Microsoft's
.Windows Registry Domain Name Registration Policy

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This .Windows Registry Domain Name Registration Policy (.Windows Registration Policy) sets out the eligibility criteria for .Windows domain names in Microsoft's .Windows registry. This .Windows Registration Policy may be updated periodically. The current version can be found at nic.Windows, and Registrant's continued registration of a .Windows domain name after any such update shall constitute Registrant's acceptance of any such update.

The terms set out in this .Windows Registration Policy constitute the full agreement concerning eligibility criteria for registration of a .Windows domain name. It is to be read in conjunction with the .Windows Registry T&Cs. No other agreements or representations supplement or alter the terms of this .Windows Registration Policy except as expressly incorporated herein.

Any undefined capitalized term in the .Windows Registration Policy shall have the meaning set out in the ICANN Registry Agreement applicable to the .Windows registry, available at
https://www.icann.org/resources/agreement/windows-2014-12-18-en

All communications and information under this .Windows Registration Policy shall be in English.

General/Definitions

Authorized Employee means an employee of Microsoft or a Microsoft Affiliate who is authorized to seek registration of a .Windows domain name in the name of Microsoft or a Microsoft Affiliate.

.Windows Registry T&Cs means the .Windows Registry Domain Name Terms and Conditions, which set out the terms and conditions governing the registration and use of domain names in the .Windows Registry.

Microsoft means Microsoft Corporation (Microsoft), a company organized under the laws of the State of Washington, U.S.A. and located at One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

Microsoft Affiliate means any person or entity that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries or in combination with one or more other persons or entities, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with Microsoft, and Microsoft's Trademark Licensees, as defined in the ICANN Registry Agreement applicable to the TLD.

Registrant means Microsoft or a Microsoft Affiliate seeking, through an Authorized Employee, to initiate registration of a .Windows domain name (which, if allowed, means that Registrant is then a .Windows domain name registrant).

Registrar means an ICANN-accredited registrar.

Registry means Microsoft as a provider of TLD registry services for the .Windows Top Level Domain registry.

Registry Services Provider means the entity providing back-end technical and operational services for the day-to-day functioning of the .Windows registry.

Terms used in the singular or plural are merely for convenience, and shall apply mutatis mutandis, as the context may require.

Rules of Eligibility

Domain names are only available for registration to and maintenance by Microsoft and, in Microsoft's sole discretion, Microsoft Affiliates.

- Microsoft reserves the right to periodically verify Registrant's eligibility to maintain a .Windows domain name registration, and at any time to initiate an Eligibility Reconsideration process.

- The only manner by which Registrant may challenge Registrant's (non-)eligibility to register a .Windows domain name is through Microsoft's .Windows Eligibility Reconsideration process described below; any determination on Registrant's (non-)eligibility to register a .Windows domain name shall be made in Microsoft's sole discretion, and is not subject to any further appeal mechanism or reconsideration process.

Eligibility Reconsideration

At any time during the registration of a .Windows domain name, Microsoft or Microsoft's domain management team may (whether of its own volition, or at the suggestion of a third party whose identity may remain confidential) instigate an Eligibility Reconsideration process to verify your compliance with the .Windows Registration Policy, in particular as to the .Windows rules of eligibility set out above. A determination by Microsoft under the .Windows Eligibility Reconsideration process may result in the cancellation or revocation of the .Windows domain name registration and any such determination shall be made in Microsoft's sole discretion, and is not subject to any further appeal mechanism or reconsideration process.

Domain Name Registration Rules

Domain name registration in the .Windows will occur pursuant to a four-step process:

(1) Eligibility Confirmation;

(2) Naming Convention Check;

(3) Acceptable Use Review; and,

(4) Registration (.Windows domain name registrations shall be for one year).

Only if an attempted domain name registration is verified as meeting the .Windows Registration Policy, including the domain name being available for registration (i.e., not already registered), and only where Registrant meets the .Windows Rules of Eligibility, can a .Windows domain name proceed to registration/allocation. .Windows domain name registrations shall at all times be bound to all applicable .Windows rules and regulations including inter alia the .Windows Registration Policy and the .Windows Registry T&Cs.

