

Module 2 – Written Exercise Chapter 2

Exercise #9 (page 101) – In about 100 words, explain how top-level domain names are proposed and approved.

Until now I really did not give a lot of thought into how top-level domain names were chosen. To me, it has always been something that was listed on the domain name sites to choose what extension would fit with the site I was creating. It all depended on what was available and the generally accepted uses of each extension (top-level domain). Since the late 1990's, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) has had the main responsibility and control over top-level domain names. (Schneider 75).

ICANN used to control what extensions could be created and used by whom more tightly in the beginning. The most widely used top-level domains are called generic top-level domains (gLTDS). They should be used for specific purposes, but they are for the general public to use if they fit the criteria of the domain's definition. Domains like the .aero extension were created as sponsored top-level domains (sLTDS) which are not specifically regulated by ICANN. Domains for countries are supposed to be limited to only those who live in those countries.

Names for top-level domains need to go through an application process to ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) for either generic designation (gLTDS – Generic Top-Level Domains) or sponsored designation (sLTDS – Sponsored Top-Level Domains). Sponsored applications come from groups that wish to have a top-level domain created to fit either a topic or grouping of information like .aero which was “sponsored by SITA, an air transport industry association”. (Schneider 75).

In the beginning ICANN used to be a lot more selective about what types of top-level domains would be created. As time has passed, and the Web increased in size, more domains were requested and needed. ICANN started approving more types of top-level domains to be listed around 2008 when they instituted a new application and implementation policy. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top-level_domain) .

Works Cited

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top-level_domain. *Wikipedia*. n.d. 17 02 2021.

Schneider, Gary P. *Electronic Commerce Twelfth Edition*. Cengage Learning, 2017, 2015. book.