

The.nlyst

“IT’S NOT OFTEN THAT AN OPPORTUNITY COMES ALONG THAT’S SUCH A GOOD FIT”

Valerie Frissen on the SIDN Fund

On 1 September, Valerie Frissen starts work as CEO of the SIDN Fund, which was set up with the aim of contributing to prosperity and welfare in the Netherlands by increasing the economic and social value of the internet. Valerie regards her new role as such a good fit that it could almost have been created especially for her.

How did you come into contact with the SIDN Fund?

“It was quite an unusual sequence of events. I was originally invited to join SIDN’s Supervisory Board. At TNO, I used to work with Erik Huizer, who was stepping down from the Supervisory Board. Eric suggested me as his successor. When the invitation came, I didn’t have to think twice. I had often come into contact with SIDN and had known CEO Roelof Meijer for some years. The subject of the SIDN Fund came up shortly after my first discussions with SB Chair Eddy Schuyer. I thought it sounded like a fantastic challenge. Most of my career has been concerned with the other side of the funding equation: winning clients, getting budgets together. The idea of being able to distribute funds really appealed. Eddy Schuyer said that he thought the role was perfect for me, because I’ve been involved with similar projects for years



Valerie Frissen, CEO SIDN Fund

and know the field well. I also have an extensive contact network, enabling me to bring people together or put forward projects that wouldn’t normally apply for funding. However, it wasn’t possible to combine the role of SIDN Fund CEO with membership of the SB. So in the end I only actually went to one SB meeting.”

You already had a great job as Managing Director of CLICKNL. So why the switch?

“I set up CLICKNL from scratch. I enjoy that kind of thing: creating something new, pioneering. The same qualities that I used at CLICKNL will stand me in good stead at the SIDN Fund. CLICKNL exists for the whole creative industry, whereas the SIDN Fund focuses on my own field of expertise: ICT and social change. So it was a logical move. It’s not often that an opportunity comes along that’s such a good fit in terms of your personal inter- ➔

Foreword

On 1 September, Valerie Frissen began work as CEO of the SIDN Fund. We have set up the SIDN Fund to provide financial support to initiatives that increase the value of the internet to our economy and our community. By doing so, we hope to make a significant contribution to prosperity and welfare. Valerie has held various posts in the ICT sector and is an Honorary Professor of ICT and Social Change. Her expertise, wide-ranging experience and extensive network of contacts in the ICT and media world made her the ideal person for the role. I am proud that we have been able to secure her services for the SIDN Fund.

Creation of the SIDN Fund gives expression to one of our corporate objectives: to deliver the greatest possible added value to our (digital) community. In pursuit of that objective, we have for some years been supporting a variety of projects that promote innovation, education, research, security and trust, application reach and constructive use of the internet in the Netherlands. Because the need for such support – and consequently the level of our investment – have been increasing year on year, we decided in 2013 to set up a separate, professional organisation – the SIDN Fund – to handle our activities in this field.

We are confident that the new organisation will mean enhanced assistance for projects, while also enabling us to concentrate our support on community initiatives more closely related to our core task. Initiatives such as upgrading the Netherlands' digital infrastructure, establishing a sector-wide alliance to promote a secure and reliable digital economy, and setting up the Internet Standards Platform to increase the acceptance of protocols such as IPv6 and DNSSEC. You can read more about all those initiatives in this edition of The.nlyst. There is also a feature on SIDN Labs, our own research arm, which works with knowledge partners to explore and develop new internet technologies and systems.

By creating the SIDN Fund and supporting initiatives such as those described, we are increasing our contribution to the internet's ongoing development and vitality. In that way, we hope to make a meaningful contribution to prosperity and welfare in the Netherlands – for the benefit of the internet industry and the nation as a whole.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the various projects as much as we enjoy contributing to them.

Roelof Meijer,
CEO



ests and experience. Although I have a lot of management experience, I don't always have to head up a large team. Innovating, setting things in motion, breaking some new ground – that's what I enjoy."

What will you bring to the SIDN Fund from your previous role?

"At TNO, we did a lot of research for the government into the social impact of the internet. For example, a few years ago the government asked us to investigate whether 'digital pioneers' – people who were already using the internet to pursue community goals, were in need of government support. What we found was that, while internet pioneers preferred to remain at arm's length from the government, they did often run up against constraints, such as lack of server capacity or the limitations inherent to voluntary work. The exercise led to creation of the digital pioneers scheme: a low-threshold support mechanism for initiatives that help to take the internet forward and contribute to the community. The scheme serves as an excellent example for the SIDN Fund. Involvement with that project taught me that it's not all about financial support. A lot can also be achieved by providing a little assistance at the right time, by exchanging knowledge and by bringing people together. Smart link-ups are an excellent way of achieving things. At CLICKNL, for example, we brought the energy sector together with the fashion industry, leading to a project in which electricity-generating clothing was developed."

You begin on 1 September. What are your top priorities?

