

CINTEC says strong demand for 'Dot lk'

The Council for Information Technology (CINTEC) said yesterday that the domain name registration for Sri Lanka (.lk) which comes under its purview has steadily increased in recent years.

The CINTEC Internet Committee which is promoting the use of the .lk especially among Ministries and other government organisations said that registrations under the .lk have been steadily increasing since 1996 (see chart).

The Committee comprises the domain name registrar, representatives from CINTEC, the Licensed Internet Service Providers Association (LISPA), the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, the Computer Society of Sri Lanka, the academia, the legal profession, the private sector, and content providers. The assignment of domain names under the .lk is handled by the

University of Moratuwa on behalf of the CINTEC Internet Committee. The Committee is tasked with the responsibility of developing the use of the Internet in Sri Lanka and to mitigate possible adverse effects, if any, of the Internet.

Organizations in Sri Lanka using the Internet, for email, hosting web portals and web servers, etc. are encouraged by CINTEC to register domain names under the .lk domain.

A domain name is hierarchical and often conveys information about the type of entity using the domain name. The domain name system makes web surfing easier. Each web site on the Internet has a numeric address, called IP (Internet Protocol) address. Internet users find the IP address difficult to remember and error prone. The domain name system allows people to use easy to re-

member names - for example www.somecompany.ltd.lk - for web sites instead of those number sequences.

Some domains - e.g., .com, .net, .org and the recently introduced .biz, .info etc. are global top-level domains for use anywhere in the world. Others, such as .jp (Japan), .us (USA), .sg (Singapore) etc. are meant for organizations in that country. Sri Lanka has been assigned the domain .lk, where the code is assigned according to the standard ISO -3166-1.

CINTEC said that the second level domain names are the next lower level of the hierarchy underneath the top-level domain names in the Domain Name System. i.e. in a domain name, it is that portion of the domain name that appears immediately to the left of the top-level domain. For example, it is the "gov" in "abc.gov.lk".

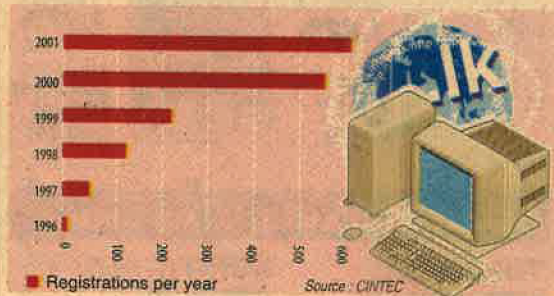
In Sri Lanka second level domain names have been available for registration from 1st May 2002, and are classified under open and closed second level domains.

Closed second level domains are available for special categories of organizations as follows:

gov.lk (for Sri Lankan government organizations), .sch.lk (For schools registered under the Ministry of Education) .net.lk (For licensed Internet Service Providers in Sri Lanka) and .int.lk (For international treaty organizations).

Open second level domains are available for any organization, but are recommended to be used as follows: .com.lk (to be

a further Rs. 200 million in the event of an oversubscription.



opened as a second level domain), .org.lk (for organizations registered in Sri Lanka) .edu.lk (for educational sites) .ngo.lk (for non-governmental organizations) .soc.lk (for societies registered in Sri Lanka) .web.lk (for web sites) .ltd.lk (for limited liability companies) .assn.lk (for associations) .grp.lk (for groups of companies) .hotel.lk (for hotel)

More information is available on the Sri Lanka Domain Registry site www.nic.lk