

Tackling online criminal activity

NOMINET

1 November 2016 – 31 October 2017

Nominet is a technology company noted for running a key part of the UK internet infrastructure – the naming and addressing system for .UK domain names. We work with law enforcement agencies to help protect internet users from criminality online.



"A key part of our role in running the .UK internet infrastructure is to ensure that .UK is a difficult space for criminals to operate in. The upward trend in suspended domains confirms that increasingly criminals seek opportunities online, but also shows how our cooperation with the law enforcement community and our expertise in network analytics helps tackle this problem thanks to the established processes and cyber security tools we have in place.."

Russell Haworth, Nominet CEO

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

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.

10
enforcement agencies



16,632
domains suspended for criminal activity (compared to 8,049 in the previous year)

over
12 million
.UK domains registered

Range of legislation cited for suspension requests included:

The Fraud Act 2006; Trade Marks Act 1994; Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; Cancer Act 1939; Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; Human Medicines Regulations 2012; Medical Device Regulations 2002; Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008; Computer Misuse Act (1990); Education Reform Act (ERA) 1998; Companies Act 2006; Solicitors Act 1974; Toy Safety Regulations 2011; Identity Documents Act 2010; Financial Services and Markets Act 2000; Psychoactive Substances Act 2016; Sections 1 & 2 Terrorism Act 2006; and Sections 3 & 7 Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

1

DEFRA - Veterinary Medicines Directorate

1

Metropolitan Police – Fraud and Linked Crime Online (FALCON)

3

National Crime Agency (NCA)

99

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

131

Trading Standards (TS)

2,781

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)

13,616

Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU)

how it works



Law enforcement agency notifies Nominet that a domain is being used for criminal activity



Nominet makes administrative checks



Nominet notifies the registrant and works with the registrar to suspend the domain

requests not resulting in suspensions

32 requests

received in the specified 12 months that didn't result in suspensions



A suspension request may not result in a suspension for a number of reasons – for example, the domain may have already been suspended due to a duplicate request, or the domain may have already been transferred on a court order.

reversals

15

suspensions reversed

0

suspensions upheld

A suspension is reversed if the offending behaviour has stopped and the enforcing agency has since confirmed that the suspension can be lifted.

Data refers to domains suspended due to requests received during the specified period

OFFENSIVE NAMES

Nominet prohibits the registration of domain names that promote or incite serious sexual offences (where there is no reasonable or legitimate use for that domain).

3,410

potential breaches flagged

2

domains suspended and blocked

0

appeals

how it works



NEW / RENEWED REGISTRATIONS
New domain registrations are run through an automated process where potential breaches are flagged



Each flagged domain name is manually checked to ensure no false positives go through



EXISTING REGISTRATIONS
Nominet receives a complaint about an existing domain name



We advise that any complaints about website content and not the domain name should be referred directly to law enforcement



If a domain name is in breach, the registrant and registrar are notified and the domain suspended and blocked so that no one can register that domain in the future.

Registrants have **30 days** to appeal this assessment. Appeals would be referred to an independent external body.

For rights holders who wish to seek control of a domain name they believe should be theirs, there is the Dispute Resolution Service (DRS). The DRS is Nominet's award winning mediation based process for resolving disputes between parties over the registration or use of .UK domain names. It aims to provide a clear, quick and cost-effective process outside of the formal court system and is accessible and fair to both those complaining and domain name registrants. www.nominet.uk/domains/resolving-uk-domain-disputes-and-complaints/

About Nominet
Nominet is driven by a commitment to use technology to improve connectivity, security and inclusivity online. For 20 years, Nominet has run the .UK internet infrastructure, developing an expertise in the Domain Name System (DNS) that now underpins sophisticated network analytics used by governments and enterprises to mitigate cyber threats. The company provides registry services for top level domains, and is exploring applications for a range of emerging technologies. A profit with a purpose company, Nominet supports initiatives that contribute to a vibrant digital future.

www.nominet.uk