"First, we have to answer a lot of questions. How will project proposals be assessed? Should we perhaps distinguish between large projects and small projects, and assess them in different ways? And the aim is to encourage innovation, so there has to be scope for experimentation, but how much? Should we periodically invite people to submit applications linked to topical themes, or should we have a fixed set of objectives, which projects have to support in order to qualify for funding? Finding projects won't be hard, but what do we want to achieve? What should the outcome be? The decisions that we make don't have to be cast in stone, but they do need to be clear. In consultation with the SIDN Fund's Managing Board, we need to devise a transparent assessment framework as soon as possible. As for a timetable, I would like it if we could make our first funding grants before the end of this year."

What is the biggest challenge facing the SIDN Fund?

"Creating our own niche. I don't know of any other funds

Valerie Frissen

Valerie Frissen has held various posts at TNO since 1999. For the last two years, she has represented TNO as Managing Director of CLICKNL, the knowledge and innovation network for the creative industries in the Netherlands. Valerie is also Honorary Professor of ICT & Social Change attached to the Faculty of Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam, in addition to holding various directorships and consultative posts. Valerie often gives talks and guest lectures and has acted as external expert and strategic advisor on many occasions. The Fund's new CEO has an extensive network of contacts in the ICT and media world, both in the Netherlands and on the international stage.

in the Netherlands that operate in the same field. If we are able to put something in place, where there was nothing before, that will be potentially very valuable to the nation and to the internet in the Netherlands. In terms of project content, there are plenty of challenges. We are living through an exciting era. There is a real risk of people losing confidence in the internet ... of the open internet being superseded by a closed environment, an internet criss-crossed by barriers. Protecting the openness of the internet will be a major priority for the Fund. The internet's social value is closely linked to its openness. I want to see the Fund playing a prominent role in that debate."

If you look back two years from now, what will constitute a satisfactory outcome?

"If we've supported a number of projects that are really making a difference. Projects that have had an impact, socially or technologically. I'd also be pleased if we'd managed to shake up some of the existing institutions a little ... if we'd freed some rusty cogs. See how much commotion a new initiative such as the taxi service Uber has caused. The internet plays an important role in that kind of friction, and the SIDN Fund should be at the centre of all that."

If a reader wants to nominate a project for funding, what should they do?

"They can always mail me at valerie.frissen@sidnfonds.nl. But they will need to be a little patient. Before any decisions are made, I'm going to assemble a small team to deal with funding applications and approach a number of experts about sitting on an independent advisory panel, which will assess incoming applications."

To: info@sidn.nl
Cc:

Subject: Security

“PLAYTIME IS OVER”

New umbrella organisation is an important step towards maturity for Dutch internet industry

Digital Infrastructure Netherlands – a new trade association for all businesses and organisations that facilitate websites, applications, platforms and on-line content – will soon start active operations. The new umbrella body for ISPs, exchangers, data centres, cloud service providers, hosters, SIDN and AMS-IX is the brainchild of Michiel Steltman, CEO of the Dutch Hosting Provider Association (DHPA). Steltman and SIDN's CEO Roelof Meijer have been talking to The.nlyst about the initiative.



Michiel Steltman, CEO Dutch Hosting Provider Association and Roelof Meijer, CEO SIDN

Why a new umbrella body?

Michiel Steltman: “Three reasons: the sector’s lack of profile, its unique dynamism and the rise of government involvement in this field. Let me begin with the first of those reasons. The Netherlands has one of the biggest internet industries in the world, facilitating more than 20 per cent of all e-commerce in Europe. We are quite justified in describing ourselves as the country’s third international port. Yet people outside our industry know almost nothing about it. Neither the media nor the political establishment is paying us much attention. And that’s a great shame, because there is a lot of scope for making better use of the economic and international opportunities being created by the sector. Our industry has a distinct personality and a distinct dynamism, which isn’t really comparable to the traditional ICT sector. The challenges, the know-how, the people and the culture are very different. Finally, more and more government policy has

implications for the digital infrastructure. The obligation to retain information, the rules on net neutrality and the efforts to tackle cybercrime are just three examples. Yet our industry has no representative body to speak for it when the government consults about its plans. We are a very fragmented industry, despite the fact that businesses active in the sector face many of the same issues.”

Roelof Meijer: “It’s also worth saying that, within the sector, there are often differences of opinion about how to respond to those issues. For example, not everyone is in favour of net neutrality. However, it’s precisely when you have differences of opinion that you most need a vehicle for bringing everyone together. Because what everyone wants is that, if there has to be legislation, it’s good legislation. If an industry can’t decide where it stands on an issue, it can’t participate effectively in discussions on that issue and there is a real danger →



- ⇒ that you end up with legislation that no one in the industry is happy with, as happened with the Cookie Act.”

What exactly will Digital Infrastructure Netherlands do?

Michiel Steltman: “We are currently planning activities on four topics. First, we want to put our industry on the map. That implies highlighting things and explaining things. So, for instance, we’ll be running PR campaigns and publishing research. We intend to work together to increase security and support efforts to tackle cybercrime, with a view to increasing confidence in the online world. We’ll also be promoting innovations in ICT training. That’s badly needed, because the lack of properly tailored programmes is making it hard for the industry to recruit the personnel it needs. Why is it still not possible to train as a cloud engineer, for example? Finally, we believe we have an important role to play in bringing people together and encouraging cooperation – amongst organisations such as Netherlands ICT, ECP and thuiswinkel.org, for example. When you face up to challenges together, you achieve more. I’ve already seen ample evidence of that at the DHPA.”

