

# Glossary

## About the Glossary

This glossary defines terms, abbreviations, and acronyms used in NIRA documentation. The terms are arranged alphabetically. Click on a letter to go directly to the definitions for the terms beginning with that letter: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

## A

### **Administrative Contact**

This is either the Registrant or someone the Registrant designates. This person is responsible for authorizing and confirming any changes to a domain name registration. The Administrative Contact receives the NIRA user authentication tokens used to manage the domain name. Therefore, he or she has complete control over the domain name.

### **AfriNIC - The African Network Information Center**

AfriNIC is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR), and is a non-profit membership organization responsible for the administration and registration of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in the Africa region.

### **Applicant**

A Registrant candidate that applies to register a dot-ng domain name or applies to become a Registrant without a domain name within the NIRA Registry.

### **Applicant Registrant (ART) process**

New registration processes that involve the Applicant. An ART transaction can be any of the following:

- registering a new Registrant and a new domain name
- registering a new Registrant without registering a domain name
- adding a domain name to an existing registration

### **Application programming interface (API)**

An application program is software that does a specific job for a user, such as a word processor or a web browser. An application programming interface (API) provides a way for one application program to make requests to another application program. NIRA's API has functions that allow NIRA Certified Registrars to create applications that communicate with the NIRA Registry applications.

### **APNIC - The Asia Pacific Network Information Centre**

APNIC is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR), and is a non-profit membership organization responsible for the administration and registration of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, Korea, China, and Australia.

### **ARIN - American Registry for Internet Numbers**

ARIN is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR), and is a non-profit membership organization established for the purpose of the administration and registration of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in North America, parts of the Caribbean.

### **ASO - Address Supporting Organization**

The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) advises the ICANN Board of Directors on policy issues relating to the allocation and management of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. The ASO selects two Directors on the ICANN Board.

### **Association (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-*ng* domain name. It often refers to an unincorporated organization, association or club in which at least 80% of the directors, officers, employees, managers, administrators or other representatives are ordinarily resident in Nigeria.

### **Authorized representative**

An authorized representative of a Registrant. In the case of a Registrant that is a corporation, government, union, educational institute, museum, library, archive, or hospital, it is an employee, a director, or a governor for the Registrant. For other types of Registrants, it is a person with signing authority for the Registrant and whose signing authority is not limited to NIRA members' meetings and NIRA elections.

## **B**

### **Board of Directors (BOD)**

The governing body of the Association. The mandate of the NIRA board of directors is to set policy and establish strategies in support of Nigeria's Internet community and users. The board is usually comprised of 10 members as follows: For the offices of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and six (6) other directors

### **Board of Trustees (BOT)**

The Board of Trustees (BOT) of NIRA are the Incorporated Trustees. They are the advisory arm of the association and have the overall responsibility for shaping policies, practices and programs of the association.

### **Business days**

See "[NIRA business days \(NBD\)](#)".

## **C**

### **Cancelled domain name registration**

A domain name registration that has been cancelled. In most cases, when a domain name registration is cancelled, it is listed as available in WHOIS. When a domain name is cancelled, any email addresses or web sites that depend on the domain name no longer function.

### **ccTLD**

Country code top level domain (ccTLD). In Nigeria, the ccTLD is dot-*ng* (.ng).

### **ccTLD manager**

The company, organization, or individual responsible for managing a ccTLD Registry. The ccTLD manager for Nigeria is the Nigerian Internet Registration Association (NIRA).

### **ccTLD Registry**

The database used to record a list of registered domain names for a particular ccTLD. NIRA maintains this database for the dot-*ng* (.ng) ccTLD.

### **Change of Registrant fee**

A fee payable to NIRA by a Registrar, associate with a completed change of Registrant. See "[Registrant to Registrant transfer](#)"

**Change of Registrant (CRT) process**

See “[Registrant to Registrant transfer](#)”.

**Change of Registrar fee**

A fee payable to NIRA by a Registrar, associated with a completed change of Registrar. See “[Registrar to Registrar transfer](#)”.

**Change of Registrar (CRA) process**

See “[Registrant to Registrar transfer](#)”.

**Confirmation Period**

The time frame provided to an Applicant that allows them to complete the registration confirmation process.

