

ODOT Internet Domain Names Standard

July 5, 2000

Overview

State agencies connected to the Internet or using Internet protocols (TCP/IP) must use the Internet Domain Naming System (DNS) to associate computer names with IP addresses. Historically there has been confusion over the use of certain domain names by Federal, State and Local government entities. This document sets forth standards that will clear the confusion for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

International and National Standards

Applicable standards for the Internet Domain Name System (DNS) are specified in Internet [RFC 1035](#) -- Domain names - implementation and specification, [RFC 1034](#) -- Domain names - concepts and facilities, [RFC 1480](#) -- The US Domain, [RFC 1591](#) -- Domain Name System Structure and Delegation and, [RFC 1811](#) -- U.S. Government Internet Domain Names or their successor documents.

The URL naming convention was established by W3C (World Wide Web Consortium). Within the United States the established naming conventions are as follows:

- ❖ .mil for military
- ❖ .gov for federal government
- ❖ .edu for educational institutions
- ❖ .state.or.us for state agencies
- ❖ .org for non-profit organizations
- ❖ .net for network and internet service providers
- ❖ .com for commercial enterprises

The "state.or.us" domain

The domain name form, "state.<two letter state abbreviation>.us," has been reserved for the use of agencies of state governments. RFC 1811 states, "The .GOV domain is delegated from the root authority to the US Federal Networking Council. The .GOV domain is for registration of US governmental entities on the federal level only. Registrations for state and local governmental agencies shall be made under the .US domain in accordance with the policies for that domain."

The ODOT Domain Name Standard

In order to provide the public with a consistent and memorable set of addresses all ODOT Internet URLs follow the <http://www.odot.state.or.us/> convention. Virtual domain names that deviate from this standard will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The criteria for virtual domain names is as follows:

1. The site is a major, high-traffic Web service representing more than a section or program within the agency.
2. The site offers a frequently used service that attracts users on at least a weekly, if not daily, basis.
3. The site is permanent rather than a project of limited duration, such as a marketing campaign.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is ODOT E-government Council's and the agency management team's responsibility to review requests for exceptions and enforce this policy.

It is ODOT Web editors', contributors' and program managers' responsibility to read this policy and explain it and the reasons behind it to others in the agency who are involved in the agency's Web publishing.

Other Information

For help with domain name registration contact at E-Gov@odot.state.or.us.
