has been prepared and published to represent our policy regarding the administrative and technical management of the TLD.

All domain names in the TLD are subject to the Published Policies. It is your responsibility to ensure that you read and understand these policies as they apply to you. We may discontinue or amend any part or the whole of this policy from time to time at our absolute discretion.

Further policy and procedure in relation to the TLD can be found at the following link:

<http://nic.catholic/>.

# Appendix A

## Using the WHOIS Service

### How to Make a WHOIS Query

A WHOIS query for the TLD may be made by, using the command line interface as described in RFC 3912 WHOIS Protocol Specification to send the query, or via a web-based interface.

Both interfaces are provided free of charge to any Internet user.

#### Command line interface

To make a query using the command line interface:

- 3 Connect to `whois.nic.catholic`, Port 43.
- 4 Send the query in the required format, described in the following sections. Please note that the example query formats provided assume the use of the JWHOIS client (<http://www.gnu.org/software/jwhois/>) and should be adjusted for the selected command line interface.
- 5 The WHOIS Service will respond with the requested information.

#### Web-based interface

The web-based interface allows any user to make a WHOIS query without any specific technical knowledge:

- 6 The web-based interface is available at the following link: <http://whois.nic.catholic/>
- 7 Enter the desired information in the required format, described in the following section.
- 8 The WHOIS Service will respond with the requested information.

## Sample WHOIS Query and Response Formats

### Domain Name Data

The following table shows the information that a response to a WHOIS query would return for the domain name *EXAMPLE.TLD*.

The status codes that may be displayed in response to a WHOIS query are described in Appendix B of this policy.

#### Query format

Using a command line interface: `whois -h EXAMPLE.TLD`

Using the web-based interface: `EXAMPLE.TLD`

## Registration Policy

### Response format

Domain Name: EXAMPLE.TLD  
Registry Domain ID: D1234567-EXAMPLE  
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld  
Registrar URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld  
Updated Date: 2009-05-29T20:13:00Z  
Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z  
Registry Expiry Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z  
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z  
Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC  
Registrar IANA ID: 5555555  
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: email@registrar.tld  
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.1235551234  
Reseller: EXAMPLE RESELLER1  
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited  
<https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited>  
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited  
<https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited>  
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited  
<https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>  
Registry Registrant ID: 5372808-EXAMPLE  
Registrant Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT  
Registrant Organization: EXAMPLE ORGANIZATION  
Registrant Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET  
Registrant City: ANYTOWN  
Registrant State/Province: AP  
Registrant Postal Code: A1A1A6  
Registrant Country: AA  
Registrant Phone: +1.5555551212  
Registrant Phone Ext: 12347  
Registrant Fax: +1.5555551213  
Registrant Fax Ext: 4321  
Registrant Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD  
Registry Admin ID: 5372809-EXAMPLE  
Admin Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ADMINISTRATIVE  
Admin Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ORGANIZATION  
Admin Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET  
Admin City: ANYTOWN  
Admin State/Province: AP  
Admin Postal Code: A1A1A1  
Admin Country: AA  
Admin Phone: +1.5555551212  
Admin Phone Ext: 1234  
Admin Fax: +1.5555551213  
Admin Fax Ext: 1234  
Admin Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD  
Registry Tech ID: 5372811-EXAMPLE  
Tech Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT TECHNICAL  
Tech Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT LLC  
Tech Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET  
Tech City: ANYTOWN  
Tech State/Province: AP  
Tech Postal Code: A1A1A1  
Tech Country: AA  
Tech Phone: +1.1235551234  
Tech Phone Ext: 1234  
Tech Fax: +1.5555551213  
Tech Fax Ext: 93  
Tech Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD  
Name Server: NS01.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD  
Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD  
DNSSEC: signedDelegation  
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form: <https://www.icann.org/wicf/>  
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<

## Registrar Data

The following table shows the information that a response to a WHOIS query would return for the Registrar; *Example Registrar Inc.*

### Query format

Using a command line interface:

- `whois -h whois.nic.TLD 'registrar Example Registrar Inc.'`
- or
- `whois -h whois.nic.TLD 'registrar 5555555'`

Using the web-based interface: `registrar Example Registrar.`

### Response format

```
Registrar Name: Example Registrar Inc.  
Street: 1234 Admiralty Way  
City: Marina del Rey State  
State/Province: CA  
Postal Code: 90292  
Country: US  
Phone Number: +1.3105551212  
Fax Number: +1.3105551213  
Email: registrar@example.tld  
WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld  
Referral URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld  
Admin Contact: Joe Registrar  
Phone Number: +1.3105551213  
Fax Number: +1.3105551213  
Email: joeregistrar@example-registrar.tld  
Phone Number: +1.3105551214  
Fax Number: +1.3105551213  
Email: janeregistrar@example-registrar.tld  
Technical Contact: John Geek  
Phone Number: +1.3105551215  
Fax Number: +1.3105551216  
Email: johngeek@example-registrar.tld  
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<
```

## Name Server Data

The following table shows the information that a response to a WHOIS query would return for the name server NS1.EXAMPLE.TLD.

