

Saudi Network Information Center (SaudiNIC)

Based on the Council of Ministers' decree No. 229 dated 13/8/1427h the task of operating and administering the Saudi Network Information Center (SaudiNIC) was moved from King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) to the Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC). The SaudiNIC was established in 1995 by KACST.

SaudiNIC is the entity that is responsible for the administration of the domain name space for the country code (ccTLD) of Saudi Arabia (.SA). This includes the operation of the DNS root servers for .SA domains as well as the registration and maintenance of all third-level .SA domain names.

Mission Statement

The mission of SaudiNIC is to provide an equitable, just and competent technical and administrative management of domain name registrations and IP address allocations for Internet community in Saudi Arabia.

Main Tasks

- ♦ Setting up policies regulating domain name registrations in Saudi Arabia.
- ♦ Domain name registrations
- ♦ Provide databases for the registered domain names
- ♦ Supporting the use of Arabic domain names
- ♦ Coordinating with other GCC, Arab, and International ccTLDs.
- ♦ Participating in international events supervised by ICANN, ITU, ISOC, and WIPO related to domain names and IP numbers.

Benefits of Registering Domain Names under ".sa"

- ♦ Free registration
- ♦ Domain name that has national values
- ♦ Authenticity of the registered entity to the citizens
- ♦ Preventing blackmailing due to registering domain names for the purpose of selling them.
- ♦ The ability to modify the registration information by the holding entity at any time.
- ♦ The existence of policies and procedures preventing the modification to the registration information by non-authoritative entities.
- ♦ Excellent technical support to make sure the DNS hosting is done proper manner.
- ♦ The existence of multiple second level domains to meet with the need of different organization categories (commercial, government, non-for profit, education, network, medical, and even personal)

Domain Names Registration

A domain name is a name that represents an entity on the Internet. It is, usually, similar to the entity name or derived from it. It is a distinctive and simple way to

identify the entity's site on the Internet. It is used by others to visit the site or to send electronic mail. A Saudi domain name has the following format:

<name>.<cat>.sa

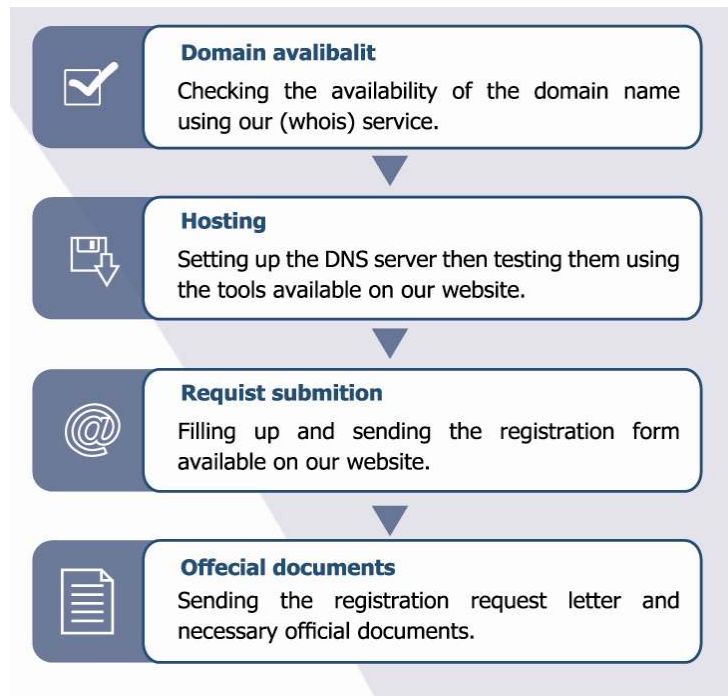
Where, <name> is a name that is chosen to represent the entity, <cat> represents the category in which the entity is classified. The following are their definitions:

- com.sa: Dedicated only for entities that provide commercial services with valid Commercial Registrations from Ministry of Commerce (MOC) or any equivalent documents. Also, registered trade names and marks with MOC can be registered as domain names under com.sa.
- edu.sa: Dedicated only for educational and training institutions, e.g., universities, training institutes, etc., with valid licenses from official government offices.
- sch.sa: Dedicated only for Kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools, and high schools with valid licenses from Ministry of Education or from General Presidency for Girls Education.
- med.sa: Dedicated only for entities that provides health services such as hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies, etc., with valid licenses from Ministry of Health.
- gov.sa: Dedicated only for Governmental entities including ministries, authorities and government organizations.
- net.sa: Dedicated only for entities that provide Internet-related services, e.g., ISPs, web hosting, portal sites, etc.
- org.sa: Dedicated only for non-profit organizations including societies, charities, clubs and public organizations.
- pub.sa: Dedicated only for entities or individuals that do not fit with any of the above definitions, including personal names.

Registration Procedure

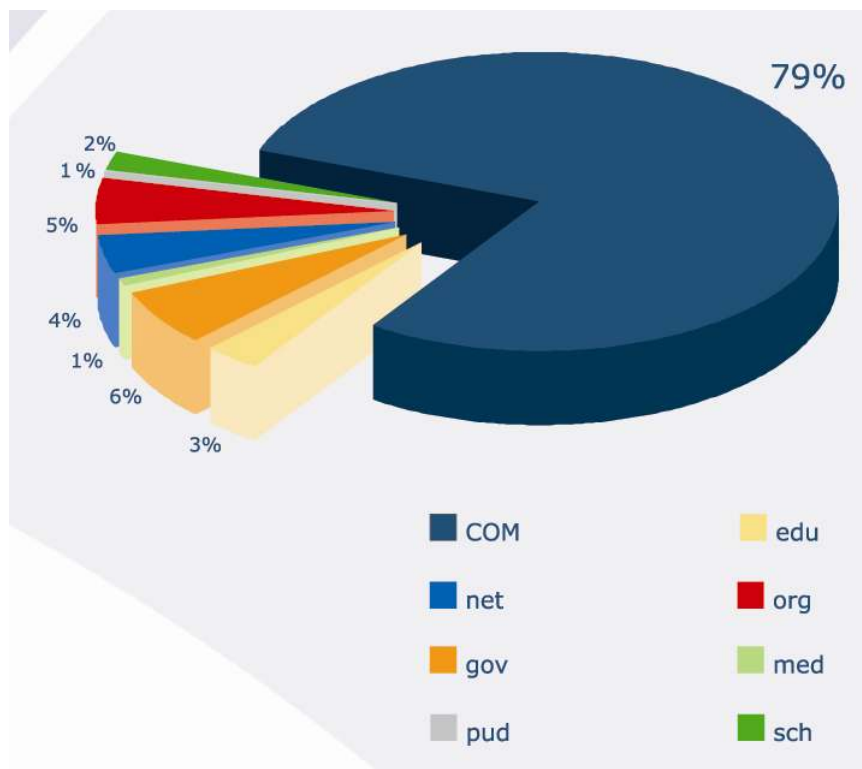
Entities and individuals can register domain names under the above categories through the SaudiNIC's web site (www.NIC.net.sa). The registration procedure is summarized in the following steps:

Registration steps:



Statistics

The following figure depicts the percentage of registered domain names in each category.



The following figure shows the total number of registered domain names per year.



Contact Us

Saudi Network Information Center,
General Directorate of Internet Services
Communications and Information Technology Commission
King Abdulaziz Communication Complex – Al-Mursalat
P. O. Box 75606, Riyadh 11588, Saudi Arabia
Phone: +966-1-2639392
Fax: +966-1-2639393
<http://www.saudinic.net.sa>
Office Hours: From Saturday to Wednesday,
From 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM (Riyadh time GMT+3).