

# Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees



Minutes of 12 May 2022

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# 1. Attendees

## Users

9 persons representing 11 members of the college

- **BACHOLLET Sébastien, representing ISOC France**
- **JOLY-BACHOLLET Anne-Marie, representing Association E-seniors**
- **BEAUVILLAIN Caroline, representing INPI (French National Industrial Property Institute)**
- **BOUTIGNON Antoine**
- **BOUZIDI Yannis, representing BOUYGUES SA**
- **FITZJEAN O COBHTHAIGH Alexis**
- **LOUIS Benjamin**
- **PORTENEUVE Elisabeth**
- **TAYER David-Irving**

## Registrars

10 persons representing 10 members of the college

- **CANER Emma, representing OVHCloud**
- **DULAC Bernard, representing DATAXY**
- **FRANCK Philippe, representing DOMAINIUM**
- **FRANQUINET Arnaud, representing GANDI**
- **GUILLEMAUT Frédéric, representing SAFEBRANDS**
- **JEAN-GILLES Sophie, representing OBS**
- **JUNG Scott, representing NORDNET**
- **KORN Jennifer, representing ORDIPAT**
- **POUSSARD Jean-François, representing SOLIDNAMES**
- **WITTERSHEIM Arnaud, representing NAMESHIELD**

## Afnic

- **BONIS Pierre, CEO**
- **BERTHELOT Marie, Product Marketing Manager**
- **BOULVARD Nathalie, Senior Legal Expert and DPO**
- **CANAC Sophie, Head of Associative Governance**
- **CASTEX Lucien, Representative for Public Affairs**
- **DAMILAVILLE Loïc, Market Intelligence Manager**
- **DAVOUST Clémence, Events Communication Manager**
- **GEORGELIN Marianne, Director, Legal and Registry Policy**
- **MASSÉ Régis, Director of Information Systems**
- **TURBAT Emilie, Marketing and Commercial Director**

## 2. Agenda

### News

#### information update and discussion items:

- **Switch of the .fr and French overseas TLDs to the new SRS**
- **Information on Afnic's new commitments for the next five years:** General information on commitments, Focus on Tariffs, the 11% devoted to actions of general interest, Publication of service levels, Participation of the .fr TLD in all the international technical bodies responsible for domain names, the Fight against abuse, and Registry Policies

#### Points submitted for discussion with members:

- **Consultation on the implementation of certain commitments:** FR Check; RDAP: Access to the WHOIS database for public authorities with right of communication; Publication of the daily list of domain names registered as open data; Creation of a liaison committee on DNS and domain name regulations between public authorities and French DNS players

### Consultative committee meetings and feedback

#### Subjects of information and discussion items with members

- Market trends in domain names
- Report on international bodies

## 3. Welcome and news update

Pierre Bonis welcomed members.

He reminded them that the day before there had been a meeting to present the candidates for election.

The candidates introduced themselves then Pierre recalled the agenda and the principles of the committees.

The elected trustees, Sébastien Bachollet and Benjamin Louis for the Users' college and Arnaud Franquinet and Arnaud Wittersheim for the Registrars' college, welcomed members.

Pierre Bonis said that the agreement between Afnic and the State had been signed. In accordance with its commitments, Afnic was a member of the ITU-T and the ITU-D. An account of participation in international bodies would be rendered to each consultation committee meeting.

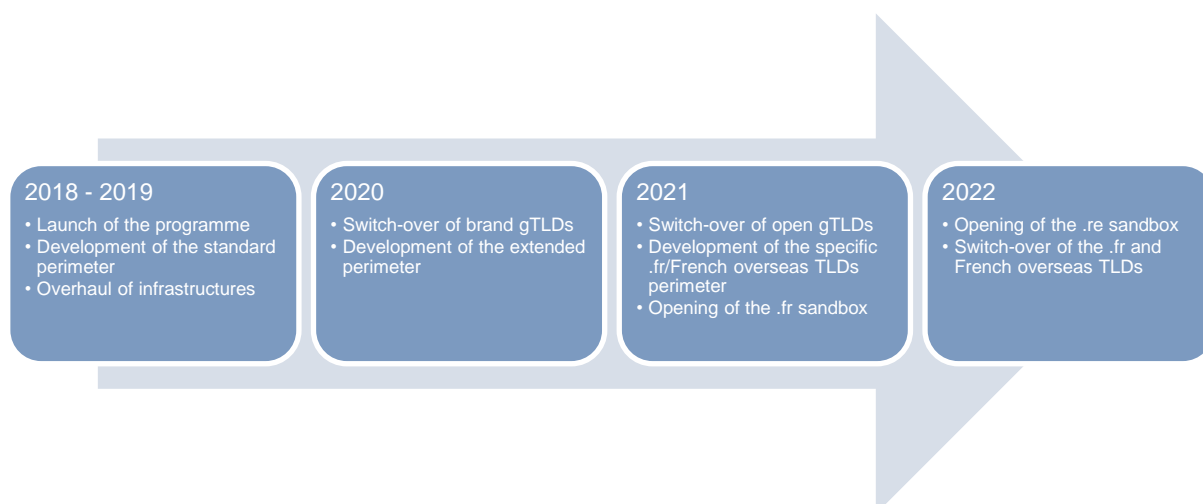
He specified that as a result of internal changes, Lucile Ravasse was now Director of Operational Marketing and Communication.

Concerning the consultative committees, this time, exceptionally, there would be no separate committee meetings, so as to be able to complete the agenda.

