

# Definitions and Glossary

## Document Information

---

### Document Contact

#### Document Contact

Contact the following for details related to this document:

Title	Internet Domain Section Head
Address	Communications Regulatory Authority, Doha – Qatar
Email	<a href="mailto:support@domains.qa">support@domains.qa</a>

### Document Status

The status of the document:

Version	1.0
Effective Date	12/1/2011
Status	Current
Issue Date	12/1/2011

The following terms shall have the meanings assigned to each of them:

**“Qatar Domains Registry”** is the department that has been endorsed to manage the ccTLD’s associated with the State of Qatar. The Qatar Domains Registry is an initiative and Department within The Communications Regulatory Authority of Qatar;

**“ccTLD”** or **“country code Top Level Domain”** means the ccTLD in respect of the State of Qatar as indicated by the two letter ASCII country code “.qa” or the IDN Arabic Script representation قطر ; as part of the Domain Name System administered by IANA;

**“Qatar Domains Registry Policies”** means the policies, procedures, guidelines, directions, notices, regulations, decisions, directives, warranties and codes of practice issued and made publicly available by the Qatar Domains Registry from time to time and as may be modified or amended from time to time;

**“Accreditation”** means the act of being in or the state of existence of being in compliance with the Accreditation Requirements and being accredited as a Registrar by the Qatar Domains Registry, and **“Accredited”** or **“Accrediting”** has a corresponding meaning;

**“Accreditation Fee”** means the Fee that is paid to the Qatar Domains Registry that is required as part of the Accreditation Process, the amount of which is notified by the Qatar Domains Registry from time to time;

**“Accreditation Process”** means the process undertaken by the Registrar in accordance with the terms of the Registry-Registrar Agreement and any other relevant Qatar Domains Registry Policies in force from time to time to ensure that the Registrar has Accreditation;

**“Accredited Registrar”** means a Registrar for the taking of Domain Name Applications and issuing of Domain Name Licences, and Accredited as such by Qatar Domains Registry in accordance with the Registry-Registrar Agreement and the relevant Qatar Domains Registry Policy and **“Accredited”** has a corresponding meaning;

**“Accreditation Requirements”** means the Qatar Domains Registry Accreditation Requirements as set out in the Registry-Registrar Agreement and any relevant Qatar Domains Registry Policies;

**“Administrative Contact”** means, in respect of a Registrant, the person or persons identified in the Registry Database as the person authorised by the Registrant to interact with the Sponsoring Registrar in respect of the relevant Domain Name. The Administrative Contact is to be regarded as the authoritative point of contact for the Registrant in respect of the relevant Domain Name;

**“QR”** means the currency Qatari Riyal;

**“Annual Accreditation Fee”** means the Fee payable on an annual basis to the Qatar Domains Registry to maintain the state of Accreditation, the amount of which is notified by the Qatar Domains Registry from time to time;

**“Applicant”** means a person or organisation who files a Domain Name Application with an Accredited Registrar;

**“Application Fee”** means the Fee that is payable to the Qatar Domains Registry to apply to be an Accredited Registrar;

**“Business Day”** means any day other than the public holiday in the State of Qatar;

**“Calendar Day”** means a 24 hour period from 12 am to 12 am being a day in the Gregorian calendar, and irrespective of whether it is a Business Day or not;

**“Cancellation”** means, in respect of a Domain Name, the act of submitting a request to the Domain Name Registry System to cancel the Domain Name from the Domain Name Registry System, the effect of which is to Delete the Domain Name from the Domain Name Registry System and to make the Domain Name available for Application by other parties and **“Cancel”** shall have a corresponding meaning;

**“Commencement Date”** means the commencement of the Registry-Registrar Agreement which will be determined by the Qatar Domains Registry once the Registrar has met all the requirements for Accreditation;

**“Confidential Information”** means but is not limited to any systems, technology, ideas, concepts, know-how, techniques, designs, specifications, blueprints, tracings, diagrams, models, functions, capabilities or designs, (including computer software, manufacturing processes or other information embodied in drawings or specifications), intellectual property or any other information which is owned or used by or licensed to Discloser or its Related Corporations in which Disclosing Party has a business interest, confidential or ownership interest or legal duty to protect, and whether or not that documentation is clearly marked as ‘Confidential’, information which is confidential, or information and regardless of whether or not that information is disclosed in writing, orally or in any other fashion;

