

Scenario: removal from assigned category, no new ISO Code assigned

Version 04

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One of the scenario's identified by the group to date which may result in retirement of a ccTLD is the move from code element from assigned to transitionally reserved¹.

The model is

Retirement process

End stage/change of category ISO 3166-1 -----> Un-Delegated² ccTLDs

Scenario: End of assignment of code element, dissolution of the country included in the list of Country names as defined by the ISO 3166 Standard

End stages/change of listing ISO 3166-1. To date, following the discussions of the WG and original email discussion, the WG marked the following changes as scenario: the change of listing category of the two-letter code (country code) on ISO 3166 – 1 from Assigned to Transitionally Reserved, no new ISO Code assigned

In terms of ISO 3166 standard section 7.3 this is a deletion from the list of country names as included in article 6 of the standard (and in terms of the Online Browsing Platform: the officially assigned codes). The second part of the description "moved to the transitionally Reserved list" is not based on the Standard but refers to a category under other codes included in the Online Platform. Examples are:

SU, (Sovjet Union) (1990)

NT, Neutral Zone (1993)

YU, Yugoslavia (2003)

CS, Serbia and Montenegro (2006)

AN, Netherlands Antilles (2010)

The code element SU was removed from the list of country names, it was later included in the list of exceptionally reserved code elements as defined in the Standard (section 7.5.4)

The code elements NT, YU and AN were removed from the list of country names and included in the list of transitionally reserved code elements, which is a list published through the Online Browsing Platform, but which is not defined under the standard itself.

¹ Note that the term transitionally reserved is not included in the standard document, but defined on the ISO 3166 Online Browsing Platform.

² This term is not defined. It is used as an overall, heuristic concept to describe the stage where the delegation has ended.

Removal of code elements

Was the change/ scenario cause for a retirement process?

Based on an initial analysis by the DRDWG and IANA reports, the following changes of code elements did cause the retirement of the ccTLD:

- The removal of YU from the list of country names as defined in the standard resulted in a retirement of the ccTLD .YU
- The removal from AN from the list of country names as defined in the standard resulted in a retirement of .AN as ccTLD.
- CS was never delegated as a ccTLD, hence the removal from the list of country names.
- SU was removed from the list of country names as defined in the standard. It did not result in a retirement of the ccTLD .SU. SU was added to the list of exceptionally reserved code elements.

The process for YU, Yugoslavia was initiated in 2003 (see IANA reports on delegation of .RS and .ME).

The process for AN, Netherlands Antilles, was initiated in 2010 (see IANA report on delegation of .CW).

1. Who initiated the retirement process?

○ *YU, Yugoslavia (2003)*

After removal of .YU (and expected removal of .CS) from the list of country names as defined by the ISO 3166 standard, the anticipated future ccTLD managers for .ME and .RS and IANA developed a transition plan. This plan from .YU to .RS and .ME involved an MOU between the two entities and would see that .YU is assigned to the proposed .RS ccTLD manager, which was effectively the same operator as the .YU ccTLD manager. The .RS ccTLD manager would act as caretaker for .YU for two years to allow for a stable transition.

By Board decision 2007, the retirement was initiated by decision of transfer (re-delegation) of the .YU domain to Serbian National Registry of Internet Domain Names in a temporary caretaker capacity. At the same time the decision to delegate .RS and .ME was taken.

○ *AN, Netherlands Antilles (2010)*

In December 2010 .AN was removed from the list of the list of country names as defined by the ISO 3166 standard, and .CW for Curaçao, .SX for Sint Maarten (Dutch part), and .BQ for the BES islands, were added. In January 2011, the University of the Netherlands Antilles presented its initial application to ICANN for delegation of the .CW top-level domain. Subsequently, over the course of the year the application was expanded and revised.

In March 2011, the University and SX Registry SA executed a “grand-father agreement”.

