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(English version only)

31st March 2009

The following is the comments from Hong Kong and Mainland Software Industry Cooperation Association (香港軟件行業協會) for the discussions in the following Legislative Council Meeting.

Panel: Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Meeting Date: 7th April 2009
Topics: Review on administration of Internet domain names in Hong Kong

Detail Comments:

1. The exiting membership registration procedure of HKIRC is too inconvenient and depresses membership registration, which deprives the rights and ignoring interest of general .hk users. This situation should be rectified.

HKIRC should open up their membership so that all .hk registrants can be automatically registered as a HKIRC member. At least a simple registration procedure can be developed to let the registrants be registered as HKIRC member.

2. The register/registrar model, which has been proposed for more than one year, is essential for Internet development of Hong Kong and would encourage ISPs in Hong Kong to develop more business model. However, no concrete implementation plan has been published yet.

HKIRC should publish a concrete plan on register/registrar model implementation, where:

- HKIRC should provide management of domain registrants records to Top Level domain resolutions only;
- All other business and promotion, including but not limited to services like hosting and forwarding etc, should be provided by ISPs directly, not HKIRC.

3. The annual domain registration fees should be lowered to a level similar to .com in US. The unreasonably high registration fees in comparing with the worldwide domain charges has discouraged the use of .hk domain and cumber business development on the .hk domains.
4. HKIRC is acting as the authority of the .hk domain, representing Hong Kong. It's a platform for Hong Kong and .hk users rather than a platform for its Directors. The HKIRC Directors should be careful in using their HKIRC capacities. When using their HKIRC capacities, they should limit the coverage of their speeches or comments to HKIRC or .hk domain related issues because they are representing HKIRC.

The HKIRC Directors have published articles in the HKIRC website. Many articles are not related to HKIRC or .hk domain issues or even related to sensitive political issues. These articles should be removed or otherwise would be mis-interpreted as the view of HKIRC or even the view of HK Government.

5. In view of the embarrassing findings in 2008 by International Security Vendor - McAfee, ".hk" domain names are the most dangerous web sites in the world, 19.2% of all Web sites ending in the ".hk" domain pose a security threat to Web users. Please refer to the following McAfee research for more details:

http://www.mcafee.com/us/about/press/corporate/2008/20080604_181010_g.html

To Improve the situation, HKIRC should reserve funding from the domain name registration fees to subsidize the .hk domain owners to perform security checking on their .hk website, say under a 50%-50% matching arrangement. HKIRC can also consider sponsoring security training to .hk domain owners. The security checking and training should be provided by professional service providers, e.g. HKPC or other certified service providers, rather than provided by HKIRC.