**Confirmation Process**

The process that an Applicant must complete in order to become a Registrant with a domain name or a Registrant without a domain name within the NIRA Registry. The confirmation process includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1 the Applicant confirming that they have the authority to act as or on behalf of the Registrant
- 2 the Applicant verifying the correctness of the registration information provided to NIRA by their Registrar
- 3 the Applicant agreeing to be bound to the Registrant Agreement and all of NIRA Policies, Rules and Procedures

**Conflicting domain name**

A domain name which is similar to a previously registered domain name that exists at another level in the domain name system hierarchy.

**Corporation (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It refers to a company incorporated under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**Critical change (CAD) process**

A change to the information in a Registrant’s profile that affects any of the following:

- the Registrant’s legal type and description
- the Registrant’s Administrative Contact information
- the granting of change without approval (CWA) authority to a Registrar
- a switch or change without approval (CWA) authority from one Registrar to another Registrar

**Critical information**

Any data held in the Registry that cannot be changed without invoking a critical change process.

**Customer service unit (CSU)**

NIRA’s customer support team.

**D****DNS**

See “[Domain name system \(DNS\)](#)”.

**Domain name**

A domain name is a string of characters, (usually words) that help people navigate the Internet. If you want to locate a web site, it is easier to remember a domain name that identifies a particular

computer than it would be to remember its numeric Internet Protocol (IP) address (i.e. 123.528.55.44). Users can use domain names to locate web sites on the Internet because of the domain name system. Domain names consist of two or more parts, separated by dots, such as “nira.org.ng”, “sample.com.ng” or “icann.org”.

### **Domain Name Resolvers**

Scattered across the Internet are thousands of computers - called "Domain Name Resolvers" or simply "resolvers" - that routinely cache the information they receive from queries to the root servers. These resolvers are located strategically with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) or institutional networks. They are used to respond to a user's request to resolve a domain name - that is, to find the corresponding IP address.

### **Domain name system (DNS)**

The domain name system is a database that is distributed globally. It is used to publish information related to Internet host names and IP addresses. Without the domain name system, the Internet and all email functions would not work. NIRA maintains the nameservers for the top level domain zone .ng (dot-*ng*). This allows requests for a specific dot-*ng* domain name to be referred to the correct authoritative nameserver, so that the computer whose IP address is associated with the domain name can be located.

### **Domain number**

A number assigned by NIRA to a domain name upon its registration. The domain number is used by Registrars to perform administrative tasks.

### **Do not renew**

See “[Non-Renewal \(NRN\) process](#)”.

### **dot-*ng* (.ng)**

The top level domain for domain names stored in the NIRA Registry. In this context, .ng is the abbreviation for Nigeria.

## **E**

### **Educational institution (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-*ng* domain name. It refers to any of the following:

- 1** a university or college which is located in Nigeria and which is authorized or recognized as a university or college under an Act of the legislature of a province or territory of Nigeria; or
- 2** a college, post-secondary school, vocational school, secondary school, pre-school or other school or educational institution which is located in Nigeria and which is recognized by the educational authorities of a province or territory of Nigeria or licensed under or maintained by an Act of Parliament of Nigeria or of the legislature of a state or territory of Nigeria

### **Email Notification**

An email sent by the NIRA system. These are also referred to as Formal Notices or Standard Forms.

### **ENUM**

Electronic number mapping. The protocol endorsed by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) to map telephone numbers to URLs, and thus IP addresses, using the Internet's domain name system (DNS).

### **Expression of interest (EOI)**

A form that must be completed by a party expressing interest in becoming a NIRA Certified Registrar. There is also an expression of interest form available for independent service providers

who would like to provide dispute resolution services to NIRA.

## F

### **Formal Notices**

See “[Email Notification](#)”.

## G

### **Government (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It often refers to a federal, provincial or territorial Crown corporation, government agency or government entity; or a regional, municipal or local area government.

### **gTLD**

Generic Top Level Domain. gTLDs include .com, .gov, .edu, .net, .org, .mil, .biz...etc...

## H

### **Hospital (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It refers to a hospital, which is located in Nigeria and which is licensed, authorized or approved to operate as a hospital under an Act of the legislature of a province or territory of Nigeria.

### **HTML**

See “[Hypertext markup language \(HTML\)](#)”.

