

PROTECT YOUR .tz DOMAIN NAME

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Preserve its value

1. Introduction

From early 1990s, the management of .tz country code Top Level Domain (.tz ccTLD) was done by few individuals. At that time the .tz domain names registration services were done voluntarily. In 2005, the Director General of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) formed a National Committee that was tasked to review and recommend the best way of administering and managing the .tz ccTLD. Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) was therefore established in 2006 following the committee recommendations. The committee further suggested a nominal fee to be charged for domain registration and annual maintenance so that in a long run tzNIC could be sustainable.

Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) took over the .tz domain names registration responsibilities from previous registrars in August 2009. This achievement was after successful population of the .tz registry database with all domain names that had been registered by July 2009. Since October 2009, tzNIC has been making efforts to acquire full control of the .tz ccTLD; a national communication resource of the United Republic of Tanzania. These efforts, coupled with other projects such as K-root Name-Server installation at Posta House and establishment of a number of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) within the country will contribute greatly to localization of internet traffic while at the same time facilitate the reduction of internet connectivity costs.

2. The consequences of .tz domains transfer to tzNIC

As a way of implementing the National Committees' recommendations, the tzNIC Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed the fee structure and approved the price list as detailed in the following table:

Second Level Domain (SLD) category	Registration fee (TZS)	Renewal fee (TZS)
.sc.tz	5,000	5,000
.co.tz, .go.tz, .ac.tz, .or.tz, ne.tz and .mil.tz	25,000	20,000

- Note:**
- (i) **BOTH** the registration and annual maintenance fees are paid at the time of registration.
 - (ii) After every year the domain holders have to renew their domains by paying the renewal fee **ONLY**.

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) also approved a plan for the domain names that had to be transferred from previous registrars to tzNIC. The approved plan allowed the domain names registered before August 2009 to be charged with annual renewal fee when due.

3. How the new .tz registry operates

The new .tz registry is a pre-paid system by design. This means a domain is registered and made serviceable only when it has been paid for. Based on the pre-paid nature of the registry system and the approved domain transfer plan, owners of the transferred domains and all domains registered from August 2009 will be required to pay renewal fees when due (viz., a year from the date they were registered or populated to tzNIC Name-servers). Failure to pay the renewal fees on time will lead into the following problems:

- a) An expired domain name will not be serviceable.
- b) An expired domain name will be available for any new applicant to register.

While the new applicant may re-register an expired domain for economic gain or business competition, the consequences to the original .tz domain holder can be serious. Among the consequences include confusion to the customers and bad reputation of the original domain holder. In an extreme case, a competitor may re-register an expired domain name that used to promote; say, computer parts through a website into a pornographic website!

Your .tz domain name should be a valued and trusted resource. The more your site is visited, the more popular and competitive your domain name becomes and so do your products or services. The reputation gained from the good domain name usage should therefore not be lost as a result of failure to renew the domain name on time. Therefore, tzNIC advise the domain holders to renew their domain names before the expiration date to avoid the above stated consequences.



4. Mechanisms to protect .tz domain names

Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) has put in place a mechanism that would ensure the protection of .tz domains from losing serviceability or being taken by competitors with bad intentions. The mechanism involves three steps that are automatically implemented by the .tz registry system.

The steps include:

- (a) Sending an expiration notification to the domain holder thirty (30) days before the expiration date;
- (b) Sending the domain withdrawal notification to the domain holder thirty (30) days after the expiration date; and
- (c) Sending a domain cancellation notification to the domain holder forty five days (45) after the expiration date.

*The best way to protect your domain name is to make sure you still own it.
Continue owning your .tz domain name by paying the renewal fee on time.*

5. What the domain name holder should do

To protect their domain names, tzNIC recommends the following steps to the .tz domain name holders:

(a) Verify the registration details of the domain name

Whether you registered your .tz domain name on your own or someone else helped you to registering it, it is essential that you ensure that you or an authorized representative of the organization has been named as a domain holder. Most of the existing domains have third parties instead of the authorized representatives or domain holders named as the administrative contact for a given domain. This is contrary to tzNIC regulations.

A visit to the WHOIS database at <http://whois.tznic.or.tz/whois> is a first good step. Through this service, the name of the domain holder, administrative contact, and technical contact can be obtained. You can also find the registrar through which your domain was registered, the date when your domain was registered, the date when your domain will expire, etc.

Most of the domains transferred to the new .tz registry have no complete or accurate details such as domain holder, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. This is risk as there is a possibility that the expiration notifications will not reach the right domain holders or representative which may result in domain expiration without the domain holder's knowledge. tzNIC therefore, requests all .tz domain holders to immediately verify their registration information.

tzNIC agenda

Jan 2010 onwards

VERIFY

your .tz domain registration information-
<http://whois.tznic.or.tz/whois>

(b) Verify and update the .tz administrative contact information regularly

Organization contact details such as e-mail address, phone numbers and fax numbers may change at any time. If these information change, the registry updates and/or notification will not be delivered to the right entity. This may lead to domain expiration without the domain holder's knowledge.

