



DNSAI Compass

September 2023

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Executive Summary

This report is the thirteenth publication from the DNS Abuse Institute's measurement initiative DNSAI Compass.

The 'General DNS Abuse Trends' section of this report includes data for July 2023. This month our methodology observed a decrease in the number of unique domains engaged in malware distribution, compared to June 2023. Observed phishing increased in July 2023 for the first time in six months. Overall mitigation rates for phishing and malware combined remained similar.

This is the fourth report to include 'Specific Reporting', which is intended to show the spectrum of how malicious phishing and malware is concentrated across the DNS registration ecosystem. It identifies registrars and TLDs with higher and lower relative volumes of malicious domain registration in their Domains Under Management (DUM), or new registrations.

This month, the Specific Reporting section of this report contains two subsections:

- Part A includes data for June 2023
- Part B: includes data for July 2023

When we started our Specific Reporting, we introduced a delay in publishing data to allow us to contact all named registries and registrar credentials prior to publication. We still contact named parties, but have improved the efficiency of this process and therefore included two months of data (i.e. publishing an additional month as an exception). Next month we will return to publishing one month of Specific Reporting aligned with our General DNS Abuse Trends.

Our outreach work continues across the DNS Community. We encourage all registrars and registries to get in contact with us and take the opportunity to view the data associated with their registrar or registry. These meetings typically yield insights for both the registry or registrar and the DNSAI.

The methodology for this report is the same as all prior reports (v1.0) and we encourage readers to consider this detailed methodology and contact us with questions, ideas, or suggestions to help us improve this initiative. After all, we are here to support the DNS Community and make it better equipped to tackle DNS Abuse.

The DNS Abuse Institute publishes interactive charts and reports periodically.

[View the interactive charts](#) 

[Read the Methodology](#) 

About

The [DNS Abuse Institute](#)^[1] (DNSAI or the “Institute”) was created in 2021 by [Public Interest Registry](#)^[2] (“PIR”) in pursuit of its non-profit mission. The Institute aims to reduce DNS Abuse and empower the DNS Community.

The Institute created DNSAI Compass (“Compass”) as a reliable, independent, transparent, and sufficiently granular way of measuring DNS Abuse in order to ultimately reduce it at the DNS level.

Compass is a collaboration with [KOR Labs](#)^[3], led by [Maciej Korczynski](#)^[4] from Grenoble INP-UGA. This data is then provided to the DNSAI. DNSAI then works with PIR’s Data Analytics team to create the interactive charts and for the purposes of writing this report.

Our priorities for Compass are:

- **Transparency:** The methodology that collects, cleans, and aggregates the data must be as transparent as possible. To the extent that anyone should wish to, they could replicate the process.
- **Credibility and Independence:** We aim to have an academically robust and independent approach, separate from commercial interests.
- **Accuracy and Reliability:** The goal of these reports is to enable focused conversations, and to identify opportunities for abuse reduction. The data needs to be of high enough quality to serve as the foundation for meaningful changes to the ecosystem.

Our first report from [September 2022](#)^[5] provides the methodology and further context on the background and development of this initiative.

Our approach is one of collaboration and engagement, and we endeavor to speak to interested parties and provide them with early access to data that concerns their organization. We are committed to refining this project as work continues and welcome insights from across the industry to help us iterate and improve. If you would like to review your data, please [contact us](#)^[6].

For clarity, Compass operates completely independently of [NetBeacon](#)^[7], the centralized abuse reporting service we created for the benefit of the DNS. Reports from NetBeacon do not go into our measurement work with Compass. This is a conscious choice to optimize and encourage usage of NetBeacon and prevent any abuse of NetBeacon as an attempt to influence Compass data. See the [methodology](#)^[8] for more information on how domains are included in Compass.

^[1] <https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/>

^[2] <https://thenew.org/org-people/>

^[3] <https://korlabs.io/>

^[4] <https://mkorczynski.com/>

^[5] <https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DNSAI-Intelligence-Report-September-2022-FINAL.pdf>

^[6] <https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/contact/>

^[7] <https://netbeacon.org/>

^[8] [DNSAI-Compass-Methodology.pdf \(dnsabuseinstitute.org\)](#)

Understanding this Report

This report shows high level aggregate data from **May 2022 to July 2023**.

It focuses on the use of the DNS for phishing and malware:

- **Phishing** is an attempt to trick people into sharing important or sensitive information – for example logins, passwords, credit card numbers or banking information – in either a personal or business context.
- **Malware** is malicious software designed to compromise a device on which it is installed.

It includes the following charts:

- **Chart 1: Aggregate Trends**
- **Chart 2: Mitigation**
- **Chart 3: Registrar Median Mitigation Time**
- **Chart 4: Malicious vs. Compromised**

Our methodology provides important context and we recommend it is read in full.

Each chart is accompanied by:

- **'About this Chart'** to help the reader understand the data being displayed, and;
- **'Commentary'** where we have added any observations on the data.

Where we are showing data over time, the intent is to try and demonstrate trends, year over year, and we are therefore hoping to be able to display about two years of data depending on functionality and viewability.

General DNS Abuse Trends

These charts are available in an interactive format on our website:

<https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/dnsai-compass>

They provide a broad overview of our findings on DNS Abuse trends.

Chart 1: Aggregate Trends

About this chart

This chart provides a high level view on how much DNS Abuse has been identified by our methodology, and how DNS Abuse is changing over time.

It shows the absolute volume of unique domains our methodology has identified are engaged in phishing and malware, broken out by category.