**“Deletion”** means the act of removing a Domain Name from the Domain Name Registry System the effect of which is that it is as of the moment of Deletion that Domain Name is no longer Registered and is therefore available for application and **“Delete”** has a corresponding meaning;

**“DNS Service”** means public Domain Name resolution service as defined in RFCs 1034 and 1045 found at [www.rfc-editor.org](http://www.rfc-editor.org) as amended from time to time, which is provided by the Qatar Domains Registry as part of the Domain Name Registry System;

**“Domain”** means a subset of a DNS hierarchy used to group and identify a specific set of Resource Records typically common to or under control of a particular entity;

**“Domain Name”** means a string associated with Internet resources detailed in RFC 1034, 1035 and other relevant RFCs, including those which relate to the IDNA Protocol;

**“Domain Name Application”** or **“Application”** means an application for the registration of a Domain Name. A Domain Name Application is made by an Applicant;

**“Domain Name Password”** means a string of characters and digits, defined by the Qatar Domains Registry Policy to be used by the Registrant, among other uses, during the Transfer of Registrars in respect of the relevant Domain Name;

**“Domain Name Licence”** means the licence to use a specific Domain Name, for a specified period of time, issued or granted to a Registrant by the Qatar Domains Registry, entitling that Registrant to an exclusive right to use that Domain Name for the relevant Domain Name Licence Period;

**“Domain Name Licence Period”** means the period for which a Domain Name Licence is granted;

**“Registration”** means the entry of a Domain Name into the Domain Name Registry System as being the subject of a Domain Name Licence in favour of a Registrant and **“Registering”** or **“to Register”** shall have a corresponding meaning;

**“Domain Name Registry System”** or **“Registry”** or **“Registry System”** means the system which includes any or all servers, switches, routers, firewalls and associated equipment and the software installed on such equipment used in recording, storing and maintaining the Registry Data and shall have a corresponding meaning;

**“Domain Name System”** or **“DNS”** means the system described in RFC 1591 issued March 1994, found at [www.rfc-editor.org](http://www.rfc-editor.org) as amended from time to time which provides for the resolution of Domain Names to numerical IP Addresses for the purposes of routing traffic through the Internet;

**“Eligibility Requirements”** mean the requirements that an Applicant must meet in order to have a Domain Name Licence in respect of a specific Domain Name issued or granted by the Qatar Domains Registry and **“Eligibility”** or **“Eligible”** shall have a corresponding meaning;

**“EPP Protocol”** means Extensible Provisioning Protocol and is used to provide a method of communication between Domain Name Registries and Registrars which is more particularly described in RFC 5730, RFC 5731, RFC 5732, RFC 5733 and RFC 5735; and as updated from time to time; and **“EPP Service”** shall have a corresponding meaning.

**“Fees”** means one or more of the Fees imposed or levied on Registrars by the Qatar Domains Registry.

**“GNU Lesser General Public License”** means a free software license published by the Free Software Foundation found at [www.gnu.org](http://www.gnu.org);

**“Government”** means the Government and/or Governmental entities in the State of Qatar ;

**“IANA”** means the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority which is responsible for allocation of globally-unique names and numbers that are used in Internet protocols, and which is currently managed by ICANN;

**“ICANN”** means the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the international body responsible for coordinating the global Domain Name System and the allocation of IP Addresses;

**“Internet Protocol”** or **“IP”** is a communications protocol which is the underlying technology for routing and addressing on which the Internet is based;

**“IP Address”** is a numerical identifier used as an address for resources located on the Internet;

**“Label”** means a string of characters consisting of one or more letters, digits or a hyphen ('-') characters separated by a period ('.');

**“Legacy Domain”** means a Domain Name that existed in the .qa ccTLD prior to the commencement of the Qatar Domains Registry’s Domain Name Registry System;

**“Modification”** means alterations to the Domain Name Record submitted to the Domain Name Registry System by the Registrar, on behalf of the Registrant;

**“OTE”** or **“Operational Testing Environment”** is a system which matches or replicates the services provided by the Domain Name Registry System, for testing purposes;

**“Registered Domain Names”** means Domain Names in the Registry Database;

**“Registrant”** means the individual or organisation that is recorded in the Registry Database as the person or organisation who is entitled to use a specific Domain Name pursuant to a Domain Name License;

**“Registrant Agreement”** means the agreement to be entered into between the Registrar and a Registrant with respect to the terms and conditions on which the Registrar shall provide the Registrar Services;