## 4. Report on subjects of information and discussion items

### 4.1. Switch of the .fr and French overseas TLDs to the new SRS

Régis Massé briefly reviewed this marathon project of which only a few miles remained, via the timetable of the AVENIR programme: overhaul of the registry system.



New tools for registrars but also for holders of .fr domain names.

What remained outside this programme was DNS resolution.

The new .fr and .re sandboxes had been launched to allow the registrars to test the system and the changes. The key objective was to deliver a system entailing as few changes as possible for the registrars.

#### Switch-over date officially set

The date had been set for a Saturday, when average daily create operations are lower (1,000 vs. 2,500 on weekdays). And the first of the month had been chosen for invoicing reasons.

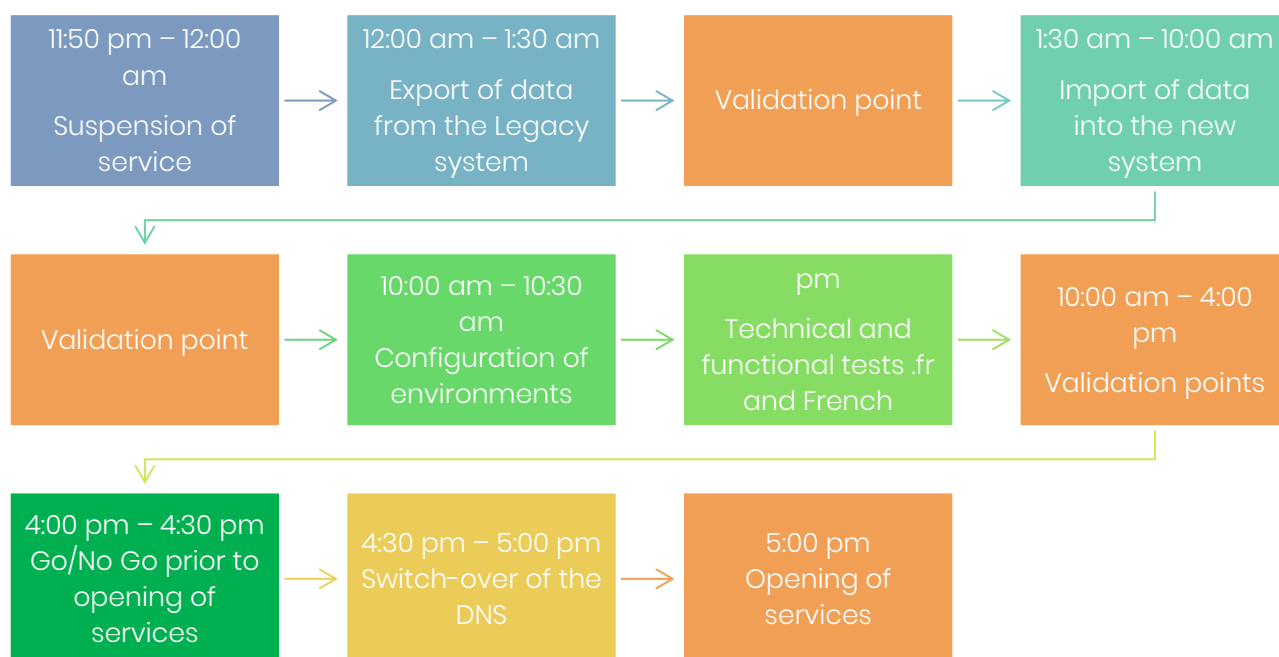
The date of the switch-over of the .fr and the French overseas TLDs had been set at 1 October 2022.

The following services would be closed for maintenance from 11:50 p.m. on 30 September to 5:00 p.m. on 1 October:

- Registration services (EPP and Extranet interfaces)
- The DNS publication service

The DNS resolution service and the directory service (WHOIS port 43) would remain in operation throughout the maintenance period

## Overall roadmap of the maintenance operation



## Preparatory actions for registrars

### Updating of contacts

- Providing missing information (messaging address, telephone number, certain fields forming postal addresses) before 1 September via the EPP interface or the Extranet
- Providing missing information linked to “ROLE”-type objects for integration in the database by Afnic’s technical teams

**Point for attention: it will not be possible to include any domain name linked to an incomplete contact at the time of the switch-over in the new system. Any such domain name will be deleted**

The customer representatives will be contacting the registrars to provide them with all they need to update the data where necessary

Cleaning needs be carried out, and is important as non-clean data will not be switched to the new system.

Management of AuthInfo which does not meet the security requirements in place since 2017

- length between 12 and 32 characters
- containing at least one lower case character, one upper case character and one number

Domain names whose AuthInfo files are invalid will be imported into the new system at the time of the switch-over

However, any request for modification will be automatically rejected if the AuthInfo has not first been corrected on the new system

The customer representatives will be contacting the registrars to provide them with all they need to update the data where necessary

## Communication with registrars

A newsletter was sent to the registrars to regularly communicate regarding the .fr switch-over programme.

- No. 1: Context/Strengthening of security
- No 2: Context/Passwords
- No. 3: Editorial/Focus on APIs/Corrections in progress
- No. 4: Division of .fr & French O'seas TLDs/Corrections in progress
- No. 5: Official switch-over date / Preparatory actions / Corrections in progress

All of the content is available on the registrars' Extranet portal.

Pierre Bonis added that Mickael Vigreux was present and would be able to respond to members' questions for the customer representatives.

