



PRESS RELEASE

.tz domain names registration and usage

A country code domain refers to an Internet “Top Level” code assigned to a country, for example .za (South Africa), .zw (Zimbabwe), .ke (Kenya) and .tz (Tanzania). Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) is a not for profit company in charge of managing and administering the .tz domain space. One of the tzNIC responsibilities is the provision of affordable .tz domain name registrations to individuals, institutions and organizations that provide services or do business in Tanzania. Tanzanian entities are therefore encouraged to register domain names like xyz.co.tz for their direct, unique and credible identification in cyber space that is associated with Tanzania instead of domain names like xyz-tanzania.com which have indirect identification.

The first step toward provision of contents on line (on the website) or communicating through the Internet by e-mail using a .tz domain is domain name registration. In offering its services, tzNIC has adopted a shared Registry-Registrar-Registrant operational model so as to effectively and competitively meet its clients’ requirements. This model allows tzNIC to provide Registry services in parallel with other Registrars analogous to Airlines and travel agents business model. Currently the centre has accredited 5 registrars. They are:-

- a) University Computing Centre Ltd;
- b) Arusha Node Marie (also known as Habari);
- c) Simbanet (T) Ltd;
- d) IT Farm Ltd and
- e) Twigatech Ltd.

Four accredited registrars are in Dar es Salaam while the other one (Habari) is in Arusha. .tz domain name registration services therefore can be easily obtained from tzNIC or its accredited registrars listed above. The cost of registering a .tz domain name range from TZS 5,000 to TZS 25,000 while the annual maintenance fee vary from TZS 5,000 and TZS 20,000. These costs are the same regardless of the registrar you register with. As from May to July 2010, tzNIC has resolved to waive the registration fee as part of its domain renewal campaign and more registrations of .tz domain names.

The current number of .tz domain names is about 5,500. As a result of tzNIC being not profit driven, the future registration and maintenance fees will fully depend on the number of .tz domain names registered. The more the number of .tz domain names registered, the more chance the registration and maintenance fee can be reviewed downward.

Due to both monetary and credibility values of .tz domain names, tzNIC would like to highlight two main issues:

- a) .tz domain names registration and
- b) .tz domain names renewal.

a) .tz domain names registration

While a giraffe and Mt. Kilimanjaro take Tanzania to great heights in terms of tourism, a .tz domain will take you above the rest in cyber space identification. Therefore all Tanzanians, schools, colleges, SMEs, Companies, Governmental and non-Governmental organizations are requested to register and use .tz domain names instead of generic domain names (like .org, .com, etc).

Registering and usage of a .tz domain name contributes to the development of a .tz registry, a National communication resource, as the registration and maintenance fee remain in country building local expertise. Other benefits include:-

- i. Opportunities to avail contents online for service provision or business;
- ii. Fair market environment as small companies can equally compete online with bigger companies;
- iii. Better search engine performance;
- iv. Timely and cost effective dispute resolutions based on local rules, regulations, norms and laws;
- v. Contribution to lessening of Internet connectivity costs through content or traffic localization;
- vi. Opportunities to reach out customers worldwide, at an affordable cost and round the clock.

b) .tz domain names renewal

Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) took over .tz domain registration responsibilities in August, 2009. This was after transferring all earlier registered domains to its new registry system. The new registry is a pre-paid system by design which means domain names are registered and maintained in the .tz registry after settling the registration and annual maintenance fees. The implication is that a domain that is not renewed on time results into expiration and possible re-registration by any other registrant. The registration of an expired domain by a new

registrant can be for two reasons; either for economic gain or for business competition. This is because a .tz domain has value and therefore has to be protected.

Domain renewal is one of the key steps of protecting a .tz domain name. tzNIC therefore, requests all .tz domain holders to renew their domains before the expiry date (1 year after registration). Those who registered their domains before tzNIC took over in August 2009 are therefore reminded to update and renew their domains before they expire in July, 2010.

To assist in the renewal process, tzNIC has developed a brochure (soft copy available at http://www.tznic.or.tz/docs/domain_renewal_steps.pdf) to be used in the domain renewal campaign. The brochure details four (4) simple steps that a registrant has to take so that his domain does not expire without his knowledge. The steps are:-

- a) Verification of domain registration details through tzNIC's Whois service available at <http://whois.tznic.or.tz/whois>;
- b) Verification and updating of the administrative contact information so that registry notification updates are sent to the right person;
- c) Consolidation of .tz domain registrations to one registrar for easy domain administration and
- d) Registration of a domain for maximum period of time (5 years).

Finally tzNIC calls upon the businesses to register their companies, products and brand names and renew them on time to avoid the resulting consequences. The local internet community is advised to take advantage of this domain registration promotion and domain renewal campaign.

Nothing identifies Tanzania in cyber space like .tz does

About tzNIC

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 enhances creation and availability of local content online, ensures affordability of domain names and enables unique identity of Tanzania in cyber space.

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