### **HTTP**

See “[Hypertext transfer protocol \(HTTP\)](#)”.

### **HTTPS**

See “[Hypertext transfer protocol \(secure\) \(HTTPS\)](#)”.

### **Hypertext markup language (HTML)**

A programming language used to create documents for the web, which can be viewed in a web browser.

### **Hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP)**

The protocol (or rules) used to transfer hypertext files across the internet from one computer to another computer.

### **Hypertext transfer protocol (secure) (HTTPS)**

A secure version of HTTP that sends encrypted information from one computer to another computer using the Secure socket layer (SSL).

## I

### **IANA**

See “[Internet Assigned Numbers Authority \(IANA\)](#)”.

### **ICANN**

See “[Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers \(ICANN\)](#)”

**IDN**

See “[International domain name \(IDN\)](#)”.

**International domain name (IDN)**

A domain name that contains special characters specific to a language other than English, such as Chinese or French. Also referred to as internationalized domain names and multilingual domain names.

**Internationalized domain name (IDN)**

See “[International domain name \(IDN\)](#)”.

**Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)**

IANA is the organization that coordinates and manages the root of the Domain Name System. It is responsible for the delegation of top level domains.

**Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**

A global non-profit corporation responsible for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions.

**IETF - Internet Engineering Task Force**

The IETF is a large open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet. It is open to any interested individual.

**Internet Protocol (IP)**

The communications protocol used to send data from one computer to another over the Internet.

**Internet service provider (ISP)**

A company, which provides access to the Internet through dial-up modems, DSL, cable, or other such access mechanisms. It may also provide services such as web hosting, VoIP (voice over IP), email, and other Internet applications.

**IMS ID**

A NIRA-assigned unique identification number that identifies a NIRA process that is managed using the Intervention management system (IMS). In the XML output for some NIRA functions, it is sometimes referred to as the ‘Imin-ID’.

**IP**

See “[Internet Protocol \(IP\) Address](#)”.

**Internet Protocol (IP) address**

A numeric address used to uniquely identify a computer connected to the Internet. An Internet Protocol (IP) address consists of a set of four numbers, in the range of 0 to 255, separated by periods. A sample IP address is formatted as follows: 64.230.164.58

**ISOC - The Internet Society**

The Internet Society is the international organization for global cooperation and coordination for the Internet and its internetworking technologies and applications. ISOC membership is open to any interested person.

**ISP**

See “[Internet service provider \(ISP\)](#)”.

## L

### **Legal representative (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It often refers to an executor, administrator or other legal representative of a Nigerian citizen or a Nigerian permanent resident.

### **Library, archive, or museum (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It often refers to an institution, located in Nigeria, that holds and maintains a collection of documents and other materials that is open to the public or to researchers

## M

### **MCAC**

See “[Manual Change of Administrative Contact \(MCAC\)](#)”.

### **Manual Change of Administrative Contact (MCAC)**

Manual Change of Administrative Contact. This process is used by NIRA Certified Registrars to make changes to a Registrant’s administrative contract information in cases where the email address for the Administrative Contact is not functional and where the Registrant has forgotten their NIRA user account and password. In order to perform an MCAC, the Registrar must provide supporting documentation to NIRA. The Special Change of Administrative Contact (SCAC) process is similar, with the exception that the supporting documentation is not submitted to NIRA, but is maintained by the Registrar. Registrars must have been granted a SCAC permit to initiate the SCAC process. See “[Special Change of Administrative Contact \(SCAC\)](#)”.

### **Member**

Registrants are given the choice of becoming a member of NIRA during the confirmation process.

NIRA members may:

- vote at the NIRA annual general meeting (AGM)
- nominate candidates for the NIRA board of directors
- demonstrate shows of support for board of director candidates
- vote for NIRA board of directors that are elected by the membership

### **Merger (MRG) process**

A process used to merge two Registrant profiles into a single Registrant profile. Domain name registrations associated with the profiles are held under the resulting profile.

### **Multilingual domain name**

See “[International domain name \(IDN\)](#)”.

### **Multiple year registration**

The registration of a domain name for more than one year and up to a maximum of 5 years.