### Query format

Using a command line interface:

- `whois NS1.EXAMPLE.TLD`
- or
- `whois -h nameserver (nameserver name)`
- or
- `whois -h nameserver (IP Address)`

Using the web-based interface:



## Registration Policy

- NS1.EXAMPLE.TLD

or

- nameserver (nameserver name)

or

- nameserver (IP Address)

### Response format

```
Server Name: NS1.EXAMPLE.TLD
IP Address: 192.0.2.123
IP Address: 2001:0DB8::1
Registrar: Example Registrar
WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld
Referral URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<
```

## Appendix B

### Domain Name Lifecycle

The purpose of this section is to describe the lifecycle of a domain name in the TLD. This section includes:

- the length of time that a domain name may be registered for;
- the operations that may be performed on a domain name;
- the various states that a domain name may be in;
- the grace periods that are given to a domain name;
- how a domain name transitions between states; and
- locks that may be placed on domain names.

### Registration Periods

The maximum validity period for domain names is 10 years. Domain names may be created with, or renewed in, one year increments up to the maximum period.

### Operations on a Domain Name

Throughout the lifecycle of a domain name, certain operations may be performed on the domain name. The outcome of those operations may differ depending on the state the domain name is in.

The operations applicable to a domain name are as follows.

#### **Create**

A Create operation produces a domain name in the Registry. While technically this is not an operation on a domain name, it is included here for completeness.

#### **Update**

An Update operation modifies the domain name's authinfo, associated contact objects and delegation information.

#### **Renew**

A Renew operation may be performed on a domain name by the sponsoring Registrar in order to extend its validity period.

#### **Transfer**

A Transfer operation moves a domain name from the sponsorship of one Registrar to another. Transfer operation options are:

- **Transfer (request):** the Registrar which will take sponsorship of the domain name (gaining Registrar) requests the Transfer.

- Transfer (approve): the Registrar which will lose sponsorship of the domain name (losing Registrar) explicitly approves the Transfer request.
- Transfer (reject): the Registrar which will lose sponsorship of the domain name rejects the Transfer request.
- Transfer (cancel): the gaining Registrar cancels the Transfer (request).

A Transfer (request) is automatically approved by the Registry after five days if a Transfer (approve) or Transfer (reject) operation is not received from the losing Registrar, and the Transfer (request) has not been cancelled by a gaining Registrar.

**Delete**

The sponsoring Registrar requests that the domain name be removed from the Registry Service by using the Delete operation.

For further information please refer to the section ‘Transitions between states’.

**Restore**

After a Delete operation a domain name may be reinstated using the Restore operation. Restore operations are:

- Restore (request): the sponsoring Registrar requests that a domain name be restored.
- Restore (report): the sponsoring Registrar provides a report regarding a domain name for which it has previously issued a Restore request.

For further information refer to the section ‘Transitions between states’.

## States a Domain Name may be Assigned

The states that a domain name can exist in are:

- Registered
- Pending Create
- Pending Transfer
- Redemption
- Pending Restore
- Pending Delete

The following section describes the states a domain name may be in.

<b>Domain status</b>	means the status information that will be available to Registrars, and in some cases displayed in the WHOIS output.
<b>In DNS</b>	means the associated name server records (and glue records if any) are published in the DNS.

**Registered**

<b>State</b>	Registered
<b>Domain status</b>	ok, or varied status values noted by the absence of pendingTransfer or pendingDelete
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Update, Renew, Transfer (request) and Delete
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	The default state of a domain name. There are no pending operations and the domain has not been deleted.
<b>Length of time in this state</b>	-

**Pending Create**

<b>State</b>	Pending Create
<b>Domain status</b>	pendingCreate
<b>In DNS?</b>	No
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Delete
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	We have received a request from a Registrar to register a domain name matching an entry on the list of restricted labels for the TLD. Subsequent attempts to register the same domain name will not be queued whilst in this state. Approval of the request is at our discretion. This state is not used for Applications for domain names made during the Sunrise and Claims Notice Periods as described in our policy.
<b>Length of time in this state</b>	This state applies for a maximum of 5 calendar days.