What can SIDN offer Digital Infrastructure Netherlands?

Roelof Meijer: “Support setting up the organisation and getting it running, help with implementation, ideas. But we also expect the tie-in to help us achieve our own aims. SIDN wants to see a strong internet industry in the Netherlands. We’ve felt for a long time that the industry isn’t organised as well as it might be, and that the lack of organisation is an obstacle to progress at times. It complicates interaction with the government and compromises the industry’s ability

to attract investment and subsidies. People’s lack of familiarity with the sector has implications for training and career opportunities: we too find it difficult to bring in the people we need.

Those are just a few of the reasons why we are keen to support this initiative. We believe that we have a part to play mainly in the organisation’s set-up phase. And our impression is that our input is valued, partly because, unlike most other actors in the field, we are neutral. We have no commercial interest and we aren’t controlled by the state, but we frequently – and effectively – work with both the business community and the government.”

How does the Netherlands compare with other countries when it comes to internet industry representation?

Roelof Meijer: “This initiative will be another first for the Netherlands. Maybe it’s a typically Dutch way of going about things. A modern manifestation of the cooperative mindset, which our forefathers used to reclaim this country from the sea. Cooperation is also a practical necessity for an industry characterised by a large number of relatively small businesses, none of which have much influence on their own. In this country, we have a number of unique public-private joint ventures. It’s a model that the government is using more and more. I expect this initiative to be copied in Europe and elsewhere. Being ahead of the game now will also help the Dutch internet sector to maintain the advantage that it has built up over the years.”

Michiel Steltman: “The formation of Digital Infrastructure Netherlands is an important step towards maturity for Dutch internet industry. As Roelof once said to me in an interview: playtime is over.”

A few statistics

- With more than six hundred connected networks and an average throughput of 2.6Tb/sec, AMS-IX is the world’s biggest internet exchange.
- The Netherlands’ digital infrastructure industry is worth about 1.5 billion euros and is reckoned to facilitate about a third of all European e-commerce.
- In 2013, 90 per cent of hosting firms reported turnover growth and half of them registered expansion exceeding 10 per cent.

Roelof Meijer: “If you don’t work together, it’s not the case that nothing happens. What happens is that other people take control and developments take a course that you’d rather they didn’t. And the things you’d like to see never come about. If such an economically important industry as this is well organised, people sit up and listen to what it has to say. And it is able to command government support. That’s absolutely vital for our continued success. Michiel is the right man to get this initiative off the ground. He’s already achieved amazing things at the DHPA. Under his guidance, the DHPA has quickly become an organisation of real substance. I’m very confident that he’ll do the same with Digital Infrastructure Netherlands.”

From: isoc@isoc

To: info@sidn.nl

Cc:

Subject: Security

SIDN LABS: SIDN'S R&D TEAM STEAMING AHEAD

It's now two years since SIDN Labs – SIDN's dedicated R&D team – started work. What has the team achieved so far? And what can we expect from it in the period ahead? Cristian Hesselman, Manager of SIDN Labs, shares his thoughts with The.nlyst.

Research in a unique setting

The creation of SIDN Labs had three aims: to continue SIDN's development as an expertise centre in the field of internet technology, to develop new technologies and systems as a basis for the further innovation of SIDN's services, and to facilitate outside research that has the potential to yield added value for .nl and the Netherlands' international competitiveness. Hesselman started up SIDN Labs two years ago,

A wealth of data

The DNS data that SIDN processes in its role as the registry for .nl is an invaluable information resource. It has many potential uses, including the early detection of phishing sites and botnets to make the .nl domain and the internet in the Netherlands and around the world more stable and secure. That is the idea behind SIDN Labs' big data project ENTRADA ("Enhanced Top-level domain Resilience through Advanced Data Analysis"). The project is currently at an experimental stage, but Research Engineer and project leader Maarten Wullink has high hopes for it. There are two major challenges: the huge volume of data involved and the need to protect privacy. "We are currently storing a tenth on of what comes in. Over the last few months, that adds up to 17 billion search queries. That much information requires a sizeable amount of storage and analysis capacity." It is very important that privacy is not compromised along the way: "The vast majority of the queries don't actually come from end users themselves, so there isn't a privacy issue with them. Nevertheless, we've got to deal appropriately with the minority that do come from end users. How sensitive is the information? How should we handle it? We want to devise a policy that is crystal clear and covers all eventualities."

originally as a research programme without personnel. At that time, SIDN's research was undertaken in partnership with external parties. "In practice, the old model meant that we weren't making as much progress on the third objective as we would have liked," recalls Hesselman. "Now we have a



Cristian Hesselman,
Manager of SIDN Labs

team of five people, all of whom have a solid scientific background and understand SIDN's technical infrastructure. As a result, we can focus on research projects that are more closely related to our active lines of business. As well as being in SIDN's interests, that's advantageous to the knowledge centres that we work with, because we can provide them with practical know-how, while they give us access to the latest methods and techniques."

Research and practice

SIDN Labs has also established a clearer profile within SIDN. "It's a two-way process. We share our knowledge with the organisation, both on line and by making presentations and so forth, and we pick up issues as they arise. We apply developments and research results to operational practice and we translate practice into new research questions and applications."