## N

### **Nigerian citizen (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It refers to a Nigerian citizen of the age of majority under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### **Nigerian Internet Registration Association (NIRA)**

The not-for-profit Nigerian corporation responsible for administering the dot-ng Internet country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD).

### **NIRA business days (NBD)**

The days on which the NIRA offices are open.

### **NIRA bylaws**

NIRA's corporate constitution.

### **NIRA Certified Registrar**

A Registrar is an individual or entity that is certified by NIRA to apply on behalf of Applicants and Registrants to register, transfer, renew or modify dot-ng domain names in the Registry. NIRA Certified Registrars are entitled to bill Registrants for these services.

### **NIRA Dispute Resolution Policy (NDRP)**

NIRA's dispute resolution process is a mechanism through which individuals and businesses meeting NIRA Nigerian Presence Requirements can obtain quick out-of-court arbitrations, at relatively low cost, for bad faith registrations of dot-ng domain names.

### **Non-Renewal (NRN) process**

A process which allows a Registrant to indicate to NIRA that they do not wish to renew a specific domain name registration when it expires at the end of its length of term. Once confirmed by the Registrant, this process suppresses any renewal notification emails that the NIRA system sends.

## **O**

### **Official marks (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It often refers to a Person which does not meet any of the other Nigerian Presence Requirements, but is a Person who is intended to be protected by the Trade-Marks Act (Nigeria) in a particular way.

### **Operations update**

A notice, posted to NIRA's public web site on a quarterly basis, that indicates changes to NIRA's operations that are of interest to the public. It includes all quarterly changes to NIRA's policies, rules and procedures.

## **P**

### **Partnership (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It often refers to a partnership registered under the laws of a province or territory of Nigeria, in which more than two-thirds of the partners meet certain conditions.

### **Password**

A series of letters and/or numbers, that when used in conjunction with a NIRA user account token/number, allows an Applicant, a Registrant or a NIRA Certified Registrar to access the applicable NIRA interfaces. Passwords are assigned by NIRA. Applicants are assigned a temporary password and Registrants are assigned a permanent password. NIRA Certified Registrars have a master user account number and master password. They may also have user accounts and passwords their for Registrar users.

### **Permanent Password**

Registrants are assigned a permanent password to use with their user account number to access

relevant NIRA interfaces. Applicants are issued a temporary password in order to access the NIRA confirmation process.

### **Permanent resident (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It refers to a permanent resident as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, (Nigeria), who is ordinarily resident in Nigeria and of the age of majority under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in which he or she resides or last resided.

### **PGP**

See “[Pretty good privacy \(PGP\)](#)”.

### **Phishing**

Phishing are attacks that use both social engineering and technical subterfuge to steal consumers' personal identity data and financial account credentials. Social engineering schemes use spoofed emails to lead consumers to counterfeit websites designed to trick recipients into divulging financial data such as credit card numbers, account usernames, passwords and social security numbers. Hijacking brand names of banks, e-retailers and credit card companies, phishers often convince recipients to respond. Technical subterfuge schemes plant malware onto PCs to steal credentials directly, often using Trojan keylogger spyware. Pharming malware misdirects users to fraudulent sites or proxy servers, typically through DNS hijacking or poisoning.

### **Political party (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-ng domain name. It refers to a political party registered under a relevant electoral law of Nigeria or any province or territory of Nigeria.

### **Pretty good privacy (PGP)**

A cryptographic tool that enables people to securely exchange email messages. By providing the ability to encrypt messages, PGP provides protection against information being intercepted and allows for verification of the identity of the sender.

### **Protocol**

A formal description of the message formats and the rules two computer must adhere to when exchanging messages with each other over a network.

## **R**

### **Registrant**

An internet user that holds a domain name registration in the NIRA dot-ng (.ng) Registry.

### **Registrant agreement**

The contract between NIRA and a Registrant.

### **Registrant profile**

A record in the NIRA Registry that identifies either an Applicant or a Registrant. It includes, Registrant information, Administrative Contact details and Technical Contact details.

### **Registrant to Registrant transfer**

A Registrant may transfer a domain name registration to a different Registrant. However, the new holder of the domain name registration must be eligible to hold a dot-ng registration. A change of Registrant fee, equivalent to the amount needed to register a domain name for one year, is applied to the transfer and is debited from the appropriate Registrar's deposit account. For this reason, the Registrar who will manage the Registrant that is gaining the domain name registration, must

approve the transfer. The length of term of the domain name registration is extended for an additional year.