**Pending Transfer**

<b>State</b>	Pending Transfer
<b>Domain status</b>	pendingTransfer
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Transfer (cancel, reject, approve)
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	A Registrar has requested a Transfer of the domain name and it is not yet completed. All operations that would transform the domain name, other than those to cancel, reject, or approve the Transfer are rejected.
<b>Length of time in this state</b>	This state applies for a maximum of 5 calendar days.

**Redemption**

<b>State</b>	Redemption
<b>Domain status</b>	pendingDelete redemptionPeriod
<b>In DNS?</b>	No
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Restore (request)
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	The sponsoring Registrar has requested that the domain name be Deleted. The sponsoring Registrar may perform a Restore operation to reinstate the domain name. The domain name continues to be withheld from the DNS unless it is reinstated. All operations that would transform the domain name, other than to Restore are rejected.
<b>Length of time in this state</b>	This state applies for 30 calendar days.

**Pending Restore**

<b>State</b>	Pending Restore
<b>Domain status</b>	pendingDelete pendingRestore
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Restore (report)
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	A Restore request is pending. The sponsoring Registrar must submit a Restore report. The domain name is in the DNS. All operations that would transform the domain name, other than the Restore report are rejected.
<b>Length of time in this state</b>	This state applies for a maximum of 7 calendar days.

**Pending Delete**

<b>State</b>	Pending Delete
<b>Domain status</b>	pendingDelete
<b>In DNS?</b>	No
<b>Allowed operations</b>	None
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	The Redemption Grace Period has lapsed and the domain name is pending being removed from the Registry Service. This state prohibits the sponsoring Registrar from the Update, Restore operations or modifying the domain name. At the end of this period the domain name is removed from the Registry Service and may become available for registration.
<b>Length of time in this state</b>	This state applies for 5 calendar days.

**Grace Periods**

There are five grace periods that are applicable to domain names:

- Add Grace Period
- Renew Grace Period
- Auto-Renew Grace Period
- Transfer Grace Period
- Redemption Grace Period

The following describes each of the domain name grace periods and how these may affect operations in relation to the domain name. The grace period states described in this section are additional to those described in the preceding section.

The following section describes the grace periods a domain name may be in.

<b>Domain status</b>	means the status information that will be available to Registrars, and in some cases displayed in the WHOIS output.
<b>Effect on operations</b>	means the effect that this grace period will have on various operations.

**Add Grace Period**

<b>Period</b>	Add Grace Period
<b>Domain status</b>	addPeriod
<b>Effect on operations</b>	Subject to the following, the Add Grace Period does not have any impact on other operations.

	<b>Delete</b>	The sponsoring Registrar, who must have created the domain name, may Delete the domain name. The operation occurs with immediate effect and the domain name may become available for registration.
	<b>Renew</b>	The sponsoring Registrar may Renew the domain name. The total period for the domain name is the sum of the initial period specified when the domain name was created and any renewal term, subject to the 10 year maximum.
	<b>Transfer</b>	A Transfer may not occur during the Add Grace Period, or at any other time in the first 60 calendar days after the initial creation, or approved transfer of the domain name. The Registry Service will prevent such a transfer from occurring.
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Allows for no-cost cancellation of a domain name registration resulting from typographical or other errors by Registrars and registrants. Once cancelled the domain name may become immediately available for registration.	
<b>Length of time in this period</b>	This state applies for 5 calendar days after the domain name is Registered. Note the Add Grace Period does not apply to Pending Create.	

### Renew Grace Period

<b>Period</b>	Renew Grace Period	
<b>Domain status</b>	renewPeriod	
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes	
<b>Effect on operations</b>	Subject to the following the Renew Grace Period does not have any impact on other operations.	
	<b>Delete</b>	The sponsoring Registrar, who must have initiated the Renew operation, may Delete the domain name. The extension to the registration period caused by the preceding renew is reversed and unless the domain name is also in the Add Grace Period, the domain name enters the Redemption state. If the domain name is also in the Add Grace Period it is removed from the Registry with immediate effect and may become available for registration.
	<b>Renew</b>	The sponsoring Registrar, who must have initiated the Renew operation, can subsequently Renew the domain name, causing a second independent Renewal Grace Period to start. The total registration period for the domain name is extended by the renewal term, limited to the 10 year maximum.
	<b>Transfer</b>	An approved transfer ends the current Renew Grace Period without a refund and begins a Transfer Grace Period.
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Allows the sponsoring Registrar to undo the operation to Renew via the Delete operation.	
<b>Length of time in this period</b>	This state applies for 5 calendar days.	