It is the holders that will provide the data to the registrars, so it is their responsibility and they have to support their clients. If the fields are not completed before the switch-over, the domain names could be deleted by means of a justification procedure for example. AuthInfo is useful to a holder wishing to change registrars for example; the fact that it is relatively well secured is to the holder's advantage.

*The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:*

- *Suggested communication by Afnic and registrars to users calling on them to update their particulars. For example, a corporate communication release*
- *The naming charter and the contract indicate that it is the registrar that must provide holders' particulars.*
- *The transition with the blocking of the data required is a conscious choice since it had often been requested by the registrars.*
- *The code does not contain the entire naming charter. Therefore the eligibility criterion will not be critical; members were reminded that the change of charter is not retroactive (for example UK holders could keep their domain names but would not be able to register any new ones).*
- *Domain names for which holder particulars have not been completed or corrected will be deleted, not frozen or blocked.*
- *There will be no quarantine.*
- *The registrars have until the beginning of September to update the particulars on the lists, which have already been sent to them.*
- *If justification procedures were initiated in respect of domain names pending update, they would be deleted in seven days, so before September.*
- *Afnic cannot alter holders' particulars on its own initiative or amend WHOIS entries.*
- *Afnic has provided the list of NIC handles to be amended to the registrars concerned.*
- *In volume terms, this does not concern millions of domain names, some registrars having more than others: 15 registrars have "long" lists of between 100 and 4,000 domain names.*

## 4.2. Information on Afnic's new commitments for the next five years:

Pierre Bonis reminded members that the proposals had been presented to a consultative committee before Afnic had given its response.

This did not concern Afnic's strategy but commitments made by Afnic to the State for the management and development of the .fr TLD.

### Afnic's commitments, a roadmap for the next five years

- Stable, predictable, transparent tariffs
  - The aim is to have maximum tariff stability
  - If there were reasons to alter the tariffs, members would be consulted.
- An action to promote the .fr TLD in the long term, properly funded and geared towards end users, VSEs, SMEs and young persons
- Efficient services relying on a new information system



- Strengthened security, from the points of view of both general resilience and of good day-to-day security practices
- An even more responsible .fr TLD, in terms both of its carbon footprint and of its management of conflicts, disputes and abuse
- The .fr domain as an R&D player, with themed research, in cooperation, and with the DNS as its central theme (10% of .fr revenue)
- A .fr domain anchored in solidarity, with the continuation of the actions of the Afnic Foundation and the diversification of the general interest actions carried out directly by Afnic
- More systematic reporting to the French Internet community as a whole on Afnic's actions in the ecosystem of the technical governance of the Internet
- Public consultations and regular exchanges with members in order to make better use of the advantages of being an open association
  - More debate, more legislative subjects, Internet regulation, Internet governance, etc. through the association

### Commitments due at 1 July 2022

Management of the .fr TLD	Terms subject to prior review: Common terms (update)
Management of the .fr TLD	Publication (in open data format) of daily list of DNSs
Quality of service	Integration of new indicators in the published SLAs (RDAP & judicial procedures)
Protection of State DNSs	Dedicated contact person for the Government Information Service (SIG)
Protection of State DNSs	FR Watch (free of charge) for the State
Protection of State DNSs	Annual meeting with administrations in charge of combating abuses
Internet ecosystem links	Afnic, member of ITU-T and ITU-D
Internet ecosystem & R&D Watch link	Participation in all international bodies in charge of DNSs

Internet ecosystem and consultation link	Copies of reports of Afnic's participation in international bodies
Internet ecosystem and consultation link	DNS Liaison Committee State/French DNS players
R&D Watch/State	Technology Watch Newsletter for public decision makers
Security of the .fr domain	<i>Modus operandi</i> for recovery of sequestered data
Relations with Registrars	DNSSEC training for registrars in the catalogue
Relations with Registrars/finance	Single tariff of €4.56 excl. tax for operations on DNSs
Relations with Registrars/finance	Recover operations (forced transfer of DNSs) free of charge
Development of the .fr domain/finance	2% of revenues on promotional operations
CSR/finance	11% of revenues on general interest
CSR	2 trainees + 1 PhD student
CSR	Accessibility of public websites (afnic.fr; réussir-en.fr)
Fight against abuse	<i>FR CHECK (verification prior to publication)</i> <i>Implementation date to be determined</i>

## Commitments due in 2023

Relations with Registrars	Data performances and portfolio interface for registrars	1 January 2023
Relations with Registrars/finance	Once-only flat accreditation fee €500 excl. tax	1 January 2023

Finance	End of Syreli reimbursement	1 January 2023
CSR	Carbon offseting	1 January 2023
Fight against abuse	RDAP access for administrations with right to access data	1 January 2023
Fight against abuse	Abuse report (abus tech) on the .fr TLD and forwarding to registrars for action	1 July 2023
Fight against abuse	Unified solution agreed with the registrars for validation of holders' traceability	1 July 2023
Fight against abuse	Implementation of Free Mediation (prior to Syreli)	1 July 2023
Fight against abuse/Relations with Registrars	Graduated sanctions for registrars, ethics charter	31 December 2023
CSR	ISO 26000	31 December 2023

A Syreli ruling costs Afnic more than €300 and the State has agreed to end partial reimbursement, which will simplify flows and also allow free mediation to be put in place.

