



# .UK Policy Consultation Roundtable

04.12.2019

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# Today

*9:00 Arrival Tea and coffee*

9:30 Phishing

*11:00 Tea and coffee break*

11:30 Landing pages

*13:00 – 14:00: Lunch break*

14:00 Drop lists

*15:30 Tea and coffee and close*

# Session structure

Introduction – responses and issues (20 mins)

Questions – discussions in tables (30 mins)

Report back to group (30 mins)

Summing up (10 mins)

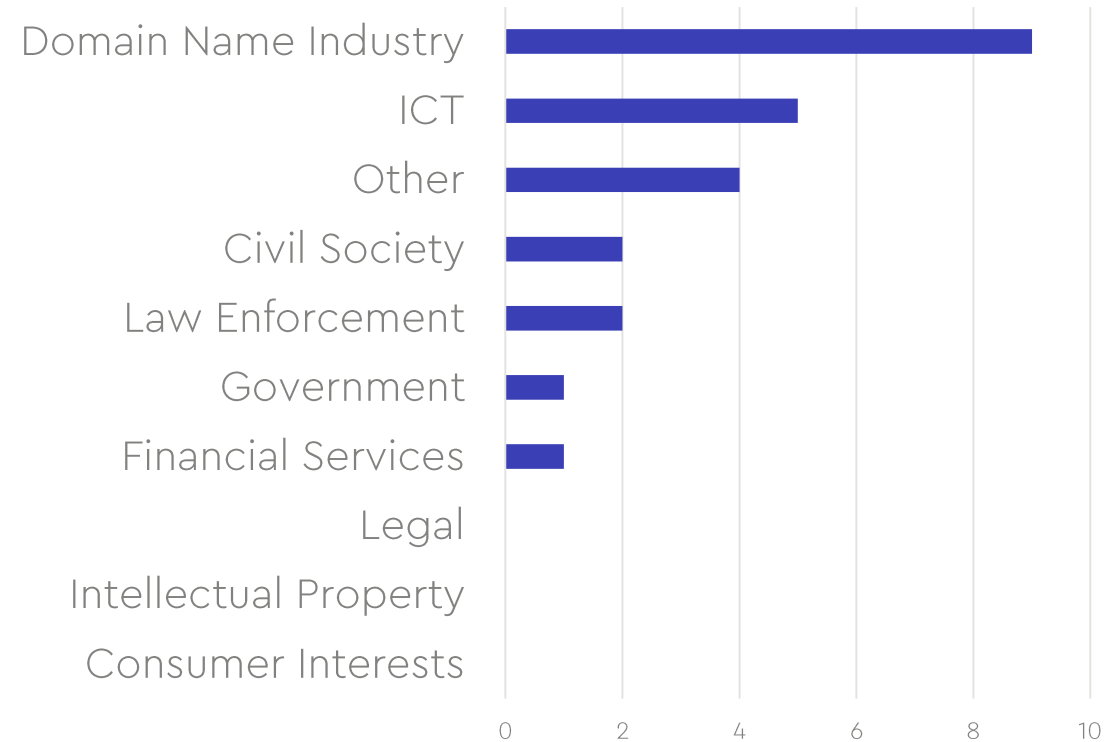
# Responses

24 responses

90% .UK registrants

60% registrars

Other includes: Health - Nurse/Author,  
Internet User, Executive Agency



# Phishing

9:30am – 11:30am

# Nominet

Since 1996 Nominet have operated at the heart of the UK's internet community as the .UK domain name registry.

We believe in a world that is connected, inclusive and secure.

Our policies provide the framework of principles which ensure this ambition is reflected in the .UK namespace.



