



Domain Name Management in the UAE

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The TRA and the .ae ccTLD

- The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) is the General Authority for regulating the Telecommunications Sector in the UAE
- The TRA was established in 2003 by the Federal Law by Decree 3 of 2003 (known as the Telecom Law).
- The TRA is mandated by the telecom law and its Executive Order to set the regulatory framework for the internet networks and services.



.ae – A Brief History

- UAEnic (United Arab Emirates Network Information Centre) currently registers the .ae domain
- UAEnic has performed this role since 1995



.ae – The Future

- The global growth of internet use has led to a significant integration of domain names with business
- Strategic framework and infrastructure will be required to accommodate further growth of the .ae namespace



.ae – The Future

- The government of the UAE recognises the importance of the .ae domain name and the DNS infrastructure as a public asset, and is seeking to promote:
 - Accountability
 - Transparency
 - Performance



.ae – Transition Plan

REVIEW

- Review
- Utilise External Consultancy
- Examine 'Worlds Best Practice'
- Compile Detailed List of Recommendations

STAGE 1

- Implementation Phase
- Develop Technical Framework
- Develop Policy Framework
- Develop Administrative Framework
- Recruit Staff
- Establish aeDA Entity
- Go Live

STAGE 2

- Operational Independence
- Self Funding
- Internally Resourced

STAGE 3

- Governance Independence
- Board Structure finalised and fulfilled



.ae – Review Process

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- The TRA reviewed the framework, governance and administration of the .ae domain name in Q4 2006
- UAEnic will pass IANA delegation of .ae to the TRA
- Anticipated launch of new systems and management structure in Q4 2007



.ae – Review Process

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- The .ae namespace review process examined the following key areas:
 - Administrative Framework
 - Policy Framework
 - Technical Framework
 - Registry Model



.ae – Review Process

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- The main features of the new regime will include:

- World's best practice Registry System
- New domain name policy
- Competitive domain name industry – Registry/Registrar Model

Continued...



.ae – Review Process

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- The main features of the new regime will include:
 - New Regulatory Body – ae Domain Administration (aeDA)
 - Improved consumer safeguards



.ae – Review Process

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- The new regime will increase the clarity of the roles within the industry, perpetuate growth of the namespace and promote competition



.ae – Three Stage Plan

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- Stage 1 – Implementation:
 - Establish the aeDA within the TRA to manage the Registry Operations and administrative and regulatory affairs



.ae – Three Stage Plan

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- Stage 2 – Operational Independence:
 - The aeDA organisation continues to manage and grow the namespace until the point at which the organisation becomes self funding



.ae – Three Stage Plan

REVIEW

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

- Stage 3 – Governance Independence:
 - The TRA will transition the aeDA to an independent entity endorsed by the TRA



The aeDA's Role

- The aeDA's role will be to:
 - Manage the operation of the Registry System
 - Develop and execute policy
 - Grow, develop and market the .ae namespace
 - Accredite and manage .ae Registrars

Continued...



The aeDA's Role

- The aeDA's role will be to:
 - Educate the public, delivering and promoting the .ae domain name
 - Facilitate the .ae Dispute Resolution Policy
 - Represent .ae at International Forums



.ae – Policy and Administrative

- The TRA has drawn on the experiences of others to help in the set up of the aeDA Policy
- At all points during the review process, the cultural and moral values of the UAE were considered



.ae – Policy and Administrative

- The aeDA will have dedicated roles to assist Registrars and Registrants
 - Policy Officer
 - Registrar Liaison
 - Customer Support Representatives
 - Technical Support



.ae – Policy and Administrative

- The aeDA will make all efforts to ensure that the process has minimal impact, however, it will be inevitable that some individuals and organisations may be affected





- aeDA vision:

- To make the .ae domain name the definitive and default location where the internet using public of the UAE can be represented on the World Wide Web



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THANK YOU

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