**Registrant without a domain name**

A Registrant who has an existing Registrant profile in the NIRA Registry, but does not have any registered domain names, for any of the following reasons:

- the Registrant's profile was created with no associated domains. Registrars may create a Registrant profile prior to registering a domain name, but must add a domain name to the registration within 90 days or the Registrant profile will lapse
- all of the domain names previously associated with the profile have lapsed.
- all of the active domain names previously associated with the profile have been transferred to another Registrant

**Registrar**

An entity which is certified by NIRA to register dot-ng (.ng) domain names on behalf of a Registrant according to the terms and conditions set forth in the Registrar Agreement and the associated Policy Rules and Procedure documents.

**Registrar Agreement**

The contract between NIRA and a NIRA Certified Registrar.

**Registrar application fee**

A one-time, non-refundable fee payable to NIRA upon applying to become a NIRA Certified Registrar.

**Registrar certification fee**

A one-time fee, payable to NIRA, upon initial certification as a NIRA Certified Registrar.

**Registrar deposit account**

NIRA Certified Registrars must establish and maintain a cash balance in a NIRA Registrar deposit account. Relevant fees are charged against the cash balance in the deposit account.

**Registrar deposit account statement**

A list of financial transactions applied to a Registrar deposit account that is available to NIRA Certified Registrars as a report.

**Registrar number**

A number assigned by NIRA that identifies a NIRA Certified Registrar.

**Registrar password**

A series of letters and/or numbers, that when used in conjunction with a NIRA user account number, allows a Registrar user to access applicable NIRA interfaces. Registrars are issued a master password when they first become a NIRA Certified Registrar. A master password can be used to access the Registrar web interface in order to create Registrar users that have their own user account numbers and Registrar passwords.

**Registrar re-certification fee**

An annual fee payable to NIRA upon re-certification as a NIRA Certified Registrar.

**Registrar roles**

See "[Registrar user roles](#)".

**Registrar status**

A status code that is assigned to an entity that has applied to become, or has been approved as, a

NIRA Certified Registrar. The status code shows the state of the application in the course of the certification. The codes are as follows:

APP - An entity that has submitted an expression of interest form to NIRA

WDP - An entity that previously had the status APP. NIRA has sent an information package to the entity

RAP - An entity that previously had the status WDP. NIRA has received a completed application form, payment for the application, certification fees, the initial deposit to the Registrar deposit account, a signed copy of the Registrar agreement. NIRA is evaluating the application

RJC - An entity that previously had the status APP, WDP or RAP. NIRA has rejected the application or expression of interest

AAP - An entity that previously had the status RAP. NIRA has accepted, but not yet activated, the entity as a NIRA Certified Registrar

ACT - An entity that previously has the status of AAP. NIRA has accepted and activated the entity as a NIRA Certified Registrar

SUS - A NIRA Certified Registrar that has been suspended by NIRA

RVK - A former NIRA Certified Registrar that previously had the status SUS. NIRA has revoked the Registrar's status as a NIRA Certified Registrar

### **Registrar to Registrar transfer**

A Registrant may switch the management of their domain name registration to a different Registrar at any time. A change of Registrar fee, equivalent to the amount needed to register a domain name for one year, is applied to the transfer and is debited from the gaining Registrar's deposit account. The length of term of the domain name registration is extended for an additional year.

### **Registrar user**

A Registrar user is usually an individual employed by a Registrar. A Registrar user is assigned a unique NIRA user account and password. A Registrar can use their master password to access the Registrar web interface in order to create Registrar users for the individuals that work for them and assign user roles to them. This allows a Registrar to specify the types of requests that individuals in their company can submit to NIRA.

### **Registrar user roles**

User roles that can be assigned to a Registrar user. Registrar user roles can be used to specify the types of requests that can be submitted to NIRA. For example, a Registrar user that only has the user role 'Access public information', cannot for example, create or renew registrations. A Registrar user with the 'Administrator' user role can access all NIRA functions.

