

Consultation by ICANN on Closed Generic Top Level Domains

A consultation by the ICANN authority (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) on closed generic domains.

What are closed generic domain names?

A **generic top-level domain (gTLD)** is one of the categories of [top-level domains](#) (TLDs) maintained by the [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority](#) (IANA) for use in the [Domain Name System](#) of the [Internet](#). It is visible to Internet users as the suffix at the end of a [domain name](#).

Overall, IANA currently distinguishes the following groups of top-level domains:^[1]

- [infrastructure top-level domain \(arpa\)](#)
- [country code top-level domains](#) (ccTLD)
- internationalized top-level domains (IDNs)
 - [internationalized country code](#) top-level domains
 - [testing top-level domains](#)
- **generic top-level domains (gTLD)**

The core group of generic top-level domains consists of the [com](#), [info](#), [net](#), and [org](#) domains. In addition, the domains [biz](#), [name](#), and [pro](#) are also considered *generic*; however, these are designated as *restricted*, because registrations within them require proof of eligibility within the guidelines set for each.

Historically, the group of generic top-level domains included domains, created in the early development of the domain name system, that are now sponsored by designated agencies or organizations and are restricted to specific types of registrants. Thus, domains [edu](#), [gov](#), [int](#), and [mil](#) are now considered [sponsored top-level domains](#), much like the many newly created *themed* domain names (e.g., [jobs](#)). The entire group of domains that do not have a geographic or country designation (see [country-code top-level domain](#)) is still often referred to by the term *generic* TLDs.

Source: Wikipedia

“Closed generic” domain names are available for sale upon application for exclusive use by the buyer. The winning applicant will not allow the public to register a domain using the extension they have obtained for their exclusive use.

Amazon is among the applicants for the “.books” domain which means that it is trying to reserve the top level domain (TLD) exclusively for their own use.

SUBMISSION BY THE BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UK & IRELAND LTD:

The Booksellers Association of The UK & Ireland Ltd represents 3,580 retail outlets selling books.

The Booksellers Association of the UK & Ireland strongly opposes any applications for a “closed generic” gTLD, especially if submitted by commercial entities operating in a sector of activity related to the closed generic gTLD.

In the case of a closed generic gTLD .book, the exclusivity granted to the winning applicant would de facto strengthen the position of the biggest bidder to have sole use of the gTLD in the book industry and would therefore be anti-competitive, discourage innovation and new entrants and be detrimental to the industry as a whole.

We are therefore asking ICANN not to offer for sale a generic gTLD for .book and other similar words in general usage.

27 February 2013