**“Registrant Information”** means the information about the Registrant provided to the Registrar by or on behalf of the Registrant for the purposes of a Domain Name Application and a Registrant Agreement including but not limited to any details of the Registrant’s name, postal and business address and contact details collected by the Registrar;

**“Registrant Contact”** means in respect of a Registrant, the details indicated in the Registry Database for the Registrant;

**“Registrar”** means an entity that, pursuant to a contract with the Qatar Domains Registry is able to provide Registration Services to Registrants;

**“Sponsoring Registrar”** means in respect of a Domain Name Licence, the Registrar which is responsible to the Registry and the relevant Registrant for management of the Domain Name Licence, and **“Sponsorship”** and **“Sponsoring”** have corresponding meanings;

**“Registrar's System”** means the method and systems which the Registrar uses to interact with the Domain Name Registry System and the public;

**“Registrar Services”** means the provision of services by an Accredited Registrar including the Registration, Renewal, the issue of Domain Name Licences, or the on-going management of the relationship between a Registrant and the Registry in respect of the relevant Domain Name Licence;

**“Registry-Registrar Agreement”** or **“RRA”** means the Registry-Registrar Agreement made between the Registrar and the Qatar Domains Registry pursuant to which the Registrar is able to provide certain services;

**“Registry Data”** or means the data maintained by the Qatar Domains Registry to record, store and maintain details of available and registered and previous Domain Names (other than Intellectual Property or non-public, proprietary or commercially sensitive information or property of the Qatar Domains Registry) used by the Qatar Domains Registry in establishing and maintaining the Domain Name Registry System or providing the Registry Services);

**“Registry Portal Service”** means the service of providing to access to a subset of Registry Data to users via a web-based interface to the Domain Name Registry System;

**“Registry Services”** means the EPP Service, the WHOIS Service, the WHOIS Check Service, the Registry Portal Service, DNS Service and their OTE equivalents;

**“Registry Toolkit”** means the programming interface provided by the Qatar Domains Registry to Registrars to facilitate access to the Qatar Domains Registry Domain Name Registry System;

**“Regulatory Body”** means the Qatar Domains Registry;

**“Renewal”** and **“Renew”** means, in respect of a Domain Name Licence, the renewal of that Licence for a subsequent Domain Name Licence Period and will have the effect that the Domain Name is “Renewed”;

**“Resellers”** mean those entities that resell the services of an Accredited Registrar in accordance with the terms of a contract between them and the relevant Accredited Registrar;

**“Reserved Names List”** or **“List”** means the list of words maintained by the Qatar Domains Registry which are reserved due to State of Qatar legislation to preserve moral and cultural values, and those that are reserved due to technical reasons, or for other reasons and the Registration of which must be approved by the Qatar Domains Registry and possibly another government department or Agency of the State of Qatar;

**“Resource Record”** means a record within a DNS hierarchy that assists in locating the network resources associated with a particular Domain, including the location of authoritative servers for the Domain and any associated Sub-Domains;

**“RFC”** means each of those documents entitled “Request For Comment” found at [www.rfc-editor.org](http://www.rfc-editor.org) as at the date of the Agreement;

**“Second-Level Domain”** means a Domain Name that consists of a single Label under the ccTLD. For example: “domainname.qa”;

**“Suffix”** means the Label(s) appearing at the end of a Domain Name;

**“Technical Contact”** means the contact person or role nominated by the Registrant. The Technical Contact may be the Sponsoring Registrar or their Reseller.

**“Third-Level Domain”** means a Domain Name that consists of two Labels under the ccTLD. For example: “domainname.com.qa”;

**“Transfer”** means either a Transfer of Registrar, a Transfer of Registrant or both, as the context dictates;

**“Transfer Request”** means, in respect of a Domain Name Licence, an instruction from the Transferee Registrar to the Registry, for the Transfer in the Registry Database of the Registration/Sponsorship of that Domain Name Licence, from the Sponsoring Registrar to the Transferee Registrar, so that the Transferee Registrar becomes the Sponsoring Registrar in respect of that Domain Name Licence;

**“Transferee Registrar”** means, in respect of a Transfer, the Registrar to which management or Sponsorship of a Domain Name Licence is or is to be Transferred;

**“Transferor Registrar”** means, in respect of a Transfer, the Registrar from which management or Sponsorship of a Domain Name Licence is or is to be Transferred;

**“URL”** is an acronym for "Uniform Resource Locator", a string that describes the address of documents and other resources on the Internet. Defined by the IETF in RFC 2396, a URL is comprised of two parts separated by a colon (":"). The first part of the address indicates the protocol to be used, e.g., http, ftp, etc., and the second part specifies the IP Address or the Domain Name where the resource is located.