Connected



Inclusive



Secure

# Phishing - Agenda

Objective: initial responses and discuss emerging questions/solutions

9:30 Introduction – responses and issues (20 mins)

9:50 Questions – discussions in tables (30 mins)

10:20 Report back to group (30 mins)

10:50 Summing up (10 mins)

11am Tea & coffee

# Phishing – Welcome!

Round the table introductions 😊

- Domain industry
- Intellectual property experts
- Consumer organisations



# Phishing – Issue

Masquerading by criminals as an apparently trustworthy entity in order to acquire usernames, passwords, bank details or other information

- Most prevalent security threat in .UK
- Reported by UK organisations as one of the most disruptive types of cyber attacks
- Costs rising each year

# DOMAIN WATCH

Nominet's anti-phishing initiative to further increase the security of the .UK zone is designed to quickly identify and suspend newly registered domains that are obvious phishing attempts. If a domain is suspended, the registrant will receive an email informing them what has happened, together with the next steps required if they feel the suspension was not correctly applied.



suspended pending additional checks



successfully passed additional due diligence and completed the registration process

## EXAMPLES OF DOMAINS SUSPENDED THROUGH DOMAIN WATCH:

### Private Sector:

- login-micorosoftoffice.co.uk
- office365-loginsecure.co.uk
- netflx.uk
- billings-amaz0n.co.uk
- barcleys.uk
- hsbcbankonlinetransfer.co.uk

### Public Sector:

- british-gov.uk
- hmrc-taxrefund-gov.co.uk
- govuk-companieshouse.co.uk
- hmrc-gov.org.uk

# Phishing – Questions

1. Do you agree that we should update our policies to specifically allow us to prevent resolution in the DNS where we have identified a high risk of phishing use?[y/n]
2. If no, why not? [freetext]
3. Do you have any other suggestions or thoughts as to how phishing may be prevented and/or mitigated in .UK? [freetext]
4. What other security threats should Nominet prioritise as part of our commitment to a secure and trusted .UK namespace, and reduce cybercrime in the UK? [freetext]

# Phishing – Initial Responses

Strong support for Nominet to prevent resolution in the DNS where we have identified a high risk of phishing use.

Other security threats suggested as focus: use of email for phishing.

Additional suggestions include

- More collaboration b/w suppliers
- Identity verification for registrants
- Training for registrar and hosting providers on abuse generally
- Offer phishing protection for brands to buy in Domain Watch
- Landing pages?

# Phishing – Discussion today

1. Collaboration – what training/support would be useful for registrars/others?
2. Do you have any other suggestions or thoughts as to how phishing may be prevented and/or mitigated in .UK?
3. Should brands be able to pay for protection in Domain Watch?
4. Should domains suspended for phishing risk have landing pages?
5. Unintended consequences?

# Landing Pages

11:30am – 1pm

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# Landing pages – Agenda

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11:30 Introduction – responses and issues (20 mins)

11:50 Questions – discussions in tables (30 mins)

12:30 Report back to group (30 mins)

12:50 Summing up (10 mins)

13:00 Lunch



# Landing pages – Welcome!

Round the table introductions 😊

- Domain industry
- Intellectual property experts
- Civil society advocating rights and freedoms
- Consumer organisations
- Law enforcement agencies

Nominet expressly prohibits .UK domains from being used for any unlawful purpose.  
When alerted by law enforcement agencies, we work quickly with our registrars to suspend domains.  
Suspended domains cannot be used as part of website or email addresses.



1. Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU)
2. Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
3. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)
4. Trading Standards
5. National Crime Agency (NCA)
6. Fraud And Linked Crime Online
7. Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)
8. The Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU)
9. Veterinary Medicines Directorate (DEFRA)
10. Ministry of Defence Police

over 13 million

.UK domains registered



28,937

domains suspended for criminal activity  
(compared to 32,813 in the previous year)

#### RANGE OF LEGISLATION CITED FOR SUSPENSION REQUESTS INCLUDED:

- Fraud Act 2006
- Trade Marks Act 1994
- Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
- Human Medicines Regulations 2012
- Medical Device Regulations 2002
- Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008
- The Electronic Commerce Regulations 2002
- The Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013
- Financial Services and Markets Act 2000

