



.ga domain names soon to return to Gabonese management

Libreville, 30 May 2023: ANINF, the National Agency for Digital Infrastructure and Frequencies of the Gabonese Republic, will take over the full management of the registry and its national TLD '.ga' as of Saturday 3 June 2023. In a country with a booming economy, this change in governance has been in the making for a long time in order to better accompany domain name holders and the digital ecosystem. A back-end registry operator switch-over will be carried out with the support of Afnic, the French Network Information Centre.

Due to the failure of the company Freenom, which has managed the .ga TLD up until now, to provide the Internet community with a satisfactory service, the Gabonese authorities decided to terminate the current contract and bring the management of Gabon's national TLD back in house. This decision is backed by the country's need, as the third largest economy in Central Africa, for reliable digital tools to support the online presence of businesses, associations, institutions and private individuals.

7 June: .ga domains will be switched over to ANINF with the technical assistance of Afnic

For the past year, ANINF has turned to Afnic for technical and operational assistance in its task of taking back the management of the .ga TLD, a cornerstone in the reassertion of its digital sovereignty. In early June, ANINF and Afnic will carry out the switch-over of the registration and resolution infrastructure for .ga domain names back to Gabon and its service provider Afnic.

The TLD will be operated and managed to the highest standards of service quality and security, and will play an integral role in the development of the Internet in Gabon. For all that, ANINF and the Gabonese Internet community wish for their domain to remain open to the entire world, and for it to be of use to all those, whether private individuals, associations or businesses, with an interest in or fondness for Gabon.

Towards a sound basis to support a dynamic digital ecosystem

ANINF estimates that there are currently over 7 million domain names in stock in the .ga name base. However, independent bodies consider that there is widespread technical abuse on '.ga' domain names. As part of this switch-over operation, several million domain names will be deleted as the previous operator has not provided the data that concern them.

In order to minimise the impact of these deletions on the digital ecosystem, ANINF is conducting a vast awareness campaign among the entire registrar network. The goal is to ensure the transition of their current customers' domain names and facilitate access to the new domain name registration system. The campaign will also target the general public.

This is not the first time that Afnic will provide technical assistance to a major TLD. Known for its role in managing 4 million '.fr' domain names and 20 TLDs, it supports active domains, whether they are big brands like '.mma' and '.leclerc' or ccTLDs like '.sn'.

About ANINF

The *Agence Nationale des Infrastructures Numériques et des Fréquences* (ANINF), is an organisation tasked with managing the digital infrastructure and frequencies of the Gabonese Republic. It is responsible for overseeing and promoting the development of the country's telecoms and Internet infrastructure on behalf of the State.

One of the core responsibilities of ANINF is to ensure the management of the .ga domain name, the country-code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) for Gabon. As registry, ANINF is tasked with receiving, registering and maintaining domain names ending in .ga.

The role of ANINF as registry involves guaranteeing the availability and stability of .ga domain names and ensuring that registrations comply with the established policies and regulations. This allows businesses, organisations and private individuals in Gabon to benefit from an identifiable online presence thanks to a .ga domain name.

In addition to managing the .ga domain, ANINF also works to promote access to information and communication technologies (ITC) across the country, thus encouraging the development of the Gabonese digital sector and contributing to the digital inclusion of the population.

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About Afnic

Afnic is the acronym for *Association Française pour le Nommage Internet en Coopération*, the French Network Information Centre. The registry has been appointed by the French government to manage domain names under the .fr Top-Level Domain. Afnic also manages the .re (Reunion Island), .pm (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), .tf (French Southern and Antarctic Territories), .wf (Wallis and Futuna) and .yt (Mayotte) French Overseas TLDs. In addition to managing French TLDs, Afnic's role is part of a wider public interest mission, which is to contribute on a daily basis, thanks to the efforts of its teams and its members, to a secure and stable Internet, open to innovation and in which the French Internet community plays a leading role.

That being the case, Afnic, as a non-profit association, has committed to devoting 11% of its Revenues from the .FR TLD to actions of general interest, in particular by transferring €1.3 million each year to the [Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity](#).

Afnic is also the back-end registry for the companies as well as local and regional authorities that have chosen to have their own TLD, such as .paris, .bzh, .alsace, .corsica, .mma, .ovh, .leclerc and .snf.

Established in 1997 and based in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Afnic currently has some 90 employees. For more information, visit www.afnic.fr.

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