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

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.ae – Review Process

- 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

- The .ae namespace review process examined the following key areas:
  - Administrative Framework
  - Policy Framework
  - Technical Framework
  - Registry Model
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…
The main features of the new regime will include:

- New Regulatory Body – ae Domain Administration (aeDA)
- Improved consumer safeguards
.ae – Review Process

- 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

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

- 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

- 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
  • Accredit 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
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