# BREAKDOWN BY REQUESTING AGENCY

Total number of requests - 28,953



Medicines and  
Healthcare Products  
Regulatory Agency  
(MHRA)



Financial Conduct  
Authority (FCA)



Trading Standards (TS)



National Fraud  
Intelligence Bureau  
(NFIB)



Police Intellectual  
Property Crime Unit  
(PIPCU)

# Landing Pages – Issue

No information for internet users on why the domain is not resolving – error message

Opportunity to provide information in public interest

- Improve transparency for internet users
- Prevent further harm
- Encourage reporting to help investigations

# Landing Pages

## Consultation Questions

4. What do you think about the principle that a domain which has been suspended for criminal use should be directed by Nominet to an informational landing page? [freetext]

5. We currently suspend domains for the remainder of the term of registration, or 12 months if that is longer than the remaining unexpired term. But this practice is not currently formalised in policy. Do you agree that this period is sufficient, and that we should formalise the suspension period in our policies? [y/n] & [freetext]

# Landing Pages – Principle

General support for the principle of landing pages.

## Concerns

- Must increase - not decrease - public trust in the internet
- Could be a "public statement of guilt"
- UK LEAs must ensure high standards of due diligence and increase technical understanding
- False positives - may affect legitimate businesses and should be resolved quickly
- Education on safety is paramount, we should not frighten people
- Information provided must easy to consume - not be too detailed and confusing
- Tailored v specific to LEA/criminality
- Desire for registrars to know which domains are suspended for criminal activity

# Landing Pages – Time period of suspension

Support for formalising

- Some suggestions to suspend longer / indefinitely / add to "black list"
- 12 months suggested as minimum

Background – since implementation in 2014

- ~92K suspended for criminal activity
- ~3,500 cancelled and re-registered – these are still live, although there is no indication of them now being illegitimate registrations
- ~260 were cancelled, re-registered and then suspended again on an LEA request.

## DOMAIN SUSPENDED

You have been redirected to this landing page because Nominet has been notified by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) that the domain you attempted to visit is being used for criminal activity.

The NFIB is working closely with counter fraud partners across the UK and abroad to reduce the harm caused by criminals committing fraud.

If you have been affected by activity associated with the suspended website please contact Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime by visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

If you are the registrant and believe this domain is no longer being used for criminal activity, please contact the NFIB: [contact].

Nominet operates at the heart of the UK internet infrastructure, responsible for running the .UK domain. We work with law enforcement agencies to help protect internet users from criminality online.  
[[www.nominet.uk/criminalityreport](http://www.nominet.uk/criminalityreport)]



Example of generic



## DOMAIN SUSPENDED

Nominet, the national .UK domain name registry works with UK law enforcement agencies to help protect internet users from criminality online.

.UK domain names can be suspended a number of reasons. Reasons include a UK law enforcement agency certifying that the domain has been used for criminal activity, a domain that has been compromised by a malicious third party as part of a cyber security incident and the operation of a court order. For more information on domain suspensions in .UK:

[www.nominet.uk/criminalityreport](http://www.nominet.uk/criminalityreport)

For advice on how to stay safe online, please visit the following UK government organisations:

Buying medicine



Avoiding financial  
scams



[fca.org.uk](http://fca.org.uk)

Reporting fraud and  
cybercrime



# Landing pages – Discussion today

1. How do we ensure the text improves trust/does not scare people?
2. Generic v specific: Is a specific page required to ensure public benefit?
3. Should Nominet host the pages?
4. Should the time period be 12 months / 24 /indefinite?
5. Unintended consequences?