### **Registrant information**

Information about the Registrant that is held in the Registrant profile. This includes the following:

- Registrant name
- Registrant legal type
- whether or not the Registrant is a member of NIRA
- whether or not the Registrant has granted a Registrar change without approval (CWA) authority
- description of the Registrant (optionally)
- Registrar reference information (optionally)

### **Registration information**

Information about the domain name registration that is held in the NIRA Registry. This includes, but is not limited to,

- Registrant information
- Administrative Contact information
- Technical Contact information
- domain name information (including any domain name system (DNS) information for the domain name)

**Registration fee**

A fee payable to NIRA by a Registrar, upon the approval of a Registrant's domain name application.

**Registration of a Conflicting Domain Name (RCDN) process**

The manual process for registering a Conflicting Domain Name.

**Registration policies, rules, and procedures (PRP)**

The policies rules and procedures set out by NIRA that define the registration of domain names in the dot-ng (.ng) top-level domain and which form part of the Registrant Agreement.

**Registration renewal fee**

A fee payable to NIRA by a Registrar, for the renewal of a domain name registration.

**Registry**

ccTLD Registry for the Nigerian dot-ng top-level domain.

**Released domain name**

A domain name that was previously registered, was allowed to lapse, and passed through the 'To be released (TBR)' process without being re-registered. Once released, a domain name is listed as available in the WHOIS database.

**Renewal date**

The anniversary of the day on which a domain name was originally registered. An expiring domain name must be renewed by 23:59:59, on the day before the date shown in the WHOIS directory.

**Re-seller**

Some NIRA Certified Registrars use Re-sellers to deliver dot-ng domain registration services to Registrants. When a Registrant uses a Re-seller's dot-ng domain name registration services, the Registrant is actually using the services offered by the NIRA Certified Registrar that stands behind the Re-seller.

**RIR - Regional Internet Registry**

There are currently five RIRs: AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC and RIPE NCC. These non-profit organizations are responsible for distributing IP addresses on a regional level to Internet Service Providers and Local Internet Registries (LIR).

**Roles**

See "[Registrar user roles](#)".

**Root Server**

A name server that contains authoritative data for the very top of the Domain Name System (DNS) hierarchy. Currently there are 13 root servers in the world, located in the U.S., U.K., Sweden, and Japan.

**S****SCAC**

See "[Special Change of Administrative Contact \(SCAC\)](#)".

**Second level domain name**

A domain name that consists of a string of supported characters, separated by a single dot. The Second Level Domains include: com.ng, net.ng, org.ng, gov.ng, sch.ng, mil.ng and name.ng

### **Secure sockets layer (SSL)**

A protocol that ensures that server computers are authenticated, and that data being sent from one computer to another one is encrypted. This protocol operates beneath the application layer (i.e. HTTP) and above the connection layer (i.e. TCP/IP). SSL is used by the Hypertext transfer protocol (secure).

### **Special Change of Administrative Contact (SCAC)**

Special change of Administrative Contact. This process is used by Registrars to make changes to a Registrant's Administrative Contact information in cases where the email address for the Administrative Contact is not functional and where the Registrant has forgotten their NIRA user account and password. In order to perform an SCAC, the Registrar must be granted a permit. The Registrar performing an SCAC request is responsible for maintaining the documentation supplied by the requesting Registrant. The Manual Change of Administrative Contact (MCAC) process is similar, with the exception that the supporting documentation is submitted to, and maintained by, NIRA. See "["Manual Change of Administrative Contact \(MCAC\)"](#)".

### **SSL**

See "["Secure sockets layer \(SSL\)"](#)".

### **Standard Form**

See "["Email Notification"](#)".

### **Sub-domain name**

A sub-domain is a subsection of a domain name that exists at a higher level in the DNS hierarchy. For example, in the domain name "sample.com.ng", "sample" is a sub-domain of the higher second level domain "com.ng".

### **Suspended domain name registration**

Suspension means that an Internet user will not be able to send email or access a web page using the suspended domain name. NIRA's WHOIS look up system will continue to list suspended registrations, while identifying to the public that the registration has been suspended.

## **T**

### **Technical Contact**

The individual identified as the contact for technical information related to a registered domain name.

