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AL-ALAC-ST-0124-02-00-EN  
ORIGINAL: English  
DATE: 16 February 2024  
STATUS: Pending Ratification

## AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Comment on the Proposed Top-Level Domain String for Private Use

#### Ratification

On 24 January 2024, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the [Proposed Top-Level Domain String for Private Use](#). On 29 January 2024, an At-Large [workspace](#) was created for their Public Comment submission. The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop and submit an ALAC Public Comment Statement. Satish Babu and Eduardo Diaz volunteered to draft the ALAC statement.

On 16 February 2024, Satish Babu and Eduardo Diaz submitted initial comments for the ALAC statement, which was posted on the workspace for discussion. On 21 February 2024, the initial comments were discussed during the CPWG call.

On [date], the CPWG finalized the At-Large Public Comment Statement. The ALAC Chair, Jonathan Zuck, requested that the Public Comment Statement be ratified by the ALAC before submission to the ICANN Public Comment feature.

On [date], staff confirmed the online vote resulted in the ALAC [endorsing] the statement with [#] out of 15 votes in favor. [#] votes against, and [#] abstentions. Please note [# %] of ALAC members participated in the poll. The ALAC members who participated in the poll are ( alphabetical order by first name): [Names of those who voted]. You may view the results here: [insert link to tally vote].

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed Top-Level Domain for Private Use, which is a matter of significant interest to end-users as well as others who design and use computer networks.

## ALAC Support for .INTERNAL for Private Use

ALAC strongly supports reserving the domain name **.internal** for private use. Besides fulfilling all four criteria suggested for private-use domains by Sec 4.1 of SAC113, it is also one of the highest private-use top-level domains in use currently.

This recommendation is predicated on the need for standardized, non-public domain names that mitigate the risk of collision with future ICANN-delegated namespaces, thereby ensuring the integrity and isolation of internal network resources.

Networks, from large corporate entities to small enterprises and personal home setups, require a segregated domain space for hosting internal resources not intended for external internet access. The current practice of employing arbitrary strings for such purposes has the potential for namespace conflicts should ICANN allocate identical strings in future delegations, compromising the private nature of these domains.

The existing RFC 2606 (“Reserved Top Level DNS Names”), which reserves a quartet of namespaces for specific scenarios, conspicuously lacks a domain dedicated to private use. Further, a proposal made through a draft RFC [1] for designating unused two-letter codes as private-use domains expired, as it failed to garner community support.

Historically, the .local TLD had emerged as a *de facto* standard for private network use, propelled by its adoption among industry giants like Microsoft. However, the advent of Multicast DNS standards (RFC 6762) necessitated the reservation[2] of .local for specific multicast DNS functions, thereby vacating its informal role as a private-use domain.

RFC 6762's Appendix G, while advising against the use of unregistered TLDs, acknowledges the pragmatic use of specific domains within private networks to circumvent the issues associated with .local. This acknowledgment, however, does not translate into a formal endorsement or reservation of these namespaces for private use.

The utilization of .internal by established corporations such as Google[3] and Amazon[4] underscores the domain's viability and industry acceptance as a private-use TLD, reinforcing the case for its formal reservation by ICANN.

In light of these considerations, ALAC fully supports the reservation of .internal as a dedicated domain for private networks. ALAC notes that the adoption of this policy by individual network administrators is voluntary, and is left to their convenience. Once the policy is adopted, ALAC also recognizes its own role in disseminating it to different communities.

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[1] <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-dnsop-private-use-tld#page-8>

[2] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.local>

[3] <https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/internal-dns>

[4] <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/vpc/latest/userguide/vpc-dns.html>