# Drop Lists

14:00 – 15:30

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# Drop Lists – Agenda

Objective: initial responses and discuss emerging questions/solutions

14:00 Introduction – responses and issues (20 mins)

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14:50 Report back to group (30 mins)

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15:30 Tea & Coffee

# Drop Lists – Welcome!

Round the table introductions 😊

- Domain industry
- Consumer organisations
- Law enforcement agencies

# .UK Drop List

- Current system unique to Nominet, evolved over many years
- We have not reviewed the process of releasing previously registered domains for many years (if ever)
- Unless you are an industry insider, it is very hard to understand when a domain will become available for re-registration



# .UK Drop List

## Current system: consequences

- Without a specific time point to aim at, secondary market is positively incentivised to copy substantial data from the registry database.
- Many thousands of requests are made over a 24 hour period to determine whether or not a domain is available to be registered. This reduces system availability for other services (EPP).
- Nominet members/ registrars are also positively incentivised to pool resources and game the AUPs to maximise their chances of success, leading in turn to compliance complaints.
- There is a clear perception that the benefits of Nominet membership are abused by a small minority.



# .UK Drop List

## Options

- Do nothing: keep as is
- Publish day only, keep random drops etc same
- Publish day and time (based on expiry) – staggered throughout the day
- Have specific time that drops would all occur each day
- RoR style release mechanism?
- Any other ideas ... ?

# .UK Drop List

## Consultation Questions

6. In principle, do you think Nominet should publish official information for **registrars** to clarify when expired domains will become available for general registration?

[y/n] a) If no, why not? [freetext]

7. Do you think that Nominet should encourage competition in the .UK secondary domains market? [y/n]

a) If yes, why do you think this is important? [freetext]

b) If no, why not? [freetext]

8. In principle, do you think Nominet should publish official information for the **general public** to clarify when expired domains will become available for general registration?

[y/n] a) If no, why not? [freetext]

9. Any other comments [freetext]

# .UK Drop List – responses so far

General support for implementing drop lists

Comments include

- Concerns a drop list would encourage "drop catching"
- Concerns a drop list would discourage "drop catching"
- Concerns around specific implementation and potential consequences for the DAC, an ROR style release process, create limits, multi-tagging
- Concerns the previous domain holders are currently "held to ransom" – suggestion of price restriction on re-sale within 1 year
- Suggestions that Nominet implement an auction model on expired domains to encourage market value for registrants – who would then select a preferred registrar (.ee model)

# .UK Drop List – Discussion today

1. What is your experience in other registries? How does drop catching work in .com, .au etc?
2. What are the consequences of other systems of domain release?
3. What do you think of the principles of an auction model for releasing sought after domains?
4. Unintended consequences?

# How to respond

nominet.uk/policy



16 December  
2019

Read the consultation  
document

Respond using  
the webform

## 2019 .UK Policy Consultation

[Our Policies](#)

[How We Develop .UK Policy](#)

[2019 .UK Policy Consultation](#)

[Previous Policy Discussions and Consultations](#)

We are currently consulting on three important issues:

- (i) Reducing the use of .UK domain names for phishing attacks
- (ii) Implementing law enforcement landing pages following suspensions for criminal activity
- (iii) Implementing a .UK drop list to provide a transparent and orderly process for the re-registration of expired domains

Ensuring .UK policies reflect current expectations of the UK internet community is an ongoing process of continuous improvement. We have included a forward-looking roadmap and invite stakeholders to submit issues of interest for consideration in future .UK policy discussions.

🕒 [Download the consultation document here](#)

🕒 [Respond to the consultation here](#)

🕒 [Attend the roundtable](#)

# Future policy discussions

Ensuring .UK policies reflect current expectations of the UK internet community is an ongoing process of continuous improvement.

We are considering several aspects of improvement for the .UK namespace including:

- Moving to an inter-registrar transfer system that is more widely adopted across the industry
- Standardising domain name renewals, expiry and cancellations in line with generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) by implementing RFC 3915 and a life cycle to match gTLDs.
- Removing the option for direct registration of domains with Nominet, without operating through a registrar

# Future policy discussions

We invite all stakeholders to suggest issues for consideration.

1. What is the issue?
2. Why is it important?
3. Who does it impact and how?
4. What suggestion do you think would provide a solution?

Email: [policy@nominet.uk](mailto:policy@nominet.uk)