

The General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for registrations in the dot-gov domain.

*Domain name* is a name assigned to an Internet server. This is the name that you request from GSA. Typically, you would apply this name to a domain name server. A domain name locates the organization or other entity on the Internet. The dot gov part of the domain name reflects the purpose of the organization or entity. This part is called the Top-Level Domain name. The Second-Level Domain name to the left of the dot gov maps to a readable version of the Internet address. The Domain Name server has a registry of Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers that relate to the readable text name.

*Domain name server* is the computer that provides pointers from the domain name to the actual computers.

*Dot-gov* refers to domain names ending with a “.gov” suffix. The Internet GOV domain is another way of expressing the collection of dot-gov domain names.

*Native Sovereign Nations (NSN)* are federally recognized tribes.

### Subpart B—Registration

#### § 102-173.30 Who may register in the dot-gov domain?

Registration in the dot-gov domain is available to official governmental organizations in the United States including Federal, State, and local governments, and Native Sovereign Nations.

#### § 102-173.35 Who authorizes domain names?

Domain names must be authorized by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the requesting or sponsoring governmental organization. For Federal departments and agencies, the General Services Administration (GSA) will accept authorization from the CIO of the department or agency. For independent Federal government agencies, boards, and commissions, GSA will accept authorization from the highest-ranking Information Technology Official. For State and local governments, GSA will accept authorization from appropriate State or local officials, *see* § 102-173.40.

For Native Sovereign Nations, GSA will only accept authorization from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. In most cases, GSA will not make determinations on the appropriateness of the selected domain names, but reserves the right to not assign domain names on a case-by-case basis. Non-Federal government domain names must follow the naming conventions described in §§ 102-173.50 through 102-173.65. For other government entities, CIO's may delegate this authority by notification to GSA.

#### § 102-173.40 Who is my Chief Information Officer (CIO)?

Your Chief Information Officer (CIO) may vary according to the branch of government. For the Federal Government, the General Services Administration (GSA) recognizes the cabinet level CIOs listed at <http://www.cio.gov>. For States, GSA will accept authorization from the Office of the Governor or highest-ranking Information Technology (IT) official. Other officials include the Mayor (for city or town), County Commissioner (for counties) or highest ranking IT official. Native Sovereign Nations (NSN) must receive authorization from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. CIOs may delegate this authority by notification to GSA.

#### § 102-173.45 Is there a registration charge for domain names?

The General Services Administration (GSA) reserves the right to charge for domain names in order to recover cost of operations. For current registration charges, please visit the GSA Web site at <http://www.nic.gov>. GSA does not currently charge a fee. GSA has the authority to employ a system of collection that includes a one-time setup fee for new registrations, which will not exceed \$1000, depending on the level of assistance that may be provided by GSA, and a recurring annual charge that will not exceed \$500 for all dot-gov domains. The fees are based on anticipated costs for operating the registration service.

#### § 102-173.50 What is the naming convention for States?

(a) To register any second-level domain within dot-gov, State government

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entities must register the full State name or clearly indicate the State postal code within the name. Examples of acceptable names include *virginia.gov*, *tennesseeanyttime.gov*, *wa.gov*, *nmparks.gov*, *mysc.gov*, *emaryland.gov*, and *ne-taxes.gov*. However—

(1) Use of the State postal code should not be embedded within a single word in a way that obscures the postal code. For example, Indiana (IN) should not register for *win.gov*, or *independence.gov*; and

(2) Where potential conflicts arise between postal codes and existing domain names, States are encouraged to register URL's that contain the full State name.

(b) There is no limit to the number of domain names for which a State may register.

(c) States are encouraged to make second-level domains available for third-level registration by local governments and State Government departments and programs. For example, the State of North Carolina could register *NC.GOV* as a second-level domain and develop a system of registration for their local governments. The State would be free to develop policy on how the local government should be registered under *NC.GOV*. One possibility might be to spell out the city, thus *Raleigh.NC.gov* could be a resulting domain name.

### § 102–173.55 What is the naming convention for Cities and Townships?

(a) To register any second-level domain within *dot.gov*, City (town) governments must register the domain name with the city (town) name or abbreviation, and clear reference to the State in which the city (town) is located. However—

(1) Use of the State postal code should not be embedded within a single word in a way that obscures the postal code; and

(2) Inclusion of the word city or town within the domain name is optional and may be used at the discretion of the local government.

(b)(1) The preferred format for city governments is to denote the State postal code after the city name, option-

ally separated by a dash. Examples of preferred domain names include—

- (i) *Chicago-il.gov*;
- (ii) *Cityofcharleston-sc.gov*;
- (iii) *Charleston-wv.gov*;
- (iv) *Townofdumfries-va.gov*; and
- (v) *Detroitmi.gov*.

(2) GSA reserves the right to make exceptions to the naming conventions described in this subpart on a case-by-case basis in unique and compelling cases.

(c) If third-level domain naming is used, GSA reserves the right to offer exceptions to the third-level domain naming conventions described in this section on a case-by-case basis in unique and compelling cases.

### § 102–173.60 What is the naming convention for Counties or Parishes?

(a) To register any second-level domain within *dot.gov*, County or Parish governments must register the County's or Parish's name or abbreviation, the word "county" or "parish" (because many counties have the same name as cities within the same State), and a reference to the State in which the county or parish is located. However, the use of the State postal code should not be embedded within a single word in a way that obscures the postal code.

(b) The preferred format for county or parish governments is to denote the State postal code after the county or parish, optionally separated by a dash. Examples of preferred domain names include—

- (1) *Richmondcounty-ga.gov*;
- (2) *Pwc-county-va.gov*; and
- (3) *Countyofdorchester-sc.gov*.

(c) If third-level domain naming is available from the State government, counties or parishes are encouraged to register for a domain name under a State's registered second-level (*e.g.*, *richmondcounty.ga.gov*).

### § 102–173.65 What is the naming convention for Native Sovereign Nations?

To register any second-level domain in *dot.gov*, Native Sovereign Nations (NSN) may register any second-level domain name provided that it contains the registering NSN name followed by