

WOG DNS New Policy and Enhancements



AGENDA

1. New Policy on Mandatory Defensive Registration of Internet Domain Names
2. Pricing Updates for DNS Domain Registration and Hosting
3. Enhancement of WOG DNS Portal

New Policy on Mandatory Defensive Registration of Internet Domain Names

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8 Sep 2021



Recap: Mandatory Defensive Registration of Internet Domain Names

Recap from Oct 2020 AgTM Briefing

Agencies were updated on the release of a new Circular Minute for mandatory defensive registration of Internet Domain Names

Mandatory Defensive Registration of Internet Domain Names

- The existing policy under Circular Minute No. 5/2014 encourages Agencies to defensively register
 - all .sg third level domains (xxx.com.sg, xxx.org.sg, xxx.net.sg, xxx.edu.sg, xxx.gov.sg);
 - second level domains (xxx.sg);
 - popular generic (global) names (i.e. xxx.com, xxx.org and xxx.net); and
 - typographical variants in the form of xxxgov.sg (e.g. agencynamegov.sg)
- To reduce the risk of malicious actors registering domains with the same name as actual Government websites, SNDGO will be issuing a Circular Minute that requires Agencies to defensively register
 - The five .sg third level domains (xxx.com.sg, xxx.org.sg, xxx.net.sg, xxx.edu.sg, xxx.gov.sg); and
 - the second level domains (xxx.sg)
- Compliance date will be stated in the Circular Minute
- With this new policy, the domain registration with SGNIC and hosting on WOG DNS costs are currently being reviewed and will be briefed to Agencies at a later date

Mandatory Defensive Registration of Internet Domain Names

- PMO (SNDGO) Circular Minute will be released soon
 - Agencies to defensive register all .sg 3rd level categories (xxx.com.sg, xxx.org.sg, xxx.net.sg, xxx.edu.sg, xxx.gov.sg) and the 2nd level category (xxx.sg) of all Government owned domains which Agencies own
 - Domains will be classified into the following types:
 - Main domain (xxx.gov.sg)
 - 5 mandated defensive domains (xxx.com.sg, xxx.org.sg, xxx.net.sg, xxx.edu.sg, xxx.sg)
 - Other typographical domains – optional
- Agencies shall complete the mandatory defensive registration of all .sg third and second level domain categories by the dates indicated below:

Defensive Registration of Domains	Effective Date
New domain registrations	30 Sep 2021
Existing domains	31 Dec 2021

Defensive Registration for Typographical Domain Names (Optional)

- In addition to the defensive domains, ITSM portal will propose a list of typographical variants in the following extensions: .com.sg, .net.sg, .org.sg, .edu.sg and .sg for Agencies to select:
 - Replacement of certain alphabets or numbers.
 - 1 (digit one) ↔ l (letter L) ↔ I (letter i) (e.g. s1ngpass)
 - O (letter O) ↔ 0 (digit zero) (e.g. singap0re)
 - 5 (digit five) ↔ S (letter S) (e.g. 5ingapore)
 - 8 (digit eight) ↔ B (letter B) (e.g. well8eing)
- Agencies may also consider the following non-exhaustive list of typographical variants to guide their defensive registrations:
 - Additional or missing alphabets (e.g. comchest → commchest, mycareersfuture → mycarersfuture)
 - Names ending with gov (e.g. mof.gov.sg → mofgov.sg)
 - Short/long forms (e.g. singaporebudget → sgbudget, moh → ministryofhealth)
 - Similar names (e.g. mycareersfuture → careersfuture, moe → educationministry)
 - Names with hyphens (e.g. careers-future, ministry-of-health, safe-entry)
 - Singular/plural forms (e.g. vendor.gov.sg, vendors.gov.sg)

Pricing Updates for DNS Domain Registration and Hosting



Pricing of Domain Registration and Hosting

- Price of domain registration with SGNIC has also been reviewed to support the defensive registration needs :
 - Domain registration and hosting will be charged separately to lower the price of mandatory defensive registration
 - Agencies will only be charged for domains that are available for registration
- For existing active domain hosting on WOG DNS, the subscription period for WOG DNS hosting will be aligned to the subscription period of the domain name with SGNIC, until such time the WOG DNS hosting is terminated by Agencies, or the domain name is terminated in SGNIC. Unused months will not be refunded to Agencies
- Refer to next slide for revised pricing

Pricing for New Domain Registration

- Below is the pricing summary for the scenario of a new domain registered with defensive names and typographical variants:

Registration and Hosting		Example – For Illustration Only		
Domain	Type	Current Price (annual)	New Domain Registration (annual)	New WOG DNS Hosting (annual)
xxx.gov.sg	Main	\$280	\$40	\$370
xxx.sg	Defensive	\$280	\$40	\$370 (redirection to .gov.sg)
xxx.com.sg	Defensive	\$280	\$40	\$0
xxx.org.sg	Defensive	\$280	\$40	\$0
xxx.net.sg	Defensive	\$280	\$40	\$0
xxx.edu.sg	Defensive	\$280	\$40	\$0
Typographical variants proposed by ITSM portal	Typographic	\$280	\$40	\$0
Any other domains	Typographic	\$280	\$40	\$370 (redirection to .gov.sg)
TOTAL		\$2,240	\$1,430	

Pricing for Domain Renewal - Example

- Below is the pricing summary for the scenario of an existing .gov.sg domain with Agency registering the remaining defensive domains on 1 Nov 2021
 - Agency will have to activate the defensive domain registration in the new WOG DNS portal (Steps will be shown in subsequent slides)
 - GovTech Registrar will not activate registration of the defensive domains on behalf of Agencies**

Action	Domain Name	Cost based on current pricing	Domain Expiry Date	Hosting on WOG DNS	Cost based on new pricing	Expiry Date after renewal
Renew	example.gov.sg	\$280	1 Dec 2021	Yes	\$40 + \$370	1 Dec 2022
Register	example.sg	\$280	1 Nov 2021	No	\$40	1 Nov 2022
Register	example.com.sg	\$280	1 Nov 2021	No	\$40	1 Nov 2022
Register	example.edu.sg	\$280	1 Nov 2021	No	\$40	1 Nov 2022
Register	example.org.sg	\$280	1 Nov 2021	No	\$40	1 Nov 2022
Register	example.net.sg	\$280	1 Nov 2021	No	\$40	1 Nov 2022
TOTAL		\$1,680	--	--	\$610	--

Enhancement of WOG DNS Portal



Recap: WOG DNS Portal Enhancements

Recap from Oct 2020 AgTM Briefing

Agencies were updated on the list of enhancements which will be ready on the new WOG DNS portal when the domain registration and hosting costs are finalised

WOG DNS Portal Enhancements

- Objectives
 - Enhanced user experience to register new domain name in SGNIC and host the domain on WOG DNS
 - Streamlined & automated domain registration, modification and termination with minimal intervention by GovTech Registrar
 - Enhanced and streamlined domain registration process with the implementation of the mandatory defensive registration of Internet Domain Names policy
- List of Enhancements
 - One streamlined Portal integrating both SGNIC and DNS Record Management modules
 - Allow Agencies to register defensive domains (edu.sg, com.sg, org.sg, net.sg, sg) and typographical variants when a gov.sg domain is registered
 - With total domain registration and hosting cost summary
 - Allow requester to add new external name server hostnames automatically
 - Simplify creation of new domain contacts
 - Allow requester to confirm details before actual submission
 - Given the option to directly start DNS hosting on WOG DNS after registration is completed
 - Allow more Agency authorised requesters to manage domains and DNS records
- The enhanced WOG DNS portal will be launched when the domain registration and hosting costs are finalised

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WOG DNS Portal – Enhancements (1/2)

Enhancements	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Register new gov.sg domains with the mandated 5 defensive domain names automatically registered as well	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Allow multiple SGNIC domain registration to be automated in a single form
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activate defensive domain names for existing gov.sg domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Simplify the activation of the defensive domains via a single action task- Existing gov.sg domain name contacts (Registrant, Admin, Technical, Billing) can be synced across the defensive domains without user having to re-enter all the contacts information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage SGNIC domain names and hosting on WOG DNS on a single portal view	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Allow authorized requestors to have a single overview of the domains for easier management

WOG DNS Portal – Enhancements (2/2)

Enhancements	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow Agency TSMs and more Agency authorised requestors to manage Agency domains via a new DNS project group (DNS- <Agency Name>-XXXX), which includes<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 4 domain name contacts (Registrant, Admin, Technical, Billing) handling registration, modification and termination matters with SGNIC• Agency authorised requesters managing DNS records (e.g. A, MX, CNAME, TXT etc)• Agency TSMs for oversight of all domains registered with SGNIC and hosted on WOG DNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduce risk of domains being unmanaged due to staff movement, resignations etc- Minimize intervention from GovTech Registrar to perform ad-hoc change requests to domains on behalf of Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow users to view who are authorised to make changes to the DNS domains<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unauthorized Agency users who are not in the DNS project group will have to approach the authorised requestors to register and host Agency domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unauthorised users can self-service to find out who are the authorized users to approach

New Domain Registration (1/2)

- Under “**Internet Domain Names**”, Agency authorised requestors can use the “**Register Domain Name**” option to start the new domain registration process

The screenshot shows the 'Internet Domain Names' section of the GovTech portal. The 'Internet Domain Names' tab is highlighted with a red box. Below it, the 'Domain Names' sub-tab is selected. A 'Register Domain Name' button is highlighted with a red box. A search bar is visible on the right.