### Commitments due in 2024

Databases and infrastructure	Fight against DDoS: + 3 new DNS servers, of which 1 in Europe	31 December 2024
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*The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:*

- *A Syreli ruling costs Afnic more than €300 and the State has agreed to end partial reimbursement, which will simplify flows and also allow free mediation to be put in place.*
- *The entire mediation project will be submitted to consultation and Afnic is counting on its members to enrich it.*

## Once-only flat fee for accreditation and operations on DNs “Forced transfer” free of charge

Caroline Duval-Favre presented:

### **Reminder of current tariffs:**

#### **.FR TLD**

- Registrars Option 1: €1,450 excl. tax flat accreditation fee + €4.56 excl. tax per billable operation\*
- Registrars Option 2: €500 excl. tax flat accreditation fee + €5.51 excl. tax per billable operation\*

#### **French overseas TLDs**

- Registrars Option 1 O'seas: €1,450 excl. tax flat accreditation fee + €4.80 excl. tax per billable operation\*
- Registrars Option 2 O'seas: €500 excl. tax flat accreditation fee + €5.80 excl. tax per billable operation\*

### **Afnic's commitment:**

- Alignment of the two options on the less costly one: a single flat tariff for accreditation and for operations on DNs, €500 excl. tax (flat) and €4.56 excl. tax (operations on DNs).
- Recover (forced transfer) operations free of charge
- For the .FR domain and all the French overseas TLDs
  - ➔ Appropriate tariff level to remain accessible to the public at large while at the same time limiting fraudulent usages
  - ➔ Simplification and standardisation of tariffs, for all registrars and for all .FR and overseas TLDs

### **Implementation time frame:**

From 1 July 2022: €4.56 excl. tax (operations on DNs) and free recover operations

1 January 2023: single all-in flat accreditation fee of €500 excl. tax

- Information in Q4 2022 on amendments to the registrar contract to reflect this change
- Redefinition of the data visualisation services associated with the flat fee (currently different for options 1 and 2)

Changes in tariffs are subject to four particular factors: inflation, cost of a control group of ccTLDs, regulatory changes and the euro/dollar exchange rate. This will be subject to

consultation with members, public consultation and agreement of the DGE (General Directorate of Enterprises).

*The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:*

- *data visualisation at present:*
  - o *option 2: visualisation of the portfolio*
  - o *option 1: plus evolution of the portfolio, by holders;*
  - o *optional: paid visualisation for more information.*
- *The impact of the tariff changes on revenues has been simulated and had not revealed any major problems. For the flat fees, 100 registrars were currently on option 1.*

## **Disbursement in the general interest (commitment 11% of .FR revenues)**

### **Afnic's commitment:**

To allocate 11% of annual revenues from .FR to general interest actions, of which a minimum of €1.3 million per year to the actions of the Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity.

Application: In 2022, forecast revenues of the .FR TLD were €19.28 million, meaning that €2.12 million (11%) would be spent on general interest actions:

- €1.3 million (minimum) to the Afnic Foundation,
- €821K (the balance) would be allocated to the four priority themes defined in the Agreement:

#### **1. Digital transformation of businesses and private individuals' mastery of digital technology**

- Partnerships with Foliweb, digischool, FFBDE and JobIRL
- Free training actions of the support type: salaries, costs of assignments and travel, sundry materials, rental of rooms, remuneration of external trainers, planning or targeting tools

#### **2. Contribution of digital technology to the reduction of the overall carbon footprint, and reduction of the carbon footprint of digital technology itself**

- Cost of carbon neutrality
- Performance or purchase of studies/surveys
- Employee participation in working groups

### 3. Transfer of skills in subjects relating to digital transformation, the domain name system, IT security and Internet governance at national and international levels

- “Support” contributions (Cyberattacks, Internet & Jurisdiction, Internet Governance Forum, for example)
- All-day Sessions and Actions of the International College
- Salaries and expenses (travel, assignments, registrations, etc.) of the employees involved in this skills transfer

### 4. Contribution to maintaining and developing digital communal areas

- Contribution / grants to free software projects
- Organisation of major events (e.g. World IGF) promoting the theme

N.B. The priority themes have been validated in the agreement for 2022 and 2023, and will be discussed again in consultation with members at the end of 2023 for 2024.

#### **Important:**

- The list of disbursements is not exhaustive. The important thing is adherence to the themes.
- Disbursements for general interest cannot at the same time be counted towards the 10% of R&D or .fr tariff promotion actions

### **Publication of service levels**

For over ten years, Afnic has published a monthly dashboard on the quality of its services, on its website.

- A technical angle on the DNS resolution, registration and directory services (public external and in-house surveys)
- A customer service angle

The service levels had been enriched and the quality indicators improved in 2018 following the renewal of the Agreement by the DGE, to demonstrate the changes in Afnic

#### **New agreement, new commitments:**

The new agreement, which would come into force on 1 July 2022, would again bring new commitments and a change in the service quality dashboard

The indicators are broken down into:

- Technical: services delivered (DNS, registration, directory)

- Customer Service: dealing with requests, responding to customers and communication
- Legal: processing cases, mediation

Publication will remain monthly on Afnic's website.