### **Temporary password**

A series of letters and/or numbers that may be sent by the Registrar to an Applicant during the registration process. It is used to login to NIRA's secure web site and access the NIRA confirmation process. Applicants whose Registrars use a real-time completion process do not receive a temporary password by email because the Registrar uses a temporary password returned in an XML function to provide applicants access to the NIRA confirmation process. NIRA sends the Registrant a Permanent Password once the confirmation process is complete.

### **Third-level domain name**

A domain name that consists of a string of supported characters, separated by dots. To register a third level dot-ng domain name, you must use the following format:

<domain name>. <second level>. <ng>

For example:

- mydomain.com.ng
- somedomain.org.ng

### **TLD**

See “[Top-level domain \(TLD\)](#)”.

### **TLD zone**

See “[Top level domain \(TLD\) zone](#)”.

### **Top-level domain (TLD)**

The top level in the DNS hierarchy, that is just below the root of the system. The top-level domain is represented by the right-most characters in the domain name. The top-level domain for Nigeria is dot-*ng* (.ng).

### **Top level domain (TLD) zone**

The level below the root of the domain name system. There are a number of top level domain (TLD) zones. NIRA maintains the nameservers for the TLD zone “.ng” (dot-*ng*).

### **Trade-mark register in Nigeria (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-*ng* domain name. It often refers to a “person” which does not meet any of the other Nigerian Presence Requirements, but is the owner of a trade-mark which is the subject of a registration under the under the Trade-marks Act (Nigeria).

### **Trade union (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-*ng* domain name. It refers to a trade union, which is recognized by a labour board under the laws of Nigeria or any province or territory of Nigeria and which has its head office in Nigeria.

### **Transaction ID**

A NIRA Certified Registrar-assigned unique identification number that a Registrar may optionally assign to certain NIRA functions. If a Registrar includes a transaction ID as part of a function, the transaction ID is returned, unaltered, in the XML response. The use of transaction IDs in NIRA functions allows Registrars to easily identify the request to which a response applies.

### **Transfer of a registration**

A Registrant can transfer a domain name registration to another Registrant. This is known as ‘Transferring a domain name to another Registrant’. This is also referred to as a Change of Registrant (CRT) process. See “[Registrant to Registrant transfer](#)” on page 8.

A Registrant can also transfer a domain name registration to another Registrar. This is also known as ‘Transferring a domain name from another Registrar’. This is also referred to as a Change of Registrar (CRA) process. See “[Registrar to Registrar transfer](#)”.

### **Trust (Registrant legal type)**

One type of Registrant that can register a dot-*ng* domain name. It often refers to a trust established and subsisting under the laws of a province or territory of Nigeria in which more than two-thirds of the trustees meet certain conditions.

## **U**

### **Unconfirmed registration**

Application to register a domain name or to become a Registrant without a domain name that is in the NIRA system, but is not considered to be confirmed because the Applicant has not completed the confirmation process.

### **Uniform resource locator (URL)**

A uniform resource locator (URL) is an address that can help users locate web sites on the Internet. The URL address contains a protocol (i.e. http or https) and a domain name (i.e. www.NIRA.ng). For example, <http://www.NIRA.ng> is the complete URL for the home page of the NIRA public web site.

## **URL**

See “[Uniform resource locator \(URL\)](#)”.

## **User account**

A series of numbers, that when used in conjunction with a password, allows a Registrant or a NIRA Certified Registrar to access applicable NIRA interfaces. Registrars are issued a master user account and master password when they become a NIRA Certified Registrar.

## **User roles**

See “[Registrar user roles](#)”.

## **W**

### **WHOIS**

The Registry database made available to the public, listing all domain name registrations and information pertaining to registrations. It is used as a lookup system.

### **[WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization](#)**

WIPO is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland responsible for the promotion of the protection of intellectual rights throughout the world. It is one of the 16 specialized agencies of the United Nations system of organizations.

## **WWW**

World Wide Web. An interconnected network of electronic documents accessible via the Internet. The documents are written in HTML and are accessed using an Internet browser. Documents are located and linked using a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

## **X**

### **XML**

XML is the abbreviation used for eXtensible Markup Language. XML is a text markup language whose format is specified by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and uses the UTF- 8 (USC Transformation Format 8) encodings of Unicode 3.1. NIRA provides XML output for most NIRA functions and this allow NIRA Certified Registrars to develop applications that interact with the Registry to perform registration and administrative tasks.