

Nominet announces landrush for short .uk domains

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Landrush phase for 2,640 remaining one or two-letter domains to open on 23rd May

19th April 2011 – Nominet, the not-for-profit organisation responsible for running the .uk Internet infrastructure, announced today that the Landrush phase for the 2,640 remaining .uk short domains will begin on 23rd May 2011.

Nominet opened the registered rights application process for previously reserved, short .uk domain names – those with single numbers, single letters and two letters - on 1st December last year. An unregistered rights application phase then followed in March 2011.

To ensure all interested parties can take part, a Landrush application window opens at midday (12.00 BST) on 23 May 2011 and will close at midday (12.00 BST) 15 June 2011. During this period, these domain names will not be available on a first come first served basis.

Throughout the application window, registrants can apply for the short domains they are interested in via their registrars. Each application costs £10 + VAT, which is non-refundable.

Any domain name for which there is only one qualifying application will then be allocated on 23rd June. For more information on the Landrush process, please see section 6 of the Sunrise Process and Registration Rules.

Domain names which receive more than one application will go to auction, and the domain name will be awarded to the applicant who places the highest bid. The auctions will take place from 20th July onwards, with details to be sent to participants in advance. Any profits from the release of these names will go to the Nominet Trust (<http://www.nominettrust.org.uk/>).

The remaining .uk short domains will be made available on a first-come, first served basis from 27 June 2011.

For more details on short domains, please visit www.nominet.org.uk/go/shortdomains.

-Ends -

Notes to Editor:

During the process, Nominet is making public a 'sunrise WHOIS' tool, which can be used to check on the status of available domains. Using the 'sunrise WHOIS', applicants can monitor the progress of their applications. All validated applications together with supporting evidence of use prior to 1 January 2008 will be published for total transparency. www.nominet.org.uk/go/sunrisewhois

About the short domains applications process

Until now these domains, which include single character domains (e.g. 1.co.uk, a.co.uk) and two letter domains (e.g. aa.co.uk), were 'reserved' - held back for technical and policy reasons – and as such could not be registered. Following a policy review and a public consultation, these domains are now being made available.

.uk domains are normally registered on a 'first come, first served' basis. However, due to the anticipated high level of demand, Nominet is releasing these short domains via a staged process.

The 'Registered Rights Sunrise' period, when trade mark rights holders could apply for a domain that exactly matches their trade mark, started on December 1st 2010 and closed on January 17th 2011. A second sunrise period, when the rights qualification was extended to unregistered rights holders, opened on March 16th 2011 and closed on March 31st 2011. The remaining domains proceed to the upcoming landrush period in which anyone can participate.

The categories of domain included in this release have different purposes: while .co.uk and .org.uk are open to all, .net.uk is reserved for network operators, and me.uk is intended for individuals.

Applications will be processed via registrars that have chosen to participate in the process. A list of supporting registrars is available on Nominet's website.

For more information:

Please visit www.nominet.org.uk/go/shortdomains or contact Patrick Yiu at Brands2Life
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About Nominet

Nominet is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for the smooth and secure running of the .uk Internet infrastructure. A public service ethos drives everything we do – we strive to make the Internet an ever more trusted space for everyone who uses it.

As one of the world's largest Internet registries, we maintain a 'directory' of domain names ending in.uk, and run the technology which locates the computer hosting the website or email address you are looking for.

We set up and support the Nominet Trust (<http://www.nominettrust.org.uk/>), an independently run charity focussed on increasing access, safety and education on Internet issues.