### Auto-Renew Grace Period

<b>Period</b>	Auto-Renew Grace Period	
<b>Domain status</b>	autoRenewPeriod	
<b>Effect on operations</b>	Subject to the following, the Auto-Renew Grace Period does not have any impact on other operations.	

	<b>Delete</b>	The sponsoring Registrar, who must be the sponsoring Registrar when the Auto-Renew Grace Period commenced, may Delete the domain name. The registration period auto-renew extension is reversed and the domain name enters the Redemption state.
	<b>Renew</b>	The sponsoring Registrar, who must be the sponsor when the auto-renew occurred, can Renew the domain name for another period causing an independent Renewal Grace Period to begin. The registration period is extended by the renewal term, limited to the 10 year maximum.
	<b>Transfer</b>	An approved transfer ends the current Auto-Renew Grace Period, and begins a Transfer Grace Period. The registration period auto-renew extension is reversed and the registration is extended by the period specified in the transfer.
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Auto-Renew Grace Period allows for domain names to remain in the DNS beyond the expiration of the registration period, to provide adequate time for the sponsoring Registrar to obtain the registrant’s intent to renew the domain name.	
<b>Length of time in this period</b>	This state applies for 45 calendar days after expiry of the domain name.	

**Transfer Grace Period**

<b>Period</b>	Transfer Grace Period	
<b>Domain status</b>	transferPeriod	
<b>Effect on operations</b>	Subject to the following the Transfer Grace Period does not have any impact on other operations.	
	<b>Delete</b>	The sponsoring Registrar, who must have initiated the Transfer, may Delete the domain name. The extension to the registration period of the preceding transfer is reversed and the Redemption state is entered.
	<b>Renew</b>	The sponsoring Registrar can Renew the domain name thus causing an independent Renewal Grace Period to begin. The registration period for the domain name is extended by the renewal term, limited to the 10 year maximum.
	<b>Transfer</b>	A further transfer may not occur during the 60 calendar day period after the approved transfer of a domain name. The Registry will prevent such a transfer from occurring. Should a special situation require transfer back to the losing Registrar, this is dealt with by taking into account the unique circumstances of the situation and will require our approval and manual intervention.
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Transfer Grace Period allows the sponsoring Registrar to undo the registration period extension (due to an approved transfer of a domain name) and Delete a domain name.	
<b>Length of time in this period</b>	This state applies for 5 calendar days after completion of the Transfer.	

### Redemption Grace Period

<b>Period</b>	Redemption Grace Period
<b>Domain status</b>	pendingDelete
	redemptionPeriod
<b>Effect on operations</b>	Restore (request)
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Redemption Grace Period refers to the period of time the domain name spends in the Redemption state, starting after a domain name is deleted. The Redemption state description provides information on operations that are allowed during this period.
<b>Length of time in this period</b>	This state applies for 30 calendar days.

### Overlap of grace periods

Grace periods may overlap. The four possible overlapping grace periods are:

- Add Grace Period with one or more Renew Grace Periods.
- Renew Grace Period with one or more other Renew Grace Periods.
- Auto-Renew Grace Period with one or more Renew Grace Periods.
- Transfer Grace Period with one or more Renew Grace Periods.

These are treated independently with respect to timelines however operations on domain names are processed in a manner that takes into account the combined effects of all grace periods.

## Transitions Between States

Transitions between the various states of domain names are triggered in the Registry Service as follows.

### Available > Registered

Transition from 'Available' (for registration) to Registered is triggered by the receipt of a request from a Registrar to Create the domain name that does not match an entry on the restricted list. This transition begins the Add Grace Period.

### Available > Pending Create

Transition from 'Available' (for registration) to Pending Create is triggered by the receipt of a request from a Registrar to Create the domain name where that domain name matches an entry on the list of restricted labels. This transition does not begin the Add Grace Period.

### Pending Create > Registered

Transition from Pending Create to Registered occurs on our approval of the registration request. This transition begins the Add Grace Period.

### Pending Create > Deleted

Transition from Pending Create to Deleted occurs if the request to register the domain name is not approved by us. The domain name is removed from the Registry Service and may become available for registration.



**Registered > Pending Transfer**

Transition from Registered to Pending Transfer is triggered by the receipt of a request to Transfer the domain name. On approval the Transfer results in the extension of the domain name registration.