The screenshot shows the 'Register a new Domain Name' process flow. The steps are: 1. Domain Names, 2. Verify Details, 3. Complete. Step 1 is highlighted with a blue box. Below the steps, the 'Domain Names Details' section is shown. It includes a 'Select Project' dropdown menu, a checkbox for 'CIO approval has been sought to register the new domain name(s)', and a 'Project Menu' dropdown. Two callout boxes provide instructions: (1) To select DNS project that will be managing the domains, and (2) To enable checkbox to declare CIO approval has been sought to register the new domain names (No documentary proof of CIO approval will be required to be submitted to Registrar).

New Domain Registration (2/2)









- **Streamlined Registration** - Allow multiple registration of main (gov.sg) and defensive domains (edu.sg, com.sg, org.sg, net.sg, sg) and typographical variants in a single form, to support the new policy

Option to edit domain hosting preferences

All other available domain extensions will be auto populated when a GOV.SG domain is registered

Add to list below

Suggested domain names

Actions	Domain Name	NameServers	Type Of Domain	Declaration	Availability	Price
 	singapore.gov.sg	Government DNS	Actual Domain Name	NA	Available	\$410
 	singapore.com.sg	NA	NA	NA	Not Available	\$0
 	singapore.sg	NA	NA	NA	Not Available	\$0
	singapore.edu.sg	Not hosting	Defensive - Mandatory	Registration Only	Available	\$40
	singapore.net.sg	Not hosting	Defensive - Mandatory	Registration Only	Available	\$40
	singapore.org.sg	Not hosting	Defensive - Mandatory	Registration Only	Available	\$40
 	Singapore.edu.sg	Not hosting	Defensive - Optional	Registration Only	Upon Registration	\$40
Total Amount						\$570.00

Option to allow requester to register typographical variants of the GOV.SG domain

Summary of Domain registration and WOG DNS hosting cost to be shown to requester

Existing Domains - Activate Defensive Registration

- Under “**Internet Domain Names**”, Agency authorised requestors can use the “**Register Defensive Domain**” option under “**Actions**” to activate and register the available defensive domains for existing domain names

≡ Domain Names ⓘ

Domain Name	Domain Type	Status	Expiry Date	Administrative Contact	Technical Contact	Actions
singaporepass.gov.sg	Main	Active	04-Aug-2022 14:46:50	Rachel YOWAN SGNIC-PER1767595 rachel_yowan@tech.gov.sg	Rachel YOWAN SGNIC-PER1767597 rachel_yowan@tech.gov.sg	<div>Domain Modification Deactivate / Terminate Domain Register Defensive Domain DNS</div>

Action column to allow requester to register defensive domain

Transiting to New WOG DNS Portal

- Transiting to new WOG DNS portal will require a few hours of maintenance
 - SGNIC Domain Name and WOG DNS Record Management @ITSM portal will not be available to users during this period
(From 29 Sep 2021, 8pm to 30 Sept 2021, 2am)
- Agencies are advised to perform DNS changes before the maintenance window. Please contact the following for any urgent cases:
 - GovTech Registrar at GOVSGREG_OPN@tech.gov.sg for SGNIC related matters
 - WOG_DNS@support.gov.sg for WOG DNS hosting matters

Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: For existing registered domain names, why is Agency intervention required to activate registration of the defensive domains to comply with the new policy by 31 Dec 2021?

A1: This is to allow Agencies to perform the following actions for compliance to the new policy:

- Review the existing domains to determine if still valid and required.
- To seek relevant approval within Agency for the required budget of registering and hosting the new defensive domains for existing domains

Frequently Asked Questions

Q2: Where can I obtain a complete list of my Agency's active domain names to review and register the mandatory defensive names as per SNDGO/PMO's circular?

A2: Agency TSMs would be able to view the complete listing once they login into WOG DNS portal on ITSM.

Agencies need to review and ensure that their Agency TSM Contact list on ITSM is up-to-date.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q3: My .gov.sg domain has already been renewed before 30 Sep 2021, or is only due for renewal after 31 Dec 2021. What do I need to do in this case?

A3: If you have domains that have already been renewed before 30 Sep 2021, you will need to ensure that the mandatory defensive domains for these domains (where available) are registered by 31 Dec 2021. Domain names that are auto-renewed by the ITSM portal before 30 Sep 2021 will have to pay the current renewal charges of \$280 per domain (before GST) and the new rate of \$40 per domain will only apply at the next annual renewal cycle.

For domains that are due for auto-renewal after 30 Sep 2021, Agencies will still have to ensure that the mandatory defensive domains for these domains (where available) are registered by 31 Dec 2021 to comply to the new policy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q4: I have already registered all the mandatory defensive domains for my .gov.sg domain and comply to the new policy. Is there anything else I need to do?

A4: Agency are still required to login to the WOG DNS portal to activate the defensive domains so that the new annual price of \$40 per domain will take effect at the next renewal cycle of these domains.