Tanzania Network Information Centre recommend that a senior-level individual within an organization be named as an administrative contact and any information pertaining to the organization's domain that need changing be updated through an accredited registrar who registered their domain or direct with tzNIC. A good practice could be having two staff members responsible for checking the domain information regularly or at least twice a year.

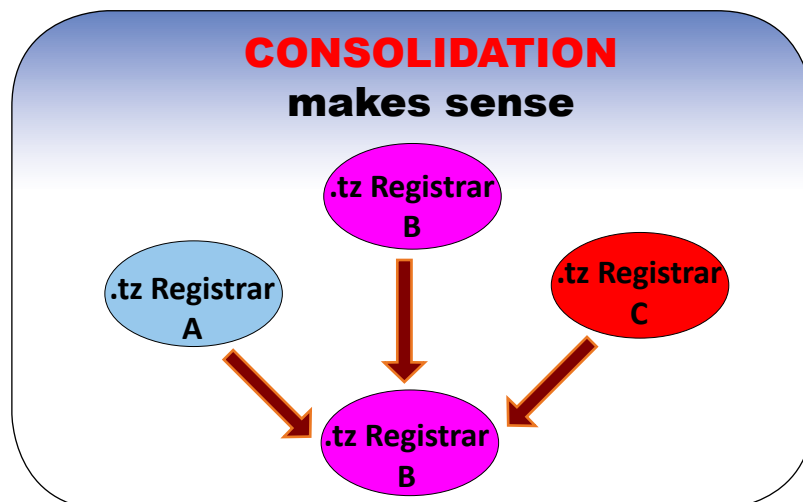
Make sure that the e-mail contact information is valid

Registrars (including tzNIC) are the organizations that provide registration services to the internet community and the most common way they notify the domain holders about the domain name renewal is by e-mail. If the the domain holders can't be reached by e-mail, there is a great chance that domain name can expire without the domain holder's knowledge. It is therefore essential and very important that administrative contact's e-mail address in the database be the current and active one. Domain holders may see whose e-mail address is in the .tz registry database when reviewing their domain-name WHOIS information at <http://whois.tznic.or.tz/whois>.

UPDATE contact information

(c) Consolidate the .tz domain names

It is very common for individuals, organizations, and companies to have more than one domain name with each domain serving a different product or business line. It is also possible that these domain names could have been registered by different registrars. Transferring a domain name from one registrar to another is very possible and therefore consolidation helps to simplify the management of .tz domain names.



(d) Register your .tz domain name for maximum period of time

A .tz domain name usually expires a year after its registration. After every year the domain holders are required to pay the renewal fee. Alternatively, the .tz domain names can be registered for a maximum of five (5) years. Therefore, tzNIC encourages registrants to consider registering their .tz domains for the maximum period at the initial time of registration or even at the time of renewal. However, it should be noted that the domain holders opting for maximum period registration will not be refunded the fee difference in the event that the renewal fee becomes low. Likewise, tzNIC will not request for the difference from the domain holders in case the renewal fee goes up.

.tzNIC PRICE LIST

(Effective from 1st July 2009)

A. Service to registrants	PRICE	
	TZS	USD
Description		
Domain name registration fee for .co.tz, .go.tz, .or.tz, .ne.tz, .ac.tz and .mil.tz subdomains	25,000	30
Domain name registration fee for .sc.tz sub-domain	5,000	5
Domain name renewal fee for .co.tz, .go.tz, .or.tz, .ne.tz, .ac.tz and .mil.tz sub-domains	20,000	25
Domain name renewal fee for .sc.tz sub-domain	5,000	5
Change of domain name ownership	150,000	200
Change of registrar (by tzNIC) per domain name	25,000	30
Dispute resolution services (panel fee – per panelist)	500,000	
Dispute resolution services (administration fee))	100,000	
B. Service to Registrars		
Minimum advance payment for domain name registrations per sub-domain (zone)	200,000	1,000
Annual administration or service charge	250,000	1,000

Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) is a not-for-profit organization established in 2006 for the purpose of managing the .tz ccTLD. It is registered as a company limited by guarantee. tzNIC strives to promote the utilization of .tz domain names; enhance its technical capacity in administering and managing the .tz registry; protect registrants' interests and harmonize the .tz ccTLD management policies at National and International levels. tzNIC ensures affordability of domain names and enables unique identity of Tanzania in cyber space.

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