Requests to Transfer the domain name within 60 days of a Create or a previous Transfer are rejected. As described in the preceding section in relation to the Transfer Grace Period, exceptions may apply and are dealt with on a case by case basis.

**Pending Transfer > Registered**

Transition from Pending Transfer to Registered may be triggered by the following operations:

<b>Cancel</b>	During the Pending Transfer period the gaining Registrar may cancel the Transfer by requesting the Transfer to be cancelled. The registration period remains unchanged and all existing grace periods at the time of Transfer request remain in effect.
<b>Reject</b>	During the Pending Transfer period the losing Registrar may reject the Transfer. The registration period remains unchanged and all grace periods existing at the time of Transfer request remain in effect.
<b>Approve</b>	During the Pending Transfer period the losing Registrar may approve the Transfer. If the Transfer was requested during the Auto-Renew Grace Period, the extension to the registration period is reversed. The registration period is extended by the amount specified in the Transfer request. This begins the Transfer Grace Period.
<b>Auto-Approve</b>	If after 5 days, no action has been taken, the Registry Service approves the Transfer automatically. If the Transfer was requested during the Auto-Renew Grace Period the extension to the registration period is reversed. The registration period is extended by the amount specified in the Transfer request. This begins the Transfer Grace Period.

**Registered > Deleted**

Transition from Registered to Deleted occurs on receipt of a request to Delete a domain name. If the domain name is in the Add Grace Period, it is removed from the Registry Service and may become available for registration.

**Registered > Redemption**

Transition from Registered to Redemption occurs on receipt of a request to Delete a domain name. If the domain name is not in the Add Grace Period, it transitions to the Redemption period state and all grace periods in effect are considered.

**Redemption > Pending Restore**

Transition from Redemption to Pending Restore occurs on receipt of a request to Restore a domain name. If the Redemption Period has not lapsed, the domain name transitions to the Pending Restore state. The domain name is provisioned in the DNS.

**Pending Restore > Registered**

Transition from Pending Restore to Registered during the Pending Restore period occurs when the sponsoring Registrar completes the Restore via a Restore (report) containing the registration data as at the time of deletion, the registration data at the time of the report, and the reason for the Restore to occur.

**Pending Restore > Redemption**

Transition from Pending Restore to Redemption occurs automatically 7 calendar days after the transition to the Pending Restore state. If a Restore (report) is not received the domain name transitions to the Redemption state, which begins a new Redemption period. The domain name is removed from the DNS.

**Redemption > Pending Delete**

Transition from Redemption to Pending Delete occurs automatically 30 calendar days after the transition to the Redemption state. If a Restore (request) is not received the domain name transitions to the Pending Delete state.

**Pending Delete > Deleted**

Transition from Pending Delete to Deleted occurs automatically 5 calendar days after the transition to the Pending Delete state. The domain name is removed from the Registry Service and may become available for registration.

**Locks on Domain Names**

Locks may be applied to the domain name to prevent specific operations occurring. There are two types of locks that may be applied: ‘client’ locks and ‘server’ locks. Client and server locks may be applied independently or simultaneously.

Locks prefixed with ‘client’ are set or removed by the sponsoring Registrar; and we may set or remove locks prefixed with ‘server’. Locks are added and removed independently however they can be combined to facilitate the enforcement of other processes, and outcomes such as those required as part of Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP).

The available locks are as follows.

**Delete Prohibited**

<b>Domain status</b>	clientDeleteProhibited serverDeleteProhibited
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Update, Renew, and Transfer (request)
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Requests to delete the domain name are rejected.

**Hold**

<b>Domain status</b>	clientHold serverHold
<b>In DNS?</b>	No
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Update, Renew, Transfer (request) and Delete
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	DNS information is not published for the domain name.

**Renew Prohibited**

<b>Domain status</b>	clientRenewProhibited serverRenewProhibited
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Update, Transfer (request) and Delete
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Requests to Renew the domain name are rejected. Auto-Renew is allowed.

**Transfer Prohibited**

<b>Domain status</b>	clientTransferProhibited
	serverTransferProhibited
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Update, Renew, and Delete
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Requests to Transfer the domain name are rejected

**Update Prohibited**

<b>Domain status</b>	clientUpdateProhibited
	serverUpdateProhibited
<b>In DNS?</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed operations</b>	Renew, Transfer (request), Delete and Update
<b>What it means for a domain name</b>	Requests to Update the domain name are rejected, unless the Update removes this state.

