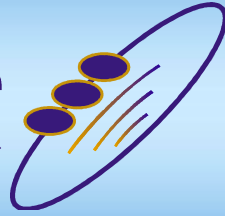


هيئة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات  
Communications and Information Technology Commission



# *Managing .SA ccTLD*

Arab Summer School on Internet Governance  
Cairo, June 27-30, 2009

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**Presented by Abdulaziz Al-Zoman**

**SaudiNIC - CITC**

[www.nic.net.sa](http://www.nic.net.sa)



# Agenda



- ABOUT SAUDINIC
- FACTS AND NUMBERS
- THE FUTURE
- SERVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



# ABOUT SAUDINIC

# About SaudiNIC



- A **non-profit** entity that is operated by Communication and Information Technology Commission (**CITC**) – a **government** body
  
- In charge of administering the domain name space under **(.sa)** since 1995
  
- **Mission Statement:**
  - to provide an **equitable, just and competent** technical and administrative management of domain name registrations for Internet community in Saudi Arabia.

# Some History!



- **1994:**
  - KACST contacted IANA for managing the domain name space for the country code (ccTLD) of Saudi Arabia (.SA)
- **1995:**
  - KACST was delegated the responsibility to look after the management and administration of the Saudi ccTLD (.SA)
- **1998:**
  - ISU was established and SaudiNIC became one of its departments
- **2006:**
  - SaudiNIC was transferred to CITC (Communication and Information Technology Commission).

# Staffing

- SaudiNIC started with **two** persons and now it has **7** people:
  - Manager
  - 2 Senior engineers
  - 2 Application developers
  - 2 Registration agents
  
- The technical support (**administering the servers**) and operation of the DNS servers are provided by the CITC “Internet operation center”

# Financing



- SaudiNIC is totally funded by CITC
- Domain name registrations are provided **free** of charge for the purpose of **encouraging** the local community to use and utilize the Internet for e-businesses and other applications.



