The .it Registry is responsible for assigning and managing .it domains. This service has been operating within the RIT of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) since December 1987. The Registry is responsible for all the activities related to registering and maintaining .it domains. The Registry was authorized to carry out this role by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), which has now become ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) and which has historically been responsible for assigning IP addresses on an international basis, and for managing DNSs. Assigning and maintaining .it domains is both national and European. We work in direct contact with around 2,100 Italian and foreign operators that have contracts with us (the so-called maintainers) and there are more than 1,750,000 active domains. We give direct support to over 800,000 .it domain name assignors.

Any citizen over the age of 18 in the European Union can register a .it domain. The norms are covered in the Regulations of assigning and managing domain names, and are subject to periodic revisions by the Registry itself and by the Rules Committee. This committee is responsible for drafting the rules and technical procedures for assigning and managing domain names in the ccTLD.it. All variations, both in terms of regulations and procedures, are as a concerted effort among the various parties and this facilitates free competition amongst those working in this field. The Registry works closely alongside government departments, particularly with the Italian Ministry of Economic Development overseeing domain name registration in relation to Italian law (art. 15, clause 1 of the Code of Electronic Communication), and is the Guarantor for the protection of personal data in order to ensure harmonious management and useful interchange.

**Some history**

Since its beginnings, the process of registering domain names under the .it country code top level domain has been a particular activity of the Italian National Research Council (CNR). In December 1987 with the birth of the first domain name in the Italian network (“cnr.it”), the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority recognised the ccTLD.it and assigned the CNR with its management given the technical and scientific expertise of its researchers, who had been amongst the first in Europe to adopt the IP protocol. The service of registering and maintaining Italian domains was initially provided by the CNR in 1997 this role passed to another CNR institute - the Institute for Telematic Applications (IAT), and then to IIT which was founded in 2002 from a merger between IAT and the Institute of Computational Mathematics. The diffusion of .it domain names has followed in parallel the more general development of the Internet in Italy. For the first ten years the web was essentially used in academic and research circles, and domain registration was nothing more than a niche activity. With the explosion of the World Wide Web, which in Italy took place in the late 1990s, the process of registering, .it domain names real-ly took off. The .it Registry has gradually enlarged its size to changing workloads and at the same time has adapted the regulation and technological tools to the changing needs of the opera-tors and the market. After the elimination of the limit to the number of domains that could be register-ed (in 2000 for companies, and in 2004 for private indivi-duals), the rush for .it domain names has progressed ra-pidly, with more than 25,000 new requests for regis-tration every month.

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