

# **Korean domain registration policy issues**

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# Contents

- ❑ Domain name and Internet Governance
- ❑ Korean domain registration policy issue list
- ❑ Domain name character set
- ❑ Domain name generation rule
- ❑ Registrants' requirement
- ❑ Reserved words
- ❑ Remark

## Domain name system and Internet governance

- ❑ Internet governance is collective decision making by owners, operators, developers, and users of the networks connected by Internet protocols to establish policies, rules, and dispute resolution procedures about *technical standards, resource allocations, and/or the conduct of people* engaged in global internetworking activities.
  - Internet Governance Project (IGP)
- ❑ Standard protocols for address resolution and name generation
- ❑ Name registration and resolution service
- ❑ Domain name dispute resolution

# Korean domain registration policy issues

- ❑ Domain name character set
  - ◆ To include Chinese characters
- ❑ Domain name generation rule
  - ◆ To allow digits only labels
- ❑ Registrants' requirement
  - ◆ To allow foreign residents
- ❑ Reserved words
  - ◆ To relieve the regulation

# Domain name character set

## ❑ Global standard (RFC 1035, IETF)

- ◆ “The labels must start with a letter, end with a letter or digit, and have as interior characters only letters, digits, and hyphen.” – RFC 1035, IETF

## ❑ Korean standard (Domain name management rules, as of Aug. 2017)

- ◆ [A-Z][a-z], [0-9], [-]
- ◆ Korean characters ‘한글’ (UTF-8, 11,172 characters)

## ❑ New proposal

- ◆ To allow Chinese characters (‘Hanja’) such as `후라면`, `초코파이情` in the 2<sup>nd</sup> level domain name
- ◆ “Hanja refers to those Chinese characters borrowed from Chinese and incorporated into the Korean language with Korean pronunciation” – <http://www.Wikipedia.org>

## ❑ Motivation

- ◆ Hanja was the sole mean of writing in Korea until the invention of hangul in the 15th century
- ◆ A lot of Chinese-borrowed words are in widespread usage (although written in hangul)

# Domain name generation rule

## ❑ Global standard (RFC 1035, IETF)

- ◆ They must start with a letter, end with a letter or digit, and have as interior characters only letters, digits, and hyphen

## ❑ Korean standard (Domain name management rules, as of Aug. 2017)

- ◆ A domain name must not consist of only digits or only hyphens

## ❑ New proposal

- ◆ A 2<sup>nd</sup> level domain name may consist of only digits

## ❑ Motivation

- ◆ Most gTLDs and ccTLDs allow digits only domain names
  - 1234.com, 1234.net, 1234.org, 1234.asia, 1234.tv, 1234.info, 1234.jp, 1234.us, 1234.cn, 1234.eu
- ◆ Digits only labels are allowed as a 3<sup>rd</sup> level domain name (4,973 names as of Apr. 2017)
  - co.kr 4,549 cases, or.kr 241 cases, pe.kr 112 cases
  - Many service providers want to have a domain name corresponding to his/her phone number

# Registrants' requirement

## ❑ Korean standard (Domain name management rules, as of Aug. 2017)

- ◆ A person or an organization must have a valid postal address in Korea to register a domain name under .kr/.한국
- ◆ If the registration information is uncovered to be invalid, the domain name registration shall be cancelled

## ❑ New proposal

- ◆ To allow a person or an organization that does not have a valid postal address to register a domain name under .kr/.한국

## ❑ Motivation

- ◆ To enable global marketing in Korea, we need to relax the requirements to the registrant
- ◆ To accommodate the domain name registration requirements from the abroad

## Reserved words (1)

### ❑ Some words are reserved by KRNIC

- ◆ Some words cannot be registered as a domain name
- ◆ Some words are allowed only to a specific organization

### ❑ Category of the reserved words (Domain name management detailed regulations, as of Aug. 2017)

- ◆ Slangs
- ◆ Region names (e.g. seoul, injegun, etc) – allowed only to the corresponding local government
- ◆ Some government organization names (e.g., chongwadae, cwd)
- ◆ Every one character hangul words (e.g. 금, 불, 물)
- ◆ Every word of two alphanumeric characters for the 3<sup>rd</sup> level domain names
- ◆ Every word of single alphanumeric character for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level domain names
- ◆ Some words considered to be attractive to many users (e.g. travel, pro, post, www, 데이터, 마케팅)
- ◆ Generic top-level domain name (e.g. org, net, xxx, com)
- ◆ Last names under .pe.kr (e.g. lee, kim, park)



## Reserved Words (2)

### ❑ New proposal

- ◆ To renew the reserved words list and relax the regulation

### ❑ Motivation

- ◆ The most recent list was made 7 years ago
- ◆ The Internet environment has been changed and the list needs to be updated

## Remark

- ❑ Domain name system is one of the key factors in the Internet Governance
- ❑ Some regulations need to be modified to expand the chance to express the Internet users' idea
- ❑ Due to the law, the final decision is made by the government
- ❑ However, we try to develop the domain name system issues and gather public opinion
- ❑ The issues and collected opinions of multi-stake holders will be presented to the government organization
- ❑ We expect that the rational discussion can change the rules and regulations