**“Warranty”** means each of the Warranties given by each Registrant as set out in the Qatar Domains Registry Registrant Warranties Policy, and **“Warrant”** shall have a corresponding meaning;

**“WHOIS Check Service”** means the service made available to the public whereby a user can interrogate a Registry Database to determine certain information regarding a Domain Name Licence and the relevant Registrar, but which provides less information than an enquiry through the WHOIS Service;



“**WHOIS Data**” means the public information data for inclusion in the WHOIS database in respect of Registered Domain Names and their Registrants;

“**WHOIS Database**” means the database from which WHOIS Service and WHOIS Check Service requested are answered;

“**WHOIS Service**” means the service made available to the public by Qatar Domains Registry, whereby an enquirer can interrogate a Registry Database to determine certain information regarding a Domain Name Licence;

“**XML**” means Extensible Markup Language and is a W3C initiative that allows information and services to be encoded with meaningful structure;

“**Zone**” means a sub-section of the global DNS hierarchy;

“**Zone File**” means a file that contains the Resource Records of a particular Domain;

### **IDN Specific Definitions**

“**A-label**” means the ASCII-compatible encoding form of an IDNA-valid string. The A-label is also referred to as the **DNS Form**;

“**Active Variant**” means a Variant of a Primary Arabic Script Domain Name that functions in the DNS;

“**Arabic Script Domain Name**” is a Domain Name in which all Labels are based on Arabic characters;

“**ASCII**” means the American Standard Code for Information Interchange. ASCII is an encoding scheme based on the ordering of the English alphabet. ASCII is a common numerical code for computers and other devices that work with text. ASCII code is the numerical representation of a character such as 'a' or '@' and is the underlying encoding format used by the DNS;

“**ASCII Compatible Encoding**” or “**ACE**” means ASCII Compatible Encoding and is a system for encoding Unicode Code Points so any character can be transmitted using only a limited set of ASCII characters (i.e. a-z, 0-9 and “-”);

“**Blocked Variants**” means those Variants which have been associated with a Primary Arabic Script Domain Name, but not provisioned within the Qatar Domains Registry Domain Name Registry System or the DNS.

“**Code Points**” mean an assigned code that uniquely define every character in certain languages and scripts. These Code Points are unique numbers for each character, or an aspect of a character such as an accent mark or ligature;

“**DNS Form**” means the form of the Domain Name as it is represented in the DNS;

**“IDN”** means an Internationalised Domain Name. IDNs are Domain Names that include characters from scripts other than the twenty-six letters of the basic Latin alphabet “a-z”. An IDN can contain Latin letters with diacritical marks, or may consist of characters from non-Latin scripts;

**“IDNA”** means Internationalised the Domain Names in Applications Protocol. IDNA is a protocol defined in RFC 3490 by the Internet Engineering Task Force (<http://www.ietf.org>) that makes it possible for computer applications to handle Domain Names with non-ASCII characters. IDNA converts Domain Names with non-ASCII characters to ASCII Domain Names that function in the DNS. The IDNA protocol provides the transition between A-labels and U-labels.

**“IDNA-valid”** means a label that meets all of the requirements of the IDNA specifications for an IDNA label;

**“Normalization Form C” or “NFC”** means Unicode Code Points where alternate representations are removed;

**“Primary Arabic Script Domain Name”** means an Arabic Script Domain Name in the Domain Name Registry System, which may or may not have Variants associated with it;

**“Script”** means a symbolic system used to represent elements or statements expressible in language;

**“Variant”** means two U-labels that are considered to be ‘equivalent’ to each other. A Variant of a Domain Name is one that is considered by the Qatar Domains Registry to be potentially confusingly similar to users of the Domain Name. Variants are associated with the Primary Arabic Script Domain Name;

**“U-label”** is an IDNA-valid string of Unicode characters, in normalization form NFC and including at least one non-ASCII character, expressed in a standard Unicode form. The U-label is also referred to as the **User Form**;

**“User Form”** means the form of the Domain Name as it appears in the selected script;

**“Unicode”** means the commonly used single encoding scheme that provides a unique number for each character across a wide variety of languages and scripts. The Unicode scheme contains tables that list the Code Points for each character identified.

The Qatar Domains Registry may up-date any of these definitions at any time. Any amendment will be posted on the official website of the Qatar Domains Registry.