(1) Eligibility Confirmation

- Only Authorized Employees may seek to register (including any renewals) .Windows domain names; .Windows domain names may not under any circumstances be registered or used by parties other than Microsoft and Microsoft Affiliates and may not

subsequently be sold, distributed or transferred to any other party without Microsoft's consent.

- Only Microsoft and Microsoft Affiliates may use .Windows domain names.

- Prior to approval/registration/renewal, all prospective domain name registrations will be verified by the Registrar and Microsoft's .Windows domain name management team for compliance with the .Windows Rules of Eligibility.

(2) Naming Convention Check

A second-level .Windows domain name must meet all of the following criteria:

(a) Must be at least 1 character and no more than 63 characters long.

(b) Must not contain a hyphen at the 3rd and 4th positions (tagged domains), unless corresponding to a valid Internationalized Domain Name in ASCII encoding (for example "xn--ndk061n").

(c) Must contain only letters (a-z), numbers (0-9) and hyphens, or a combination of these.

(d) Must start and end with an alphanumeric character, not a hyphen.

(e) Must not be a Reserved Name (see below).

(3) Acceptable Use Review

- Upon submission of a request to register a .Windows domain name, or by asking Microsoft to renew a .Windows domain name registration, Registrant represents and warrants that Registrant's .Windows domain name registration does and will at all times comply with the .Windows Registration Policy and the .Windows Registry T&Cs.

- Prior to approval/registration/renewal, Registrant's domain name registration will be verified by Microsoft's .Windows domain name management team for compliance as to .Windows Registry T&Cs.

- Domain name registrations/renewals will only be permitted in the .Windows registry where Authorized Employee has obtained a .Windows registration code from Microsoft's .Windows domain name management team in advance of registration; .Windows registration codes are granted subject to Microsoft's satisfaction that Registrant's registration and use of a .Windows domain name will conform with the .Windows Registry T&Cs.

- Microsoft may periodically review a Registrant's compliance with the .Windows Registry T&Cs. Any determination by Microsoft's domain name management team as to Registrant's (non-)compliance with the .Windows Registration Policy and/or .Windows Registry T&Cs may result in the cancellation or revocation of Registrant's .Windows domain name registration or the withdrawal of permission to use it, as applicable and in Microsoft's sole discretion.

(4) Registration

- Unless otherwise agreed in writing in advance with the Microsoft .Windows Registry and confirmed by the Registrar, .Windows domain name registrations, and renewals, are for a period of one year.

- Provided that the .Windows Eligibility Confirmation, Naming Convention Check, and Acceptable Use Review criteria are all satisfied, Microsoft's .Windows domain name management team will instruct the Registrar to proceed with the registration or renewal of Registrant's .Windows domain name.

- If at any point prior to the registration expiration date Registrant no longer wishes to maintain Registrant's .Windows domain name registration, Authorized Employee may submit a written (which shall include email) request to domains@microsoft.com for Microsoft's .Windows domain name management team to cancel Registrant's .Windows domain name registration; in such event, Microsoft's .Windows domain name management team is under no obligation to make such domain name available for future registration.

- At the conclusion of the registration period for Registrant's .Windows domain name, unless Registrant has instructed Microsoft otherwise at least 30 calendar days prior to the expiration of Registrant's .Windows domain name registration, we will automatically renew Registrant's .Windows domain name registration.

Reserved Names

The following terms are reserved from registration:

a. terms prohibited by ICANN from availability for registration including as required by the ICANN Registry Agreement applicable to the .Windows Top Level Domain, and in particular
   1. the terms "example", "www", "rdds", and "whois" at all levels, which at Microsoft's discretion shall be withheld from registration or allocated to Microsoft
   2. the term "nic", at all levels, as this term shall be allocated to Microsoft for use in connection with the operation of the .Windows Top Level Domain
b. any term reserved by Microsoft in its sole discretion.