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Internet Grows to More Than 196 Million Domain Names in Second Quarter of 2010

Total Base of Top Level Domains Sees 7 Percent Increase From Last Year

DULLES, VA (Marketwire) - The global base of Internet domain names grew by more than 3 million in the second quarter of 2010, according to the latest Domain Name Industry Brief, published by VeriSign, Inc. (NASDAQ: VRSN), the trusted provider of Internet infrastructure services for the networked world.

The Domain Name Industry ended the second quarter of 2010 with a base of more than 196.3 million domain name registrations across all of the Top Level Domain Names (TLDs). The second quarter total represents an increase of 2 percent over the first quarter of 2010. Compared to the second quarter of 2009, registrations grew by 12.3 million, or 7 percent, across the industry.

The combined base of .com and .net domain names surpassed 100 million, finishing the quarter with an adjusted zone size of 101.5 million. New .com and .net registrations totaled 7.9 million during the second quarter, an increase of 13 percent from a year ago. The .com/.net renewal rate for the second quarter was 73.2 percent, up from 72.1 percent for the first quarter.(1)

VeriSign's average daily Domain Name System (DNS) query load during second quarter 2010 was 62.5 billion per day, with a peak of 83.6 billion. Compared to first quarter 2010, the daily query average increased 16 percent and the peak grew by 32 percent. Taken annually, the daily average increased 28 percent and the peak daily queries grew 43 percent.

Forrester Study: DNS Security Extensions Ready for Prime Time

The latest Domain Name Industry Brief also spotlights the industry's progress in implementing DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC), which is designed to protect users against "DNS cache poisoning" and "man-in-the-middle" attacks by cryptographically signing DNS data. In July, VeriSign joined with U.S. Department of Commerce and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to deploy DNSSEC at the root of the DNS.

A new Forrester Research study conducted on behalf of VeriSign shows how timely the implementation of DNSSEC is. For the study, titled [DNSSEC Ready for Prime Time](#), Forrester polled 297 IT decision-makers. The survey revealed that DNS attacks are commonplace, and this has made DNS security a top-line concern for companies and organizations. Forrester found 51 percent of respondents reported experiencing DNS-related attacks, 38 percent of whom said they had experienced man-in-the-middle attacks, which DNSSEC is specifically intended to prevent.

Forrester researchers also found that while DNSSEC may not yet be widely understood -- only 43 percent of respondents said they had heard about DNSSEC and knew what problems it solved -- the majority of business IT leaders who do know about it plan to deploy the technology on their networks. Of those who reported knowing about DNSSEC, 90 percent said they would implement the technology within 18 months. Only 5 percent reported that they would not implement DNSSEC.

"With so many factors pointing toward the need for widespread DNSSEC adoption, one of the greatest obstacles lies in building awareness of the technology and its value among the Internet community as a whole," said Ken Silva, senior vice president and chief technology officer at VeriSign. "The path toward global deployment is a long one, but with the implementation of DNSSEC at the root and the growing call for DNS security measures at companies and organizations, the community has taken a significant first step."

Internet domains around the world are working to implement the technology in their zones. VeriSign expects to deploy DNSSEC in .net before the end of 2010 and in .com in the first quarter of 2011. For more information on DNSSEC implementation, visit: www.verisign.com/dnssec

VeriSign publishes the Domain Name Industry Brief to provide Internet users throughout the world with significant statistical and analytical research and data on the domain name industry and the Internet as a whole. Copies of the 2010 second quarter Domain Name Industry Brief, as well as previous reports, can be obtained at www.verisign.com/domainbrief

About VeriSign

VeriSign, Inc. (NASDAQ: VRSN) is the trusted provider of Internet infrastructure services for the networked world. Billions of times each day, VeriSign enables companies and consumers all over the world to connect online with confidence. Additional

news and information about the company is available at www.verisign.com.

Editor's Note

(1) Renewal rates may deviate a few percentage points in either direction each quarter based upon the composition of the expiring name base and the contribution of specific registrars.

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