

Public Interest Registry supports suspension of VeriSign DNS wildcard service

Such efforts to alter the TLD DNS system adversely affect the Internet infrastructure

Reston, VA – September 23, 2003 – The Public Interest Registry (PIR), manager of the .ORG domain, today announced its opposition to VeriSign's deployment of a Domain Name System (DNS) wildcard service in a letter to Dr. Paul Twomey, President & CEO of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The VeriSign wildcard redirects traffic that would otherwise have resulted in a "no domain" response to a VeriSign-operated website with search results and links to paid advertisements.

In the letter, PIR Board Chairman David W. Maher urged ICANN to take whatever remedial action is needed to remove all wildcard DNS systems, including VeriSign's Site Finder, from the DNS. "Such an action, emphasizing the central responsibility of all service providers, would be an important step in preserving the openness and accessibility of the Internet," he explained.

Maher also promised that PIR would not offer any service that makes such a change in the DNS out of concern for the Internet community as a whole. "We believe that any such efforts to alter the TLD DNS systems, of which the VeriSign Site Finder appears to be the most prominent example, adversely affect the Internet infrastructure and the entire Internet community," said Maher. "Internet services such as the WWW and e-mail rely on DNS to function, and there should be no interference with the established protocols until there is complete assurance of no negative impact on the DNS."

ABOUT .ORG

The .ORG top-level domain has come to be associated with noncommercial activities. It is the Internet's third largest "generic" or non-country specific top-level domain (behind .COM and .NET), housing over 2.9 million domain names worldwide. The .ORG domain is an unrestricted domain, meaning that any entity or person may register a .ORG domain. PIR's mission is to promote the .ORG domain to noncommercial organizations throughout the world so that they may better use the Internet to outreach to their constituencies. Late last year, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Board of Directors selected the Internet Society's PIR proposal from among 11 organizations bidding to operate the .ORG top-level domain. PIR assumed control of the registry on January 1, 2003.

ABOUT PIR

Public Interest Registry (www.pir.org) is a not-for-profit corporation created by the Internet Society (ISOC) to manage the .ORG top-level domain. PIR's mission is to manage the .ORG domain in a manner that supports the continuing evolution of the Internet as a research, education and communications infrastructure, while educating and empowering the noncommercial community to most effectively utilize the Internet. PIR is based in Reston, Virginia.

A complete text of the letter is available [here](#).