

GTLD ACCEPTABLE USE POLICIES VERSION 2.0

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1. GTLD WHOIS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

This is the acceptable use policy for the gTLD WHOIS.

The acceptable use requirements are:

- The maximum query rate is 5 queries per second with a maximum of 1000 queries per rolling 24hours.
- If you exceed the query limits a block will be imposed. The length of the block depends on how many queries have been made so far.
- These limits are not per IP address, they are per user.

The website gTLD WHOIS is intended for manual queries only. Any automated queries to the website gTLD WHOIS will be subject to a block.

This policy includes our standard gTLD anti-avoidance clause.

We reserve the right to increase limitations where required in emergency situations to maintain continuity of service.

2. RDAP ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

This is the acceptable use policy for the Nominet's RDAP service.

The acceptable use requirements are:

- The maximum query rate is 6 queries per 3 second with a maximum of 1000 queries per rolling 24 hours.
- If you exceed the query limits a block will be imposed. The length of the block depends on how many queries have been made so far.
- These limits are not per IP address, they are per user.

This policy includes our standard gTLD anti-avoidance clause. We reserve the right to increase limitations where required in emergency situations to maintain continuity of service.

3. TLD EPP AND WEB DOMAIN MANAGER ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

This is the acceptable use policy for our gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager services. As with our acceptable use policies generally, linking principles apply.

Introduction

We have experienced a number of problems in the past that have required us to prevent or limit certain functionality of our registrar systems. Both gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager have the same controls in place.

Many of the limits given here are combined across both the gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager platforms. Exceeding limits on one system will trigger a block on both systems.

General use of our gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager Services

There are generally no specific limits set on the level of use of gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager commands, other than the specific limits on the use of the create and check commands in the manner set out below.

Notwithstanding the above, it is not acceptable to use the gTLD EPP or Web Domain Manager service, or knowingly or recklessly permit others to use the gTLD EPP or Web Domain Manager service:

1. so as to interfere with the use of the gTLD EPP or Web Domain Manager by other customers or authorised users;
2. in a manner which does, or is designed to, harass or cause a denial-of-service to any other user of the gTLD EPP or Web Domain Manager service; or
3. in a manner which causes or is likely to cause an interruption or degradation of, interference with, or disproportionate burden on the operations of the gTLD EPP or Web Domain Manager services, regardless of whether such interruption, degradation, interference or burden is the result of the registrar's actions or those of a third party over which the registrar has no control.

If, in Nominet's reasonable opinion, a registrar is using the gTLD EPP or Web Domain Manager services in such an unacceptable manner Nominet will take such steps as it deems appropriate to stop the unacceptable use including, but not limited to, suspending, restricting or terminating the registrar's access to or use of some or all of the registrar systems.

Use of create commands for domains that are already registered

The acceptable limits are set per registrar, per rolling 24 hours and apply to create command attempts on domains that already exist either via gTLD EPP or Web Domain Manager.

The limit is:

The combined number of gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager create commands on names that already exist must not exceed 1000 in any 24 hour period.

If exceeded, all CLID's for that registrar in the TLD will be blocked from making any new domain creates for 24 hours, but update and query commands for domains on the registrar's CLID will be permitted.

Use of the domain check commands for domains that are unavailable

Excessive use of the domain check command for the same unavailable name is not allowed. Where a Registry Operator provides drop lists to Nominet's specification then repeated checks before the drop after date may be considered excessive.

The limit is:

The combined number of gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager check commands for the same unavailable domain must not exceed 500 in any 24 hour period.

For either create or check commands, if the requests do not cease as a result then we may block all access for that registrar. The block will be lifted upon expiry of the 24-hour period.

These limits are set per registrar and our other linking principles apply and are hereby incorporated into this gTLD Acceptable Use Policy. If exceeded, all CLIDs for that registrar will be blocked from making new registrations for 24 hours.

Other prohibited uses

Other prohibited uses of gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager include, but are not limited to:

- unlawful use (i.e. in breach of statute, contractual obligations, duty of care etc.
- fraudulent use
- defamatory use
- damage or disruption to Nominet's systems
- infringement of Nominet's intellectual property

Any action taken which is likely to endanger any part of the domain name system, our systems or our internet connections, or any failure to comply with this Acceptable Use Policy will result in a block and possible suspension of the Registrar from use of gTLD EPP or the Web Domain Manager service.

CLID

Each ICANN accredited registrar is allocated a CLID on a per TLD basis on the Nominet gTLD platform.

Simultaneous connections per CLID per TLD

Each CLID is limited to a set number of simultaneous connections to the gTLD EPP service per TLD. The IP addresses used to connect to EPP by each CLID must be set in advance through our online service. It should be noted that our controls and limiting do not happen on a connection by connection basis but on a CLID by CLID basis, additional connections do not provide additional limits or processing gains.

Linking principles

Limits are combined across both gTLD EPP and Web Domain Manager. Exceeding these limits will trigger a block across the EPP and the Web Domain Manager.

We also may link CLIDs together when calculating the above limits. This policy is covered by our standard gTLD anti-avoidance clause which is hereby incorporated into this Acceptable Use Policy.

Further escalation

CLIDs that necessitate persistent blocking may be blocked permanently from the service.

4. ANTI-AVOIDANCE AND CONNECTED PERSONS FOR GTLDS

Introduction

One way in which the Acceptable Use Policy Principles can be compromised is if we believe users are separate, when in fact they are acting together (and, for example, pooling their limits).

Each of the acceptable use policies for individual services includes the terms below which deal with 'connected persons' or 'related persons', so that action can be taken in these cases. This will usually be to record the CLIDs as being linked, and therefore subject to a lower overall limit than would have

been applied to a similar number of non-connected persons. This linking will usually apply to all services, not just the service that brought the links to our attention, and may be published in the future.

For links to our Acceptable Use Policies, see the contracts index page, which lists the relevant documents.

Connected Persons in gTLDs

A person is 'connected' to another person if:

1. they are the same person, have the same registrar account, or part of the same corporate group.
2. they make any declaration that they are connected or when challenged by us they fail to make a declaration in the reasonably required legal form that they are not connected;
3. they have ownership or business links (directly or indirectly) which mean that they either:
 1. do not appear to operate truly independently of one another, or
 2. it could reasonably be assumed that they will not operate truly independently of one another; or
4. the object or effect of their activities is such that we reasonably think that not linking them would compromise one or more of the AUP Principles.

For the purposes of (2) we may decide that two parties are not connected even if one declares that they are, if the other disputes this and our investigations support the denial (so, for example, you cannot just declare that you are linked to another person and then use all their limit up to disrupt their business).

For the purposes of (3) there is a strong presumption that:

- group companies (or other businesses) are connected to other businesses in the group;
- a company and its employees/officers/partners are connected to one another;
- a business owned, run or ultimately controlled by one member of a family is connected to a business owned, run or ultimately controlled by another member of the same family.

The final decision rests with us. When deciding whether to link people under (2) to (4) above, we will take into account the AUP principles.