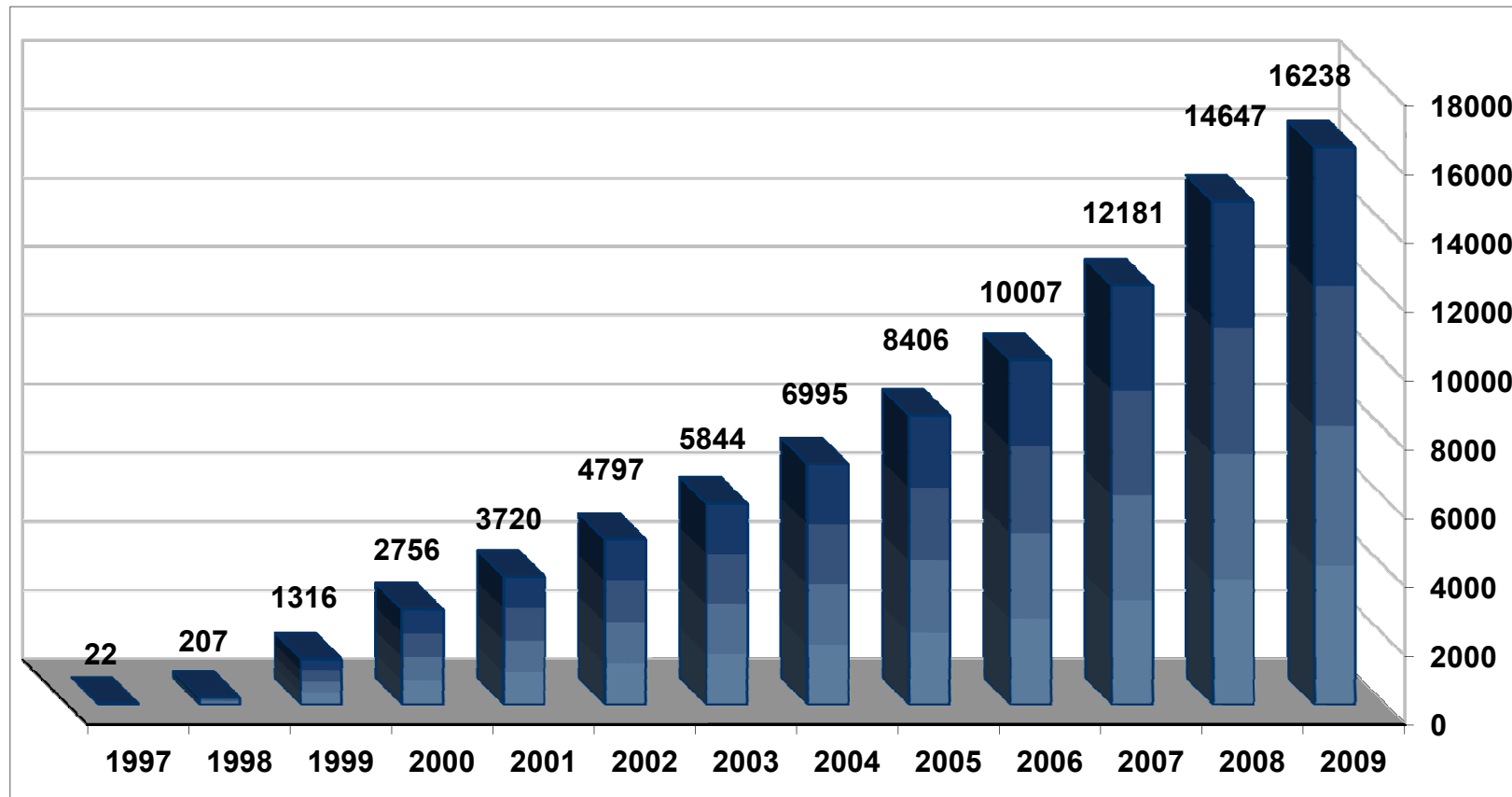
# FACTS AND NUMBERS



# Statistics



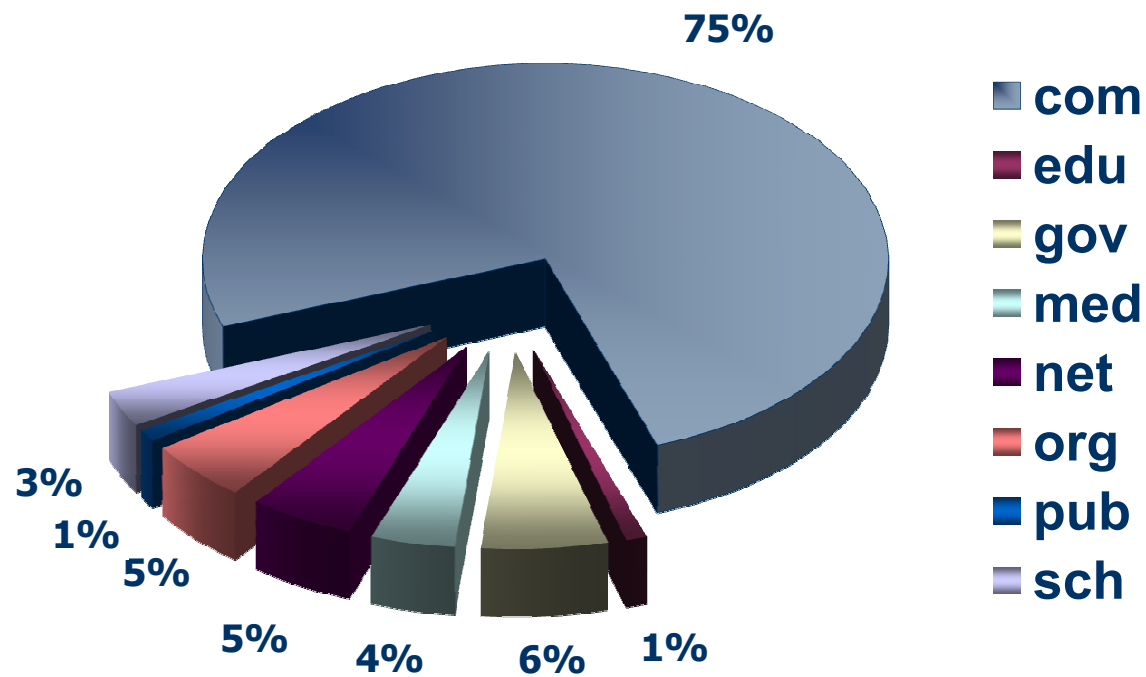
## Total number of registered domain names per year by the mid of 2009



# Statistics



Total number of registered domain names per sub-domain by the mid of 2009



# Regulations

- The "**Domain Name Registration Regulation in Saudi Arabia**" is the guideline for the registration procedure followed by SaudiNIC staff.
- All registrations without exceptions are done according to this regulation on **first come, first served** basis.
- The regulation is **applied equally** over all different type of entities (governmental, educational, private, non for profit, and individuals).

# Policy Development and Updates



- Registration regulations have gone through a number of **major revisions**.
  
- Regulation developments were done through **group** efforts based on **“.sa PDP”**
  - SaudiNIC
  - CITC staff
  - Public Consultation and interested parties such as
    - Universities, service providers (ISP,DSP), private sectors, Ministry of Commerce, and individuals.
  