Coordinator and initiator

SIDN Labs usually plays a coordinating role in the research projects it's involved with. "Although we're quite a small team, we have big ambitions. If we are to realise those ambitions, we need to work with others. In practice, it increasingly often comes down to us taking on a coordinating role in a research project, with postdoctoral students doing much of the scientific spadework. At the same time, we are keen to work with external R&D partners, because ☺



Smart scanning for typosquats

A few months ago, SIDN introduced its Domain Name Surveillance Service, which alerts registrants to typosquats resembling their brand names. SIDN Labs is now working to make the service even smarter and more comprehensive. The plan is to link surveillance data to information about known phishing sources, and to distinguish legitimate sites from malicious sites. That should make it easier for subscribers to tackle typosquatting and phishing sites on a more selective and targeted basis. Research Engineer Jelte Jansen explains: "We are currently developing a prototype that will automatically classify finds. Users should then be able to respond more quickly, particularly in phishing cases, because the alerts that really matter will stand out, and not go unnoticed amongst alerts relating to essentially harmless registrations."

🕒 we believe strongly in the value of combining practical know-how with scientific research."

One of the organisations with which SIDN Labs has been working very closely is NLnet Labs. "We'll shortly be starting an interesting DNS anycast project together. With anycast, it's best to locate your nodes at the points where there's most demand. The disadvantage of that is that it normally implies physical relocation. So we are looking into the possibility of virtual, automated relocation."

Results

During its first two years, SIDN Labs has completed several studies. Although Cristian is always looking to do more, he is proud of SIDN Labs' contribution so far. "Our solution for the secure transfer of DNSSEC domain names has been incorporated into SIDN's operational services and will soon become a new global standard. We have published a lot of research findings as well. In September 2014, for example, we are publishing research into the privacy questions surrounding DNS data. The rationale is that we believe such data could be used to further increase the security and stability of the .nl domain – by detecting botnets and tack-

ling them through the AbuseHUB, for example. Privacy is a key issue for any organisation, but especially for an organisation like SIDN, which delivers a public service to the nation. If you don't protect privacy properly, you quickly lose the confidence of the public."

Liaison with the SIDN Fund

SIDN Labs works mainly on a project basis, as does the newly created SIDN Fund. Is there any risk of the two organisations getting in each other's way? "The SIDN Fund has a much broader remit, with the emphasis on promoting prosperity in the Netherlands. We tend to concern ourselves with much more technical research topics. I think it's inevitable that there will sometimes be projects that are relevant both to the Fund and to SIDN Labs, so we do need to liaise closely. But I'm confident that we'll be able to work out sensible solutions where overlap occurs. Far from getting in each other's way, I think that we can sometimes help each other out."

A reputation system for DNS resolvers

SIDN administers the authoritative name servers for .nl. In principle, those servers should be queried only by standard DNS resolvers. In practice, however, queries are also sent from all kinds of other IP addresses. In many cases, the 'other' sources in question are malicious, such as botnet clients. SIDN Labs is currently building a system that will monitor the incoming query traffic. "Any abnormal behaviour will be given a rating, from which we can tell bona-fide DNS traffic from malicious traffic," says Technical Advisor Marco Davids. "We will be able to classify certain botnet clients, for example. And that in turn will enable us to identify PCs that have been infected with malware. In due course, we hope to share that information – the IP addresses of Dutch botnet-clients – with the AbuseHUB, so that providers can take appropriate actions. With this system, SIDN Labs will be contributing to the security of the DNS and helping to tackle botnets."

From: isoc@isoc.nl

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Cc:

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PLATFORM FOR INTERNET STANDARDS PROMISES JOINT APPROACH TO STANDARDISATION

Various bodies – including ISOC, SIDN and the Ministry of Economic Affairs – work to promote the adoption of on-line standards. The organisations in question will shortly be joining forces on the Platform for Internet Standards. Nico Westpalm van Hoorn, Chair of the Standardisation Forum, one of the new platform's members, has been talking to The.nlyst about the initiative.



Nico Westpalm van Hoorn,
Chair of the Standardisation Forum

Towards a single coherent picture

"The Platform for Internet Standards has been set up because various influential organisations want to see internet standards promoted better," says Nico Westpalm van Hoorn. For some time, a variety of bodies have been working independently to promote individual standards, with varying degrees of success. Clearly a different approach is needed. "Having the Platform means that, instead of pushing to get one particular standard adopted, we can present a coherent picture and explain how standardisation helps to keep the internet secure and up to date. At the moment, the adoption of new standards tends to go too slowly. That isn't all down to the cost and effort involved. The businesses that should be adopting them simply don't feel any sense of urgency. We want to change that." The Platform for Internet Standards will be targeting its message on companies and other organisations that are active on line, including ISPs, internet shops and hosters, but also government agencies. The latter form a particularly important group, because the state is the Netherlands' biggest ICT user. The Platform is an initiative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and has been set up with input from SIDN, ISOC, NLnet Labs, SURFnet, RIPE NCC, the Cyber Security Council and the Standardisation Forum. To begin with, the Platform for Internet Standards will focus on three standards: IPv6, DNSSEC and DKIM. In due course, however, the Platform firmly intends to promote other standards as well.

