

.NG Domain Name Policies
and
Naming Convention

Presentation Outline

- Domain Names and Levels
- ~~NiRA Domain Name Policy~~
- Disallowed Names
- Nigerian SLDs
- Allowed Characters
- Character Combinations
- Specific Restrictions
- Best Practices

Domain Name and Levels

A domain name is made up of several levels of domains.

Levels being separated by . (dot).

.NG.keep.you.smili.ng is a domain name

Levels are read from right to left.

- ng is the top level domain aka (TLD)
- Smili is the second level domain aka (SLD)
- You is the third level domain aka (3LD)
- Keep is the fourth level domain aka (4LD)
- .NG is the fifth level domain aka (5LD)

NiRA Domain name Policy

The NiRA Domain Name Policy describes the NiRA rules for the registration and use of domain names within the .ng domain and its sub-domains.

The NiRA Domain name policy and other NiRA policies are available at
<http://www.nira.org.ng/legal/policy>

Privacy Policy/GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and the European Economic Area.

- .NG is in total compliance to the GDPR policy
- Not applicable to client outside EU
- Registrant information must not be display for any reason(s)
- Complainant can send email to the registrant from whois display page

Disallowed Names

NIRA reserves the right to maintain the following list of domains that **SHALL NOT** be available for registration, or can be withdrawn if already registered.

- **Offensive Names:** Words determined by NiRA to be offensive to the Nigerian Community
- **Geonames:** Name with geopolitical zone, country, State, Local govt etc
- **Restricted Names:** Names that will give the wrong impression if used. eg. Military, Government etc.
- **Premium Names:** These are domains with generic words only, commanding premium value. Eg: **cooki.ng, bi.ng** etc.

Nigeria: Secondary Level Domains

- .com.ng - Commercial (Open)
- .edu.ng - Degree Awarding Institutions
- .sch.ng - non-Degree Awarding Schools
- .gov.ng - Governmental Organizations
- .mil.ng - Military and related purposes
- .org.ng - Non-Gov Organizations (Open)
- .net.ng - Networks
- .mobi.ng - Mobiles (Open)
- .name.ng - Personal Names (open)
- .premium.ng - By Auction and Buy now bid

Allowed Characters

NIRA currently does not operate Internationalized Domain Names (IDN), which allows domain names in the natural languages of the users.

The following Characters are allowed

- The Twenty Six (26) Unaccented Roman Characters, ie a to z, and A to Z.
- The Ten (10) Western digits 0 to 9
- Hyphen

Character Combinations

Names must conform to the following rules

- ❖ Domain names must be a max of 64 Chars for now.
- ❖ Domains are not case sensitive. AGe and AgE are the same
- ❖ The first or last character of a domain name may not be a hyphen
- ❖ There cannot be two hyphens in a name
- ❖ Domains cannot start with xn followed by --
- ❖ Single and two character domain is yet to be open to public.

Specific Restrictions

In addition to the generic restrictions, each SLD or 3LD may also have restrictions related to these sub-domains.

For example, **.edu.ng** may have restrictions which are different from those for **.gov.ng**.

Best Practices

Domain Names are more useful if they confirm to best practices

- ▶ Short and popular names are better than long and detailed names
- ▶ To register any 3LD domain within **.gov.ng**, State Government entities must register the full state name or the official abbreviation of the state name similar to that used in vehicle license plate registration.
- ▶ States are encouraged to make 4LD available to Local Governments and State Government departments and agencies.
- ▶ Generic names are not allowed. Eg instead of **shipping.gov.ng** it should be **nsc.gov.ng**
- ▶ Generic SLDs are not allowed on 3LDs. e.g you cannot register **com.org.ng**, **org.com.ng**, **mil.com.ng** etc.

Best Practices

Domain Names are intended to be human-memorable addresses that direct to online information or services.

- ❖ Registering **atapadide.com.ng** will open the name to a lot of misspellings. Better to use a simple name such **ata.com.ng**
- ❖ Best to use full names when they are short and easily remembered. Registering **federalcapitalterritory.gov.ng** is open to more errors, than using **fct.gov.ng**
- ❖ Unless it will enhance readability, the hyphen should be used sparingly. Eg: **akwaibom.gov.ng** is more desirable than **akwa-ibom.gov.ng**

Conclusion

- There are rules and conventions that govern the choice and registration of domain names
- The naming conventions have been carefully created to avoid confusion, and make it easy for users to navigate on the Internet.
- NiRA as much as possible abides with global best practices, in the implementation of domain names.
- In the near future, NiRA will offer Internationalized domain Names (IDN) that will allow the use of natural language texts, eg Arabic, so that more people will have access to the Internet.

Conclusion

- Please note that the Registry is entitled to revoke a Domain Name at its own initiative in the event that the Registrant is in breach of the Rules.
- Registrar do not have any right to refuse to the transfer of domain initiate from the Registrant.
- The domain will be deleted if registrant failed to renew the domain within the grace period
- It is not possible to correct a spelling mistake in the Domain Name that is successfully registered
- Any complain about trademark or trade-name should be directed to admin@nira.org.ng

Read the policies at
<http://www.nira.org.ng/legal/policy>

Thank You!