- They get reviewed by **legal** experts
  
- Approved by the senior management (**CITC board**)

# Regulations Major Points

- **The Applicant must be:**
  - Physically in KSA,
  - Has a local representative in KSA , or
  - Owning trademarks or trade names that are registered in Saudi Arabia.
  
- **Domain contacts:**
  - Administrative contact: manage the domain name and must from the entity requesting the domain name
  - Technical contact: should be the one who are looking after the DNS servers.
  - Requester contact: who fills the online form.
  
- **The Applicant agrees that:**
  - information submitted is true
  - domain name does not violate the right of a third-party
  - it will not be used for any activity not permitted in KSA
  - will inform SaudiNIC for any changes in the information
  - will not register domain names for the purpose of selling them

# .sa Space Structure



- **com.sa** : Entities that provide commercial services
- **edu.sa** : For educational and training institutions
- **sch.sa** : For all types of schools
- **med.sa** : Entities that provides health services.
- **gov.sa** : For Governmental entities
- **net.sa** : Entities that provide Internet-related services
- **org.sa** : For non-profit organizations.
- **pub.sa** : For individuals (including personal names)

# Dispute Policy

- Any disputes between parties over the rights to use a particular domain name are to be settled between the contending parties using **normal legal methods**.
- SaudiNIC exempts itself from all responsibility for the verification of rights to a name. **SaudiNIC cannot act as arbiter** of disputes arising out of this kind of conflict.

# Registration Procedure - External



## □ Registration steps



### Domain availability

Checking the availability of the domain name using our (whois) service.



### Hosting

Setting up the DNS server then testing them using the tools available on our website.



### Request submission

Filling up and sending the registration form available on our website.

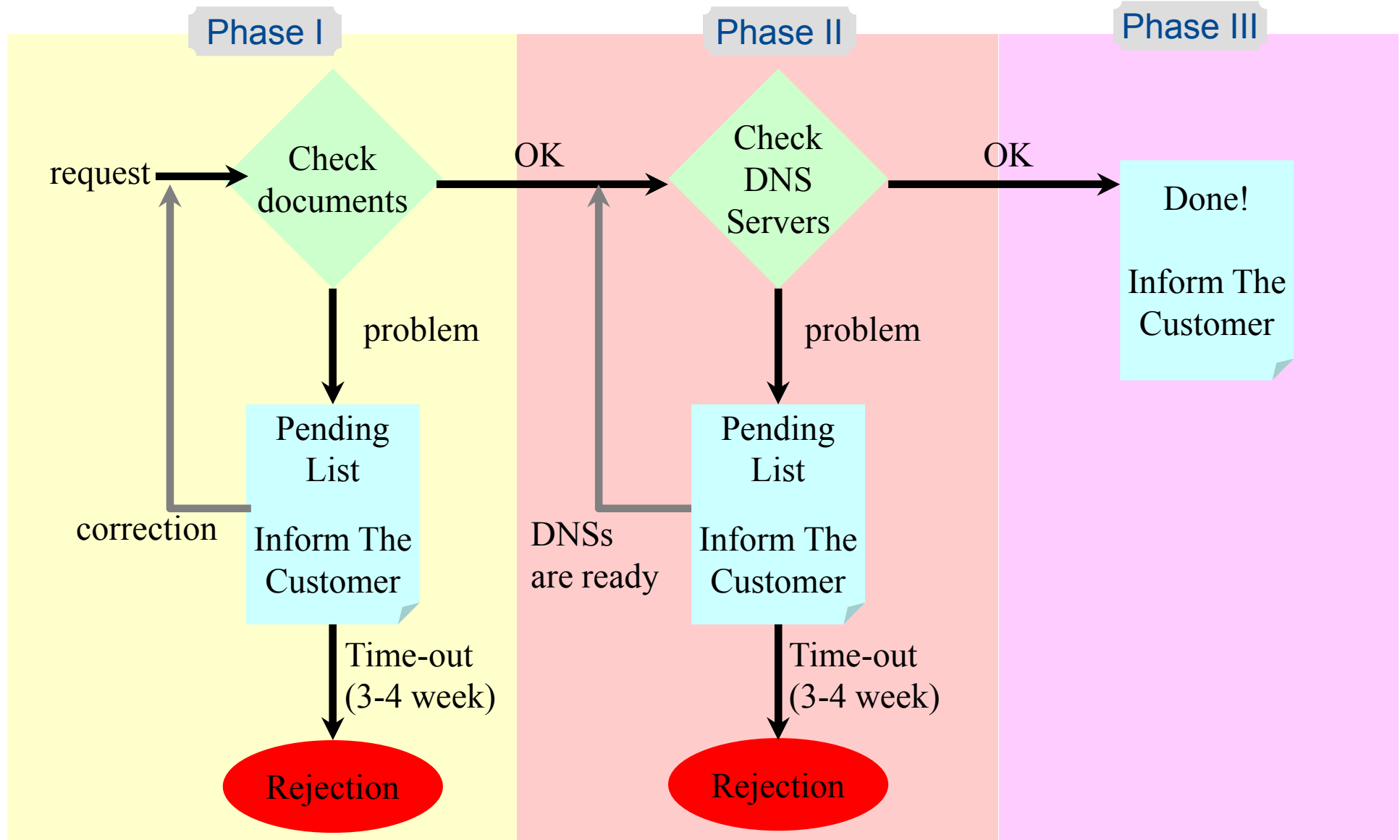


### Official documents

Sending the registration request letter and necessary official documents.