### **Focus on new features:**

Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of the domain name consultation service (RDAP)</li> <li>• Response to the domain name consultation service (RDAP) in less than three seconds</li> </ul>
Customer service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests dealt with in less than two business days</li> <li>• Requests handled within the day</li> <li>• Tailored responses within 48 business hours</li> </ul>
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifting of anonymity within two business days of legitimate request</li> <li>• Blocking; deletion or transfer of DN following injunction of the DGCCRF (General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control) in the legally established time frames</li> <li>• Mediation where the principle is accepted by both parties, concluded within seven business days of opening</li> <li>• Decision taken by Afnic in the context of a WIPO or Syreli ADR within two months of opening of the ADR</li> <li>• Blocking of a domain name following launch of an unsuccessful justification of data, in seven business days</li> </ul>

## Participation of the .fr TLD in all the international technical bodies responsible for domain names

**Technical governance of the Internet:** A variety of bodies, numerous assignments

### **Standardisation and normalisation**

#### **Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)**

- IETF 114 from 23 to 29 July 2022 (Philadelphia)
- IETF 115 from 5 to 11 November 2022 (London)

#### **LoRa Alliance**

- LoRaWAN® World Expo from 6 to 7 July 2022 (Paris)

#### **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

- Plenipotentiary conference, 26 September to 14 October 2022
- **Standardisation sector ("ITU-T")**  
Meetings of working groups as work progresses
- **ITU-D more transversal and political**  
World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022, 6 to 16 June 2022 (during the week of the General Assembly and ICANN!)

## **Technical groups**

### **Domain Name System Operations Analysis and Research Centre (DNS OARC)**

- OARC 37 last February
- OARC 38 to be confirmed in May

### **RIPE Network Coordination Centre and the other RIRs**

- RIPE 84 from 16 to 20 May 2022
- RIPE 85 from 24 to 28 October 2022

### **Internet Research Task Force (IRTF)**

- During the IETF meeting (July 2022)

### **CentR Tech and CentR R&D**

- Tech 21 March 2022
- R&D 30 March 2022

## **Technical governance and policy**

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

- ICANN 73, Community Forum, 7 to 10 March 2022
- ICANN 74, Policy Forum, 13 to 16 June 2022
- ICANN 75, General Assembly, 17 to 22 September 2022

### **Council of European National Top-Level Domain (CentR)**

- Jamboree, 31 May to 2 June 2022
- Registrar day, 2 June 2022
- General Assembly and other working groups twice a year (except Legal & Regulatory)

### **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

- World IGF (UN): November 2022
- Eurodig: 20 to 22 June 2022
- IGF France: 5 July 2022

*The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:*

- *ETSI is monitored, Afnic receives indirect feedback through the intermediary of partnerships and certain subjects are monitored by intermediaries.*



## Registry policy timetable

### Commitments for 2022

Commitment	Date	Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees	Registry policy committee	Public Consultation
Publication of the daily list of domain names in open data format	1 July 2022	12 May 2022	June 2022	
FR CHECK (verification prior to publication)	T.B.D.	12 May 2022	June 2022	June 2022
RDAP: Access to the WHOIS database for public authorities with a right of communication	1 January 2023	12 May 2022	June 2022	September-October 2022
End of reimbursement of SYRELI procedures	1 January 2023	October 2022	June 2022	September-October 2022

### Commitments for 2023

Commitment	Date	Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees	Registry policy committee	Public Consultation
Abuse Report – Detection and action	1 July 2023	October 2022	November 2022	January – February 2023
Mediation	1 July 2023	October 2022	November 2022	January – February 2023

Unified solution agreed with the registrars to validate holders' traceability	1 July 2023	October 2022	November 2022	January – February 2023
Graduated sanctions for registrars / implementation of an ethics charter	31 December 2023	H1 2023	H1 2023	June 2023?

## Presentation of Commitments for 2023

### Abuse Report

- Afnic will carry out a monthly identification of domain names involved in technical abuse using its **Abuse Report** solution and will provide the results to the registrars for them to take rapid action on the domain names detected.

### Mediation

- Implementation of a **mediation** service prior to the opening of ADR procedures where the principle is accepted by both parties. With a commitment to processing **in seven business days**.
- This would at least allow faster resolution of the more than 8% of cases that end with the holder's agreeing to transfer the DN.

### Unified traceability/eligibility system via registrars

- Solution for strengthening verification of holders' particulars.
- Implementation of an **agreed unified system for verifying the traceability and residence of holders**, drawing on the one hand on an Afnic holders portal and on the other on Afnic's inclusion and integration of data verification systems already existing at the level of the registrars.

### Registrar compliance: Graduated sanctions / Financial penalties / Ethics charter

- Establishment of a **graduated scale of sanctions** for registrars that do not fulfil their obligations to respond to legitimate requests from the authorities and investigators, culminating in withdrawal of accreditation.
- Establishment of a transparent system of **financial penalties** for registrars with significant numbers of abusive domain names.
- Implementation with all accredited .fr registrars of an **ethics charter** relating to fraudulent registrations and the registration of domain names with the main aim of re-selling them.

*The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:*

- *Public consultations are infrequent and always follow consultation with members.*
- *Concerning administrations' access to data via RDAP, Afnic confirmed that each access would be subject to an agreement encompassing the use of the data provided and the authorised accesses. There was a suggestion that Afnic should follow the example of Pharos, which makes agreements with trusted third parties, with an example of a framework agreement.*
- *Concerning the detection of abuse by Abuse Report:*
  - o *After detection, Afnic will classify the cases of abuse using tools currently in the process of being developed. It will then instigate justification procedures, leaving room for mutual discussions and for rectification by the holder.*
  - o *Afnic currently uses Spamhaus, for example, but also ICANN's DAAR tool; in terms of volume, approximately 3,500 domain names have been identified as carrying abuse out of a total of 4 million .fr domain names.*
  - o *Abuse Report will allow Afnic to provide the registrars with the result of the detections of cases of abuse in their portfolio. The registrars have means (other than justification) vis-à-vis the holders that have contracted with them to put a stop to this abuse.*
- *Concerning the verification of holders' particulars, Afnic will rely on the systems already put in place by the registrars so as not to re-verify data already validated by them.*
- *Concerning the graduated sanctions for the registrars, any that serve as refuge for scams will be sanctioned or even disaccredited.*