In September 2011, the University entered into a revised agreement with SX Registry SA B.V. in regards to the transitional arrangements concerning the .AN top-level domain,

Noting that a transition plan was in place at the time of the decision which includes inter alia to move registrations from the .AN domain to new domains .CW and .SX, with the University of the Netherlands Antilles continuing to act as manager of the .AN domain until transition is complete, the ICANN Board decided (following the decision to delegate .AW that the University of Netherlands Antilles:

- be instructed to report their progress on decommissioning the .AN domain every six months to ICANN against a relevant set of metrics,
- work to complete the transition of the .AN domain to the .CW domain, the .SX domain, and any other relevant domain;
- the .AN domain be removed from the DNS root zone on 31 October 2014, if not requested earlier by the manager of the domain.

2. How is retirement initiated? Letter from PTI/ IFO to ccTLDs? ICANN Board decision? Letter from relevant government?

o *YU, Yugoslavia (2003)*

In 2003, The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was superceded by a different form of union between the states of Serbia and Montenegro. The successor was to be known as “Serbia and Montenegro”, and in recognition of this, the ISO 3166-1 code was changed from “YU” to “CS” (i.e. “Crna Gora and Srbija”). The Secretariat of the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency formally communicated this change to IANA in July 2003.

In the discussions the operator of .YU held with IANA, they conveyed an opinion that a planned referendum for self-determination to be held by Montenegro had a reasonable prospect of seeing the union between Serbia and Montenegro dissolved, and result in two separate countries. In light of this, IANA did not seek an immediate transition from the .YU domain to the .CS domain until the outcome of that process was concluded.

In October 2006, IANA met with the administrative contact for the .YU registry. In this meeting she explained that initial discussions were being conducted both within Serbia, and with prospective operators of the .ME domain. IANA was advised that it was anticipated there would be delegation applications forthcoming from the countries. In those discussions, the importance of a transition plan from the existing “.YU” domain was stressed.

In December 2006, the Government of Montenegro submitted a delegation application for the .ME domain. This was followed by the applications for the delegations of the .RS domain, and the redelegation of the .YU domain, received in February 2007.

In the time following the receipt of the initial applications, IANA sought additional information and clarifications from the applicants to ensure that they met the established criteria for delegation. IANA also asked that the plan for transition from the .YU domain be documented and proposed as part of the applications.

- **AN, Netherlands Antilles (2010)**

In December 2010 .AN was removed from the list of the list of country names as defined by the ISO 3166 standard. CW for Curaçao, SX for Sint Maarten (Dutch part), and BQ for the BES islands, were added. In January 2011, the University of the Netherlands Antilles presented its initial application to ICANN for delegation of the .CW top-level domain. Subsequently, over the course of the year the application was expanded and revised.

In March 2011, the University and SX Registry SA executed a “grand-father agreement”.

In September 2011, the University entered into a revised agreement with SX Registry SA B.V. in regards to the transitional arrangements concerning the .AN top-level domain,

At the time of the decision by the ICANN Board to delegate .CW a transition plan was in place This included inter alia:

- to move registrations from the .AN domain to new domains .CW and .SX,
- the University of the Netherlands Antilles continuing to act as manager of the .AN domain until transition is complete

3. What are consequences once retirement process is initiated, if any and for whom?

- **YU, Yugoslavia (2003)**

To implement the guidance from the ICANN Board on a reporting mechanism with respect to the retirement of .YU, IANA Staff met with representatives of the .YU registry, RNIDS to discuss reporting on the timely implementation of retirement of .YU. Goal was to be such that any concerns that may result in delaying the decommissioning date could be adequately shared and considered well in advance.

- Specifically, the regular reports needed to address three questions:

1. Describe the registry’s progress in retiring the .YU domain.

2. Describe any problems experienced that may impact the registry’s ability to meet the 30 September 2009 deadline.

3. Describe what steps are being undertaken to remedy the issues raised in #2.

RNIDS provided updates.