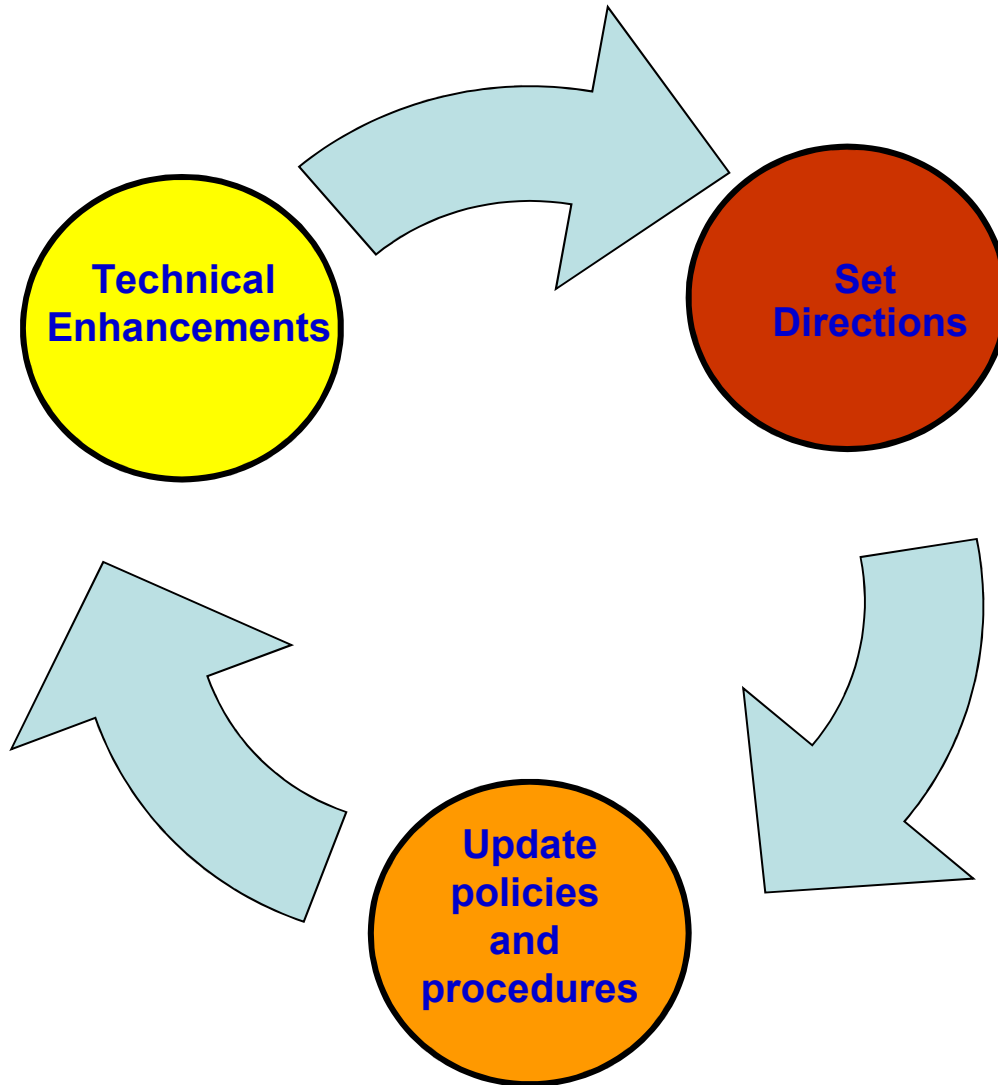
# Registration Procedure - Internal





# THE FUTURE

# Our Live Cycle



# Next Directions

- Developing **Dispute Resolution Policies** and procedures
- **2LD** registration, e.g., [www.example.sa](http://www.example.sa)
- Registration **fees** (Collecting payments)
- Supporting Resellers and **Registry-Registrar** system
- **User Accounts** and online services
- **Electronic archiving**
- Increasing public **awareness** (continuous effort)

# Future work : Main Phases