## 5. Report on subjects submitted for consultation

### 5.1. RDAP: Access to the WHOIS database for public authorities with a right of communication

#### 5.1.1. Presentation by Afnic

Marianne Georgelin presented the project:

#### RDAP: Access to the WHOIS database for public authorities with a right of communication

##### Via WHOIS

- It is impossible to give differentiated rights to users depending on their profiles.
- Access to particulars of private individual holders is restricted publication by default.
- To gain access to these data, public authorities must send their request to Afnic based on their right of communication (article of law granting and delimiting their right of access to personal data)

##### Via the RDAP

- Differentiation of access to data: allow public authorities with a right of communication to have direct access to the registry database.
- Access to data of a private individual holder based on a search of either the domain name or the NIC handle.
- Only information on the contact holder attached to the domain name or the NIC Handle are disclosed. No access to the complete portfolio of a holder.
- Other requests (e.g. history, particulars of the administrative or technical contact, etc.) will not be dealt with through the RDAP: the right of communication will continue to be exercised with Afnic.

## Secured implementation of the project

- Creation of authenticated user accounts allowing the public authorities to connect to the RDAP and make their requests.
- Securing the information system (e.g. avoid mass requests)
  - Identification of all user requests: traceability
  - Possibility of rapid suspension of access
  - Limits on the volume of requests
  - Connection by dual authentication
- Accesses of the public authority (its profile) are defined on the basis of its rights of communication.
- Allocation of nominative accounts for users designated by the public authority
- Creation of user accounts by Afnic after validation of a licensing contract by the public authority.

## Timetable

**12 May 2022:** consultative committee meetings

**May 2022:** identification of the administrations concerned (right of communication)

**June 2022:** discussions with the CNIL (French Data Protection Agency)

**September 2022:** public consultation

**October 2022:** consultation with the Registry Policies Committee

**1 December 2022:** publication of registry policy documents

**1 January 2023:** launch of the service

*The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:*

- *20% of requests for lifting of anonymity are made by these authorities.*
  - *RDAP has been in place for a long time as regards gTLDs.*
  - *Rejections of requests for the lifting of anonymity are not necessarily linked to abusive requests and Afnic does not envisage alerting the holders.*
- Requests for the lifting of anonymity are analysed case by case by the legal department. Requesting parties are required to demonstrate a prior right.*

### 5.1.2. Feedback from Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees

User and registrar members raised some concerns/points for vigilance in implementing this access to holders' particulars by the authorities.

- How secure is liaison with the public authorities? After all, RDAP as a protocol is used for many other things.
- Authentication and verification must be very strict. (See if authentications could be cross-checked).
- Which public authorities, and on what are their requests based?
- Access should not be extended to other authorities.
- Which data would be accessible?
- Need for a commitment on the part of the authority to respect the confidentiality of the data made accessible. The data must not be made public.
- What about information on private individuals whose particulars are consulted by the authorities? Do the registrars also need to be informed?
  - o Example: if a holder were to ask his Registrar or Afnic for all the consultations to which his particulars had been subjected? The controller (WHOIS) should document these accesses upstream in case such a request should be made.
- Add to Afnic's general conditions that authorities may have access to holders' particulars.
- Who will know how the system is used?
- The "industrialisation" of lifting of anonymity is a risk, this procedure already being opaque. Individual validation of each request seems preferable.
- Transparency: what statistics will Afnic publish on the number of requests for access by which public authorities and for what purpose(s)?
- Attention needs to be paid to maintaining the freedom of expression and to issuers of alerts.

*Afnic summarised the members' feedback, responded in part to the committees' questions and observations and said it would study the rest later.*

- *Members' recommendations on the scoping of the exercise: individual request, limited rights of access, etc. providing this does not call into question the commitments we have made to the State.*
- *Members' recommendations on implementation: put in place a security and traceability method so that we know, in the event of a problem, who has made which request on the basis of what right.*
- *Members question on current procedures for lifting anonymity: how was the holder to be informed? Under the rules currently in force, Afnic does not inform holders of the existence of a request for disclosure of their personal data. However, all holders are informed when registering their domain name of the existence of this procedure and*

*of their rights relating to the protection of their personal data. But this is not the subject of today's consultation.*

- *The consultation of members concerns the lifting of anonymity via the RDAP protocol, replacing the current traditional procedure, for authorities having a right of communication provided by the law.*
- *The list of administrations entitled to such access will be published.*
- *The statistics could be integrated into Afnic's activity report, for example, as a token of transparency.*

## 5.2. FR CHECK

### 5.2.1. Presentation by Afnic

Marianne Georgelin presented the project.

#### Description of the project

- Tool allowing a domain name with a holder not eligible for the naming charter (non-EU) to be identified **as soon as it is registered** and **before its publication**.
- The FR CHECK tool probes all .fr domain name create operations and identifies those for which the holders have given the **country code of a country outside the EU and EFTA**.
- As soon as the tool detects a domain name corresponding to this category, the DN is **automatically blocked** between its creation and its publication in the DNS (a process triggered before each publication).
- A justification procedure is then initiated and applied in the following manner:
  - Automatic blocking of the domain name via the FR Check tool
  - Notification to the parties (automatic) of the opening of the procedure
  - Duration of the blocking of a domain name: 30 days maximum.

