

The .it Registry is responsible for assigning and managing .it domains. This service has been operating within the IIT of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) since December 1987,

with the birth of cnr.it - the very first domain in the Italian network. 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, 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.



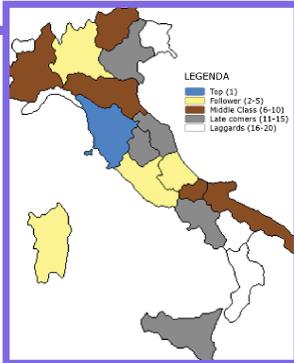
Any citizen over the age of 18 in the European Union can register a .it domain. The norms are covered in the Regulations of assigning and managing domain names, and are subject to periodic revisions by the Registry itself and by the Rules Committee. This committee is responsible for drafting the rules and technical procedures for assigning and managing domain names in the ccTLD.it. All variations, both in terms of regulations and procedures,

Analysis of the Internet diffusion and Digital Divide in Italy

This research, carried out by a PhD student, analyzes the existence of the digital divide in Italy and investigates the determinants of the Internet diffusion among Italian regions and provinces. The main research goals are:

- the proof that the number of domains is a new reliable indicator to measure the Digital Divide and the Internet diffusion in a country, due to the impossibility of calculating the exact number of Internet users;
- the study of the Internet diffusion heterogeneity in Italy.

Results show that a "social digital divide" exists both in terms of geographical distribution and among natural and juridical persons and that demographic, social, economic and infrastructure indicators are crucial for the Internet diffusion in Italy.



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 toplevel 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 CNUCE institute of 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 merge 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 really 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 operators and the market. After the

elimination of the limit to the number of domains that could be registered

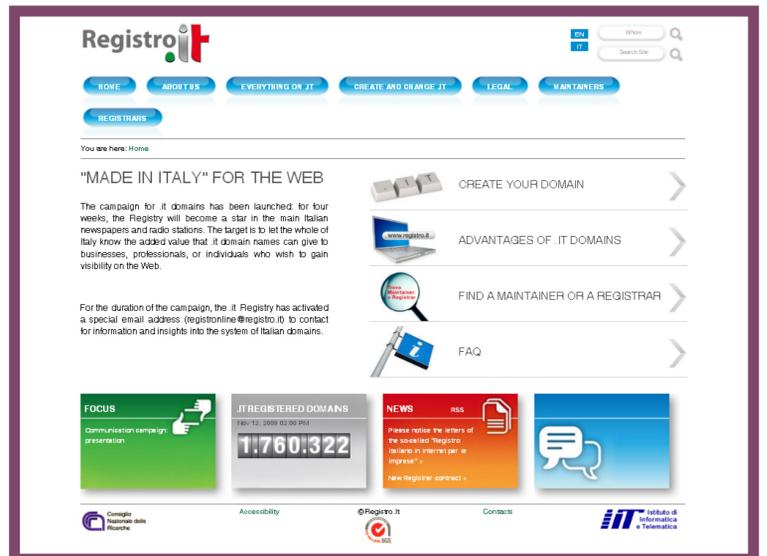
(in 2000 for companies, and in 2004 for private individuals), the rush for .it domain names has progressed rapidly, with more than 25,000 new requests for registration every month.

domain names in the Whois database (data valid on 11/11/2009):
1,757,370

no. maintainers: 2,040

no. registrars: 184

total new registrations (2009): 269,272



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cnr.it was the very first domain name in the Italian network