According to the IANA report on Removal of the .YU domain formerly representing Yugoslavia, there were 4,266 .YU domains still delegated in June 2009. This is down from 32,772. In June 2009, there were 26,294 domains registered in .RS. IANA staff noted that of the remaining 4,266 domains (under .YU), approximately 200 did not also have the matching .RS domain.

In September 2009 the ICANN Board extended the date of decommissioning to 30 March 2010.

IANA was informed on 30 March that RNIDS informed the community that it had effectively switched off the .YU domain, independent of the removal of the .YU delegation from the DNS root zone.

On 1 April 2010 the delegation of the .YU domain was removed from the DNS root zone.

In the process of the removal of the .YU domain, RNIDS raised the point with the ICANN Board that for a better guidance in future on how the process of retiring country-code top-level domains should be conducted, clear and transparent rules should be available. Based on the reports available it is not clear what is meant.

For a more fulsome description on the process of the retirement of .YU post decision to retire, you are deferred to the IANA report: *Removal of the .YU domain formerly representing Yugoslavia* (see below)

- **AN, Netherlands Antilles (2010)**

After the delegation of .CW to the University of the Netherlands Antilles continued to act as ccTLD manager for .AN domain until the transition was complete.

As part of the arrangement it was agreed to move registrations from the .AN domain to new domains .CW and .SX.

In 2014 the .AN domain operator and the Netherlands' Ministry of Economic Affairs have sought a nine month extension of the deadline of decommissioning .AN by 31 October 2014. The request was made to provide additional opportunity for the remaining registrants to conclude their transition away from the .AN domain. According to the letter from the Dutch Ministry the .AN operator and Dutch government needed more time to find and implement alternative options for the remaining .an domains BES islands. (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba).

By Decision in October 2014, the ICANN Board extended the deadline for the .AN domain removal from the DNS Root Zone to 31 July 2015.

.AN was retired 31 October 2015

Documentation

- **IANA reports**

- .YU: Delegation of RS Top Level Domain and redelegation of the YU domain <https://www.iana.org/reports/2007/rs-yu-report-11sep2007.html>
- .YU: IANA report on the delegation of the .ME Domain <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/van-den-hove-to-dengate-thrush-17feb11-en.pdf>
- Removal of the .YU domain formerly representing Yugoslavia <https://www.iana.org/reports/2010/yu-report-01apr2010.html>

- .AN: Delegation of the .CW domain representing Curacao and transitional arrangements for the .AN domain representing the Netherlands Antilles
<https://www.iana.org/reports/2011/cw-report-20111003.html>
- .SX: Delegation of the .SX domain representing Sint Maarten
<https://www.iana.org/reports/2011/cw-report-20111003.html>
- **ICANN Board minutes**
 - .YU, .ME and .RS decisions: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/minutes-2007-09-11-en>
 - Status update on .YU domain: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/prelim-report-2009-09-30-en>
 - .AN, .CW and .SX decisions: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2011-10-11-en>
 - Extension of .AN ccTLD removal date:
<https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2014-10-16-en#1.d>
- **Discussion Paper on Retiring Country Code Top-Level Domains** (May 2006)
<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2-2006-12-05-en>

 - Public comments on consultation paper: <https://forum.icann.org/lists/cctld-sunset-comments/>
- **Additional documentation**
 - .AN Delegation record: <https://www.iana.org/domains/root/db/an.html>
 - Letter from NL Ministry Economic affairs on retirement of .AN:
<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/de-haan-to-crocker-09oct14-en.pdf>
 - Response IANA on letter NL Ministry:
<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/gerich-to-de-haan-03jul15-en.pdf>
 - Letter NL Ministry Economic affairs June 2015:
<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/de-haan-to-crocker-10jun15-en.pdf>
 - Response 3 Jul:
<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/gerich-to-de-haan-03jul15-en.pdf>