Standardisation is vital

The importance of standardisation should not be underestimated, according to Westpalm van Hoorn. Standards

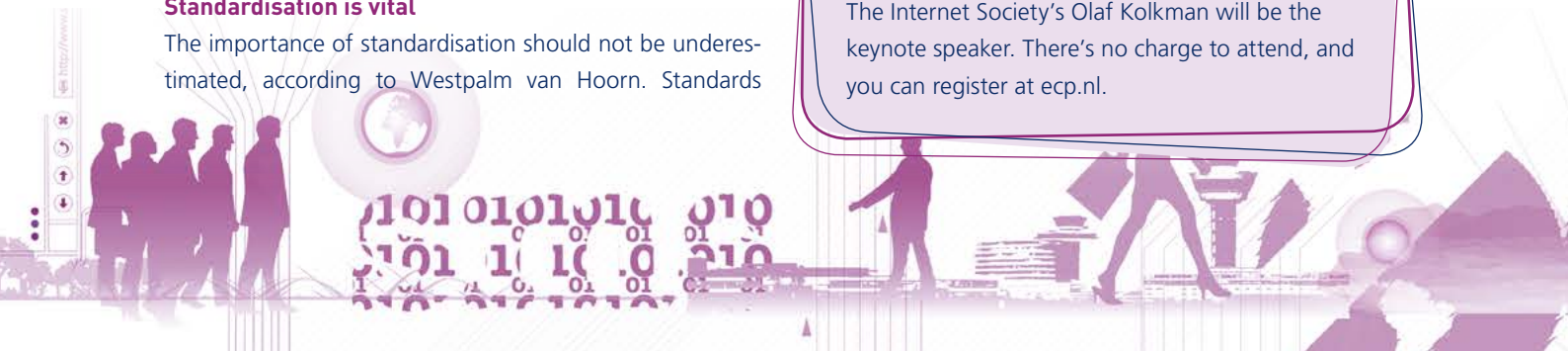
ensure that the internet continues to be a robust and secure environment. And that is vital for a country where about 98 per cent of people use PCs and a similar percentage are connected to the internet. And where the internet is consequently very important for the economy. Standards create a level playing field and therefore encourage competition. Our ability to compete internationally is also enhanced by our companies working to the latest standards.

Start-up phase under way

Westpalm van Hoorn explains that the Platform for Internet Standards is currently in the middle of its start-up phase. "We are still looking for a figurehead. Someone who will be the organisation's public face, who can speak for the organisation and liaise with outside bodies. We are hoping to present the person we choose at the first seminar in October. Our other key aim is to recruit additional members. Internet service providers, for example." The Platform's founder members are working on a website, internet.nl. The content will include test utilities that companies can use to check whether they are using the latest standards. In the future, the Platform will also organise meetings for sharing best practices and so forth.

Enrol now for the new internet standards seminar

Would you like to get to work with the key standards right away? If so, why not come to the New Internet Standards Seminar? Scheduled for 12:00 to 17:00 on Thursday 9 October at the 7AM venue in The Hague, the gathering will feature a video address by internet pioneer Vinton Cerf. The Internet Society's Olaf Kolkman will be the keynote speaker. There's no charge to attend, and you can register at ecp.nl.



.NL Analysed

	TLD		Count Q3	Growth
1	.com	General	113,539,314	0.4% =
2	.tk	Tokelau	24,521,298	7.5% =
3	.de	Germany	15,724,587	0.0% =
4	.net	General	15,161,754	-0.1% =
5	.cn	China	10,654,907	2.9% ↑
6	.uk	United Kingdom	10,536,557	-0.3% ↓
7	.org	General	10,409,163	-0.2% ↓
8	.info	General	5,717,448	0.7% =
9	.nl	Netherlands	5,480,268	0.7% =
10	.ru	Russia	4,910,293	-0.3% =
11	.eu	European Union	3,826,211	0.9% =
12	.br	Brasil	3,441,067	1.9% =
13	.ar*	Argentina	2,970,000	0.9% =

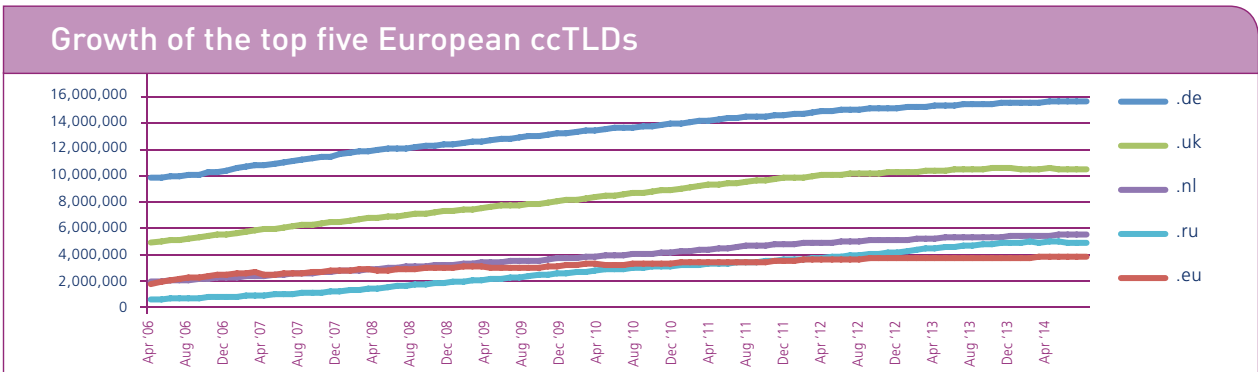
	TLD		Count Q3	Growth
14	.au	Australia	2,861,868	2.2% =
15	.fr	France	2,788,747	1.0% =
16	.it	Italy	2,680,100	0.3% =
17	.biz	General	2,648,301	-0.3% =
18	.pl	Poland	2,490,576	-0.2% =
19	.ca	Canada	2,245,541	0.8% =
20	.ch	Switzerland	1,885,627	1.2% =
21	.us	United States	1,822,557	-0.2% =
22	.co*	Colombia	1,815,000	3.6% ↑
23	.in *	India	1,800,000	2.3% ↓
24	.es	Spain	1,730,483	0.6% =
25	.be	Belgium	1,465,999	0.7% =
	* estimate			