From the opening of the procedure:

1. The registrar requests the immediate deletion of the domain name
  - ➔ Unblocking of the name by Afnic and deletion by the registrars, without redemption

2. The registrar or the holder responds to request the unblocking of the domain name for an update domain operation to be carried out:
  - ➔ Temporary 48 or 72 hour unblocking;
  - ➔ Verification by Afnic of the change of contact after the 48 or 72 hour period;
  - ➔ New blocking if no action by the registrar, for the remaining duration;
3. No response from the Registrar or Holder or no change of contact by the registrar
  - ➔ Deletion of the domain name after 30 days.

## Timetable

**12 May 2022:** consultative committees: presentation of the project

**June 2022:** consultation with the Registry Policies Committee

**June 2022 – September 2022:** public consultation

**November/December 2022:**

- adoption of the amendments to the Naming Charter by the Board
- publication of registry policy documents

Launch of the service by year-end

*The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:*

- *Certain registrars have erected “barriers” in their systems to comply with the charter.*
- *The plan is first of all to test this arrangement with holder eligibility data.*
- *For registrars that already carry out verifications, nothing will change.*
- *The domain names will be suspended and the status “Hold” will appear in the WHOIS.*
- *Volume: average 5% out of a total of 2,500 domain names registered every day, with peaks of up to 20%.*
- *Afnic analyses the situations case by case and, for example, allows French citizens based abroad to correct their data.*
- *In general, all the systems put in place by Afnic and the registrars are sufficiently dissuasive as regards abuse with .fr domain names*



## 5.2.2. Feedback from Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees

User and registrar members are of the opinion that the principle of FR CHECK is a very good thing that it constitutes a first step against scams. They stressed the following points:

- Positive: prevention of certain foreseeable administrative scams, heightened protection of end users and consumers
- Would the naming charter need amendment?
- How long would blocking last?
- Would there be a check on the Country? Other particulars such as postcode and city in the future?
- Risk of creating a false data/false positive factory, which could complicate the task of rights holders
- Financial impact: if a domain name was rejected, what if anything is reimbursed?

*Afnic responded in part to the committees' questions and observations and said it would study the rest later.*

- *Concerning the five-day grace period before DNs are invoiced to the registrar: if the domain name is deleted before the end of this five-day period, it is not invoiced, otherwise it is invoiced even if it is not ultimately published.*
- *Concerning the control criteria:*
  - o *No risk of false positives on the country eligibility criterion.*
  - o *System developments allowing other criteria to be taken into account would need to be re-discussed in consultative committee.*
- *The new feature contributed by this project is the possibility of uncoupling registration from publication of a domain name.*
- *Concerning the "false data factory": if opportunistic cybersquatters were tempted to provide false data on location in France as opposed to their real location in a non-EU country, Afnic would be able to instigate justification procedures.*

## 5.3. Publication of the daily list of domain names registered as open data

### 5.3.1. Presentation by Afnic


Régis Massé presented the project.

## Daily publication of domain names

Afnic publishes the list of domain names registered every day under the .fr and French overseas TLDs on its website.

The data are available on a seven-day sliding basis for each TLD.

At present, the data are accessible via image-type files (png).



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- OPEN DATA : UNE VUE EXHAUSTIVE DE L'ACTIVITÉ DU .FR
- QUELS NOMS DE DOMAINE DÉRIVENT D'UN PRÉNOM ?
- OPEN DATA : LES DONNÉES EXPLOITABLES
- LISTE QUOTIDIENNE DES NOMS DE DOMAINE ENREGISTRÉS
- MENTIONS LÉGALES POUR L'UTILISATION DE NOS SERVICES GRATUITS
- SQUAW : LE SERVICE QUALIFIÉ D'ACCÈS AUX « DONNÉES WHOIS »

### Liste quotidienne des noms de domaine enregistrés

Depuis le 3 juillet 2012, en accord avec le Code des Postes et des Communications Électroniques, nous publions les listes quotidiennes des noms de domaine enregistrés au format UTF8 pour chacune des extensions suivantes : .fr, .re, .yt, .tf, .wf et .pm. Ces informations, disponibles pendant 7 jours, vous permettent de suivre les dernières tendances en termes de nommage pour ces domaines :

#### .fr

22/04/2022	20220422_CREA_fr.png - 583,08 KB
21/04/2022	20220421_CREA_fr.png - 651,24 KB
20/04/2022	20220420_CREA_fr.png - 648,64 KB
19/04/2022	20220419_CREA_fr.png - 612,17 KB
18/04/2022	20220418_CREA_fr.png - 349,84 KB
17/04/2022	20220417_CREA_fr.png - 218,33 KB
16/04/2022	20220416_CREA_fr.png - 300,39 KB

#### .re

22/04/2022	20220422_CREA_re.png - 20,11 KB
21/04/2022	20220421_CREA_re.png - 20,78 KB
20/04/2022	20220420_CREA_re.png - 20,2 KB
19/04/2022	20220419_CREA_re.png - 19,18 KB
18/04/2022	20220418_CREA_re.png - 17,83 KB
17/04/2022	20220417_CREA_re.png - 17,56 KB
16/04/2022	20220416_CREA_re.png - 17,92 KB

## Switch to open data

Afnic has decided to communicate the daily list of domain names in the open data format

- Daily provision of the list of domain names in a file in text format (csv)
- Publication of a file for each TLD (.fr and the French overseas TLDs)

Launch of this development: 1 July 2022

Work is under way with Etalab aimed at publishing all data in OpenData on a dedicated page of the data.gouv.fr website

### 5.3.2. Feedback from Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees

The user and registrar members stressed the following points:

- The current png format is, in any case, machine readable
- If a holder files a domain name for a project, how can we ensure that it is not published for a certain time?

