

# **SGNIC Rules' Enforcement**

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# Agenda



- Role of SGNIC vs other Agencies
  - Registration/Management of Domain Names
  - Website Content & Control
  - Dispute Resolution Framework
  - Spam, Phishing, Fraud, etc
- SGNIC's Policy Agreements
- Cases

# Role of SGNIC vs other Agencies (1/5)



- Registration and Management of Domain Names
  - SGNIC, a wholly owned subsidiary under the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA)
- Website Content & Control
  - Media Development Authority (MDA)
  - All complaints/queries/feedback will be forwarded to MDA
- Dispute Resolution Framework
  - Singapore Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (SDRP)
  - Administered by the Singapore Mediation Council (SMC)
  - Complainants advised to lodge their cases directly with SMC
- Other Issues like fraud, phishing, spam
  - IDA, Singapore Police Force (SPF)

# Role of SGNIC vs other Agencies (2/5)



- Registration and management of names
  - Joint effort by both registry & registrars to ensure policies are adhered to
  
- Registrar Efforts
  - First-level screening of names
  - Category eligibility e.g. .com.sg, .edu.sg
  - Verification of registrant contact details
  
- Registry Efforts
  - Maintains a reserved list of offensive words
  - Second-level screening of names
    - Demarcation of responsibility between SGNIC and MDA not clear-cut.
    - Agreed procedures are: If names carry potentially offensive connotations, further clarifications will be made via the registrar:
      - Background info of organisation
      - Purpose of website
      - Likely content of website
      - Reasons for choosing that particular name

- Website content & control
  - Overseen by the Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA)
  - Upon receiving complaints, contents suspected of touching on the areas below will be referred to MDA and where necessary, to other relevant regulator authorities
- Contentious areas:
  - Pornography (MDA)
  - Religious sensitivity (MDA)
  - Race and language sensitivity (MDA)
  - Sales of drugs (MOH)
  - Gambling (Police)

# Role of SGNIC vs other Agencies (4/5)



- Singapore Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (SDRP)
  - Jointly developed by SGNIC and the Singapore Mediation Council (SMC)
  - Currently administered by SMC
- Complaints based on 3 premises:
  - Domain name is used in bad faith
  - Domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark of which the Registrant has no right to
  - Registrant has no right or legitimate interest to the domain name
- SGNIC will follow panel decision
  - Transfer name to Complainant
  - Delete the name from the system

- Spam
  - IDA Spam Control Act
    - Implemented in June 2007
    - Framework for managing unsolicited bulk messages
    - Statutory penalty = \$25 per message up to a maximum of S\$1million
    - So far no known fines being meted out
  
- Phishing, Fraud, etc
  - Relevant authorities will be involved eg. Singapore Police Force (SPF), IDA, etc
  - SGNIC will work with them if neccessary

# SGNIC Policy Agreements



- Clauses worded into both the Registrant Agreement (RA) and the Registration Policies, Procedures and Guidelines (RPPG)
  - Gives SGNIC flexibility and power
- Applicant needs to warrant that the domain name
  - Does not infringe on another trademark
  - Is not identical to or confusingly similar to a trademark
  - Does not infringe on the rights of third parties
- Domain name can be deleted:
  - Upon breach of any clause of the RA
  - Upon request from a Singapore court or any regulatory or government authority
  - In SGNIC's determination, and sole & absolute opinion, that the name is contrary to law, undesirable or obtained by fraud/misrepresentation

- Fraud Case

- A few thousand names were registered by a registrant
- Registrant realised his identity was stolen and used in registration when an SDRP complaint proceeding was lodged by another party
- A formal police report on identify theft was submitted by the registrant
- SGNIC eventually deleted those names

- Content Issue

- A particular domain name held pornographic material and had links to gambling sites
- Case referred to MDA who eventually advised SGNIC to remove the name

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**~Q&A~**