Top 25 TLDs

Global domain name growth remains weak. By the end of the second quarter, the total number of registered domain names stood at about 280 million. That represented an increase of 3.8 million domain names during the quarter. The rate of growth is currently about 25 per cent below the average for the last four years. The arrival of the new gTLDs has not yet prompted any discernible increase in the demand for domain names, therefore.

The main driver of growth is currently .tk, which accounted for 45 per cent of all domain name growth and 68 per cent

of ccTLD growth. Those shares reflect not only the free TLD's own strong expansion, but also the weak development of the 'old' gTLDs (.com, .net, .org, .info and .biz). Those extensions have clearly been hit by the launch of the new gTLDs. Only .com grew appreciably in the second quarter; the other established gTLDs remained almost unchanged in size. Roughly 900k more domain names were registered under the new gTLDs in the second quarter, bringing the total up to just under 1.3 million. By way of comparison: the new TLDs are now collectively almost as big as .be.



The weak growth affecting the gTLDs was also apparent in the large European ccTLDs (.de, .uk, .nl, .ru and .eu). When the development of the five largest European ccTLDs is shown in one graph, we can see that growth has virtually come to a halt. Only .eu has experienced a brief upturn,

following a promotional campaign by the registry. No single specific cause for the weak growth can be identified, but saturation, new gTLDs and economic factors are all likely to play a role.

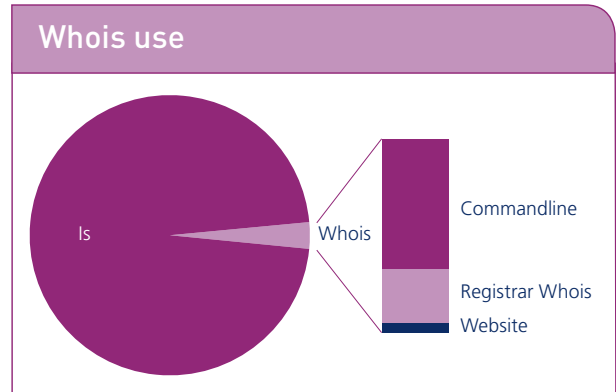


Whois use

Our primary technical services for .nl domain names have three basic components: the Domain Registration System, the .nl name servers and the Whois service. The Whois is like a telephone directory: it can be used to look up the details of any .nl domain name. The information available from the Whois includes the name of the registrant, the name of the registrar, the name servers for the domain name and when the domain name was registered. To ensure that no privacy laws are broken, some information that we hold regarding each domain name, such as the registrant's address and phone number, are not available from the public Whois. Alongside the Whois, we also provide an Is service, which enables users to simply check the status of domain names. Its main use is for finding out whether a domain name that the user is interested in is available for registration.

The following diagram shows the numbers of Whois and Is queries. The Whois queries are additionally broken down according to the interface used, reflecting the fact that the Whois can be accessed via various interfaces. The command-line interface is the most basic and returns only the domain

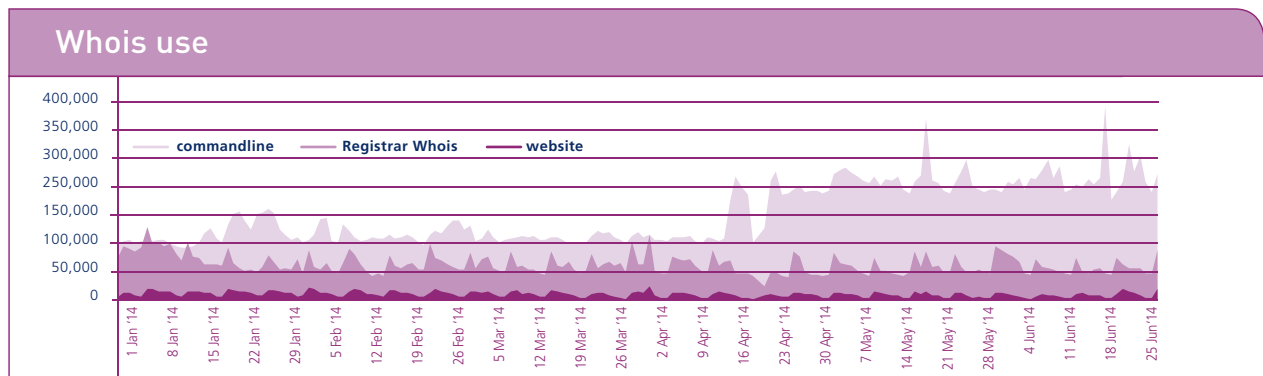
name, its status, the registrar and the name servers. The command-line Whois is operated using Unix commands and most usage is automated. Registrars additionally have their own separate secure access system, via which they can obtain more information than is available from the public Whois. Next, there is the public Whois, which is accessed via SIDN's website. As the following diagram shows, the Is service is heavily used. About 98 per cent of all queries we receive are Is queries. We process about 12 million Is queries a day, or more than four billion a year.