*Afnic responded in part to the committees' questions and observations and said it would study the rest later.*

- *Concerning the remarks on the project, Afnic reminded members that the daily publication of domain names was a legal obligation so there is no possibility of not publishing it*
- *Fulfilling this obligation does not present any particular difficulty for Afnic. It is possible that this publication would entail a slight increase in cases of spamming for holders in comparison with the current publication of this list in image format.*

## 5.4. Creation of a liaison committee on DNS and domain name regulations between public authorities and French DNS players

### 5.4.1. Presentation by Afnic

Pierre Bonis indicated that Afnic had committed to putting in place a liaison committee with the State.

No real use is currently made of the possibility of consultation between DNS players and the legislator.

A start had already been made on a liaison committee with Afnic, Gandi, OVH and I&I who had appeared before the European Commission in connection with the NIS2 Directive.

Afnic is now launching a call for applications to members wishing to form part of this liaison committee.

By means of legislative watch newsletters, when Afnic sees something occurring, it could offer to help the DGE with expertise, impact studies, etc. – the liaison committee would be available. This is important, for example, to bring influence to bear before the validation of laws affecting the DNS.

### Promoting the specialist expertise of the French DNS players

The liaison committee should consist of the public powers (legislative and executive) and personalities, businesses and associations who have knowledge of the DNS, both technically and because it forms the basis of their business model.

#### The Aim:

At a time when regulations and legislative and regulatory changes are up to date and in order, to inform public decisions upstream and better prepare ourselves collectively.

#### The Agenda:

Call for volunteers from today, constitution of the committee (which will remain open) by 1 July.

*Exchanges and questions-and-answers between members and Afnic:*

- *Revealed interest on the part of several registrar and user members in joining the liaison committee.*

- *Gave rise to the suggestion that members of the liaison committee be recruited from among:
 
  - o *the Afnic Scientific Council*
  - o *academic experts**
- *Concerning the suggestion that ISPs be included in the committee, their input would be useful but they must not be allowed to slow down the committee, since ISPs' public affairs do not necessarily work with resolution technicians in-house. Besides, ISPs regularly see the State on other matters, not the DNS.*

### 5.4.2. Feedback from Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees

The user and registrar members approved the creation of this liaison committee and agreed on its usefulness. They stressed the following points:

- The liaison committee should deal with technical issues but also with legislative matters.
- Who could be on the committee apart from Afnic members?
- Afnic members were keen to participate in the liaison committee, which could include all the members.

*Afnic responded in part to the committees' questions and observations and said it would study the rest later.*

- *Concerning non-members, the CEO of Afnic will take charge of recruiting people from outside.*
- *Concerning the appropriateness of discussing with all the members, it agrees to a certain extent without this meaning that they will all be on the liaison committee.*
- *Concerning the positions to be maintained or defended, these would be defined by the liaison committee and drawn up by its participants, who will be called upon to contribute depending on the subjects.*
- *Contributing members will be selected naturally depending on the subjects.*

The Chief Executive Officer thanked members for their valuable feedback on the subjects discussed, which would be reported to the Board.

## 6. Miscellaneous

Sébastien Bachollet indicated to Afnic that user and registrar members were available for online meetings of specific committees on subjects such as RDAP or FR CHECK.

### Update on the Digital Identity Working Group

Benoit Ampeau presented this update.

The project had arisen from an interest in using the domain name for digital identity services.

ID4ME: carrying digital identity via a domain name and using it to identify oneself (in competition with Google Connect).

Afnic thanked all the members already participating and reiterated that other members could still join the working group.

After a general presentation, a second session had been devoted to the user journey, the third to case studies and contributions from business, and the fourth would be to update the market study to see the deployment in the current context.

The challenge facing this working group is not the technology, which works, but how to deploy this solution.

Sébastien Bachollet pointed out that the subject concerns both registrars and users. Support would be useful and Afnic's teams need members' input and a variety of points of view.

## 7. Report on subjects of information and discussion items with members

### 7.1. Market trends in domain names

Loic Damilaville presented the market trends in domain names to members.

Exceptionally, the presentation is available online in the members' space.

### 7.2. Report on international bodies

Lucien Castex reported on Afnic's participation in international bodies through various employees.

The presentation is available online in the members' space.

Pierre Bonis reminded members that as well as Afnic staff, numerous members of Afnic and of its board of directors also take part in these various meetings.

There is a new generation of engineers in the IT and R&D departments who also contribute and make presentations.

Pierre Bonis reiterated the position of Afnic concerning Ukraine and Russia: our responsibility is to keep the Internet running in accordance with the established rules and protocols. To change protocols would be to admit that China and Russia were right in saying that the Internet is not neutral. For Afnic, it is important that the Internet remain neutral and open.

## 8. Upcoming diary dates

The Afnic General Meeting and annual dinner will take place on 10 June.

The next **users' and registrars' consultative committee meetings** will take place on **18 October 2022** at Afnic's offices.