

Arabic Domain Name Registration Begins in Jordan and Palestine

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The year 2010 was the year of Arabic domain names: five countries began offering Arabic domain names, and another five completed all the technical requirements.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were the first to offer Arabic domain names, otherwise known as internationalized country code top-level domains (IDN ccTLDs). Now, Jordan and Palestine have joined their neighbors in improving Internet accessibility for the Arabic-speaking population. In 2011, Algeria, Oman, Qatar, Syria and Tunisia are expected to begin offering Arabic domain names as well.

On October 17, 2010, the Jordanian National Information Technology Center (NITC) launched the first phase of Arabic domain name registration. This phase, which ended on November 6, was restricted to governmental institutions only. The second (sunrise) phase started on November 7 and ended on December 4, 2010.

The Palestinian National Internet Naming Authority (PNINA), on the other hand, launched the sunrise phase of Arabic domain name registration on October 15, 2010. Registration was open until November 30, 2010. During this period, all companies, organizations and trademark holders were allowed to register an Arabic domain name. A land rush (open registration) phase was scheduled to start on January 2, 2011. The PNINA has announced that all applications received between November 30 and January 2 will not be considered. The table summarizes general requirements for Arabic domain name registration in Jordan and Palestine.

Country	Top-Level Domain	Registration Requirements	Protection Term
Jordan	الأردن. .alordon	- Power of attorney, legalized - A copy of the certificate of registration of trademark. - Copy of certificate of incorporation, certified - The primary name server and secondary name server and their IP addresses	2 years, then renewable every year
Palestine	فلسطين. .falasteen	- Copy of the corresponding home registration certificate of the mark, certified.	To be announced

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