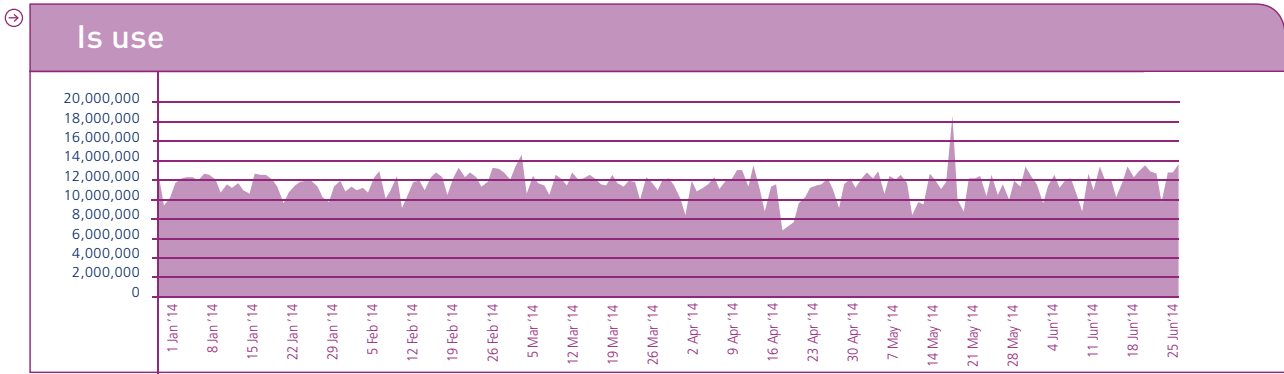


Changes in the numbers of Is and Whois queries over the last six months are shown in the following graphs. For scale reasons, the numbers of Is and Whois queries are shown separately.

A couple of things catch the eye: the peaks and troughs in the graph and the increase in the number of command-line queries since mid-April. The peaks and troughs have two causes. First, the influence of working and non-working days, which is clearest in the website statistics: the peaks are always on Mondays and the troughs on Saturdays and Sun-

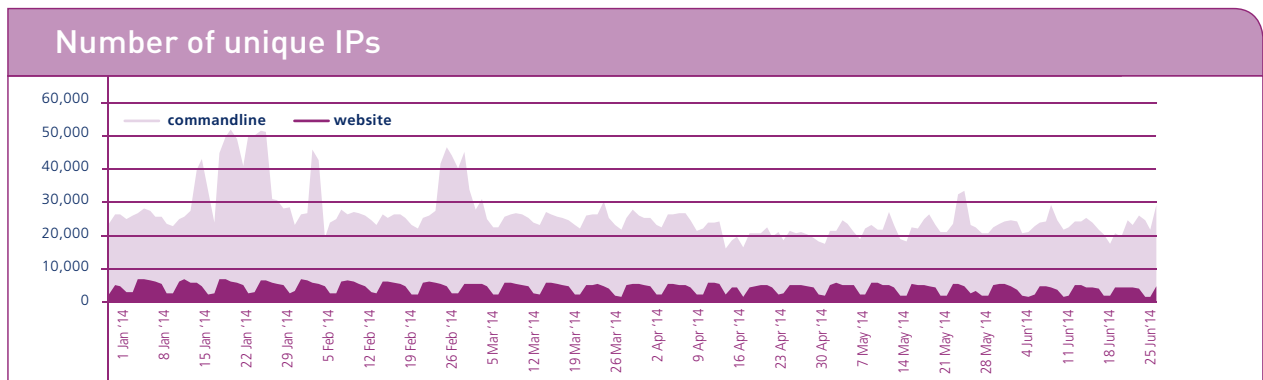
days. The major peaks in the registrar Whois and command-line Whois traffic are caused by a large number of domain names becoming available for re-registration after forty days in quarantine. With the aim of 'bagging' these domain names as soon as they become available, numerous Whois queries are submitted in the hope of being the first to know when a quarantined name is released. In mid-April, the maximum permitted number of command-line queries was increased. The change led to a clear increase in the use of that interface.





