Privacy Policy

Registration Checker (RegCheck)

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19 June 2025	Public	1/3	
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Title of application/study	Registration Checker (RegCheck)
Policy start date	29 July 2025
Project description	RegCheck identifies potentially hazardous domain names at the time of registration. The identification of such registrations is necessarily based exclusively on data already available at that point in time, such as the domain name itself and the registrant's postal address. SIDN Labs posts the potentially hazardous registrations on an internal dashboard, enabling the Support Department to decide whether to investigate further and whether to, for example, initiate an Article 18 procedure (registrant verification procedure). RegCheck also enables a registrant verification procedure to be started automatically in cases where a domain name registration is identified as very probably malicious. However, the final decision to delink a domain name is always left to the Support team.

RegCheck has been developed into an operational tool in partnership with DNS Belgium. |
| **Purpose of application/study** | The purpose of the application is as follows:
1. To increase the security of the .nl domain by using registration data to automatically identify potentially malicious domain names at the time of registration |

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2. To implement a system that is also suitable for use by other registries to assess the risk associated with new registrations in their domains.

RegCheck is intended for the identification of potentially hazardous domain name registrations for further investigation by Support Department staff. Potentially hazardous domain name registrations are registrations that are very likely to be subsequently used for hosting malicious websites, such as phishing sites. Domain name registrations that involve erroneous registration data, but appear to be legitimately motivated are outside the scope of the study.

Personal data

(1) Registrant data for all .nl domain names registered in the preceding 5 years. The data in question includes certain personal data, namely registrant name, Trade Register number, e-mail address, phone number, city, postcode, street, property number, country. (2) Domain names registered in the last 10 years, without any accompanying registrant data. Some domain names may constitute personal data.

Legitimate basis

Reasonable interest.

Filters

In order to continuously refine the machine learning algorithm that calculates risk scores for registrations, we will utilise a list of known malicious domain names (compiled using data from Netcraft and other sources), plus a random selection of domain names and associated registrant data. The data in question will be up to 5 years old. We have chosen to use 5 years of data because the algorithm requires enough examples to learn how to distinguish effectively between malicious and bona fide registrations. We will additionally use a model trained using only domain names (without associated registrant data) registered over the last 10 years.

The classification process will involve all the domain names newly registered each day. The registrations identified by RegCheck as potentially hazardous will be continuously referred to the Support Department for evaluation. RegCheck will also be able to automatically initiate a registrant verification procedure in cases where a registration is identified as very probably a risk. SIDN Labs will liaise with Support to decide whether the latter functionality should be enabled and, if so, under what conditions. A registrant verification procedure involves mailing

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the registrant to ask for proof of identity.

Retention	New registration data, classification results and Support Department appraisals will be retained for a period of 5 years.
Access	The new registration data and classifications will be accessible only to SIDN Labs staff who are involved in the RegCheck pilot. The data will be saved in a secure database.
	A small number of Support Department personnel will have access to the registrations referred to them by SIDN Labs on a daily basis. The registrations will be displayed on an online dashboard accessible only to suitably authorised Support Department and SIDN Labs personnel and only from the SIDN network, with access controlled by username-plus-password protection.
Publication/sharing	Blog posts and an academic article about the study have been published, but no personal information was included.
Type	R&D and production
Other security measures	None
Summarised project description	RegCheck is intended for the identification of potentially hazardous domain name registrations for further investigation by our Support Department. Potentially hazardous domain name registrations are registrations that are very likely to be subsequently used for hosting malicious websites, such as phishing sites. Domain name registrations that involve erroneous data, but appear to be legitimately motivated are outside the scope of the study.