We also record the number of IP addresses used for accessing the Whois. Changes in the number of distinct IP addresses used are shown in the following graph. On average, about 4,500 people a day visit the public Whois on the website. The command line is used by more distinct IP addresses: an inevitable consequence of the automated

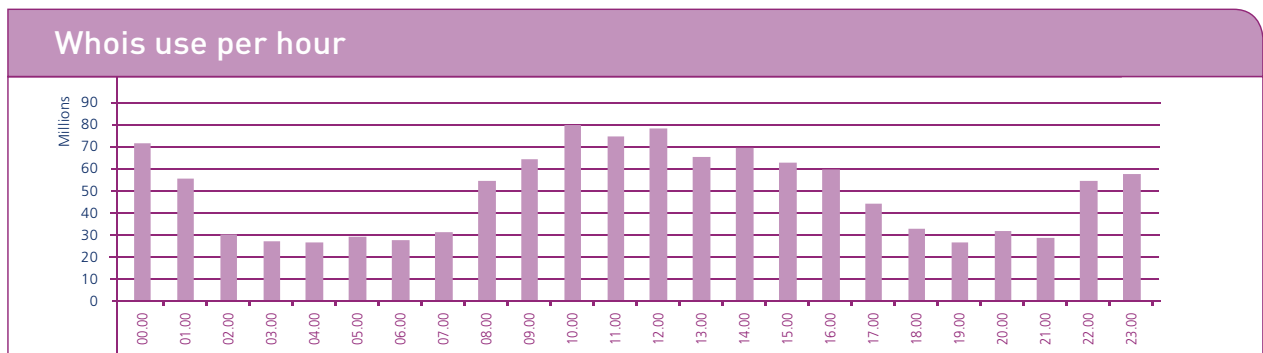
nature of the interface. Here again, peaks and troughs are evident, which clearly correspond to the peaks and troughs in query numbers. Interestingly, the number of unique IP addresses used to visit the site almost doubles when attractive domain names are scheduled for release from quarantine.



Whois use by hour of the day

If we break down the numbers of Whois and Is queries according to the hour of the day, two trends emerge, as seen in the following diagram. The data reflect all Whois queries in the second quarter of 2014. First, it is clear that the services are much more heavily used during 'office hours' than at other times. However, there is also a lot of query traffic in

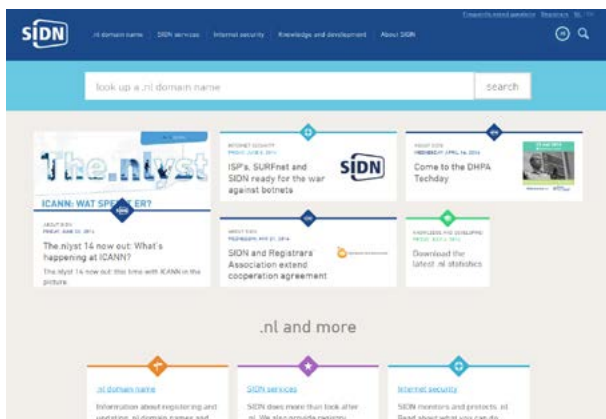
the first and last hours of the day. That traffic is generated mainly by automated systems scanning for domain names that are released from quarantine. The intensive use of the Whois around midnight is linked to the timing of cancellations: about 23 per cent of all cancellations are made between 00:00 and 01:00.



From: isoc@isoc
 To: info@sidn.nl
 Cc:
 Subject: Security

New SIDN website

We are currently developing a new corporate website: www.sidn.nl will be getting a fresh, modern and fully responsive design. With a view to enhancing the site's utility, we are also revising and restructuring the content, and introducing a new editorial style. The new site will also provide more scope for interaction and enable us to highlight the lines of business that we are developing alongside our core activities. On the restricted access area for .nl registrars, we will be taking the first steps towards the introduction of personalised portals for users.



Event calendar

SIDN sends representatives to many national and international events. We regard attending events as one of our responsibilities as the registry for the .nl domain. At the events we attend, we work on behalf of the Dutch internet community and .nl registrars. In addition, we regularly organise conferences ourselves. In the coming months, SIDN plans to be represented at the following events:

Date	Event	Venue
2 sep to 5 sep	9th IGF Meeting	Istanbul, Turkey
10 to 11 sep	45th CENTR Legal & Regulatory, Workshop	Oslo, Noorway
18 sep	33rd CENTR Administrative Workshop	Tallinn, Estonia
30 sep to 2 oct	52nd CENTR General Assembly	Brussels, Belgium
27 oct	8th CENTR Securit Workshop	Dublin, Ireland
2 nov	31st CENTR Technical Workshop	London, UK
9 nov to 14 nov	91st IETF	Honolulu, Hawai, USA
27 nov to 28 nov	15th CENTR Marketing Workshop	Belgrade, Serbia
28 nov	SIDN Contact Day	Utrecht, The Netherlands

SIDN Contact Day 2014

On Friday 28 November we are organising the annual SIDN Contact Day for .nl registrars at Galgenwaard Stadium, Utrecht. Guest speakers includes Christiaan Prickaerts from Fox-IT, who will be making a presentation entitled 'Forensics 101', Dennis Lemckert from the Ministry of Defence, who will be talking about cyber defence, and Daan Quakernaat, who will be seeking to inspire you to start a new era of cathedral building. It promises to be another uplifting day of knowledge sharing and networking. So put the date in your diary or reserve a place right away at sidn.nl/relatiedag.

Colophon

The.nlyst is published by SIDN, the company behind .nl. The magazine provides information about internet-related themes and about (.nl) domain names in particular. The.nlyst is distributed free of charge to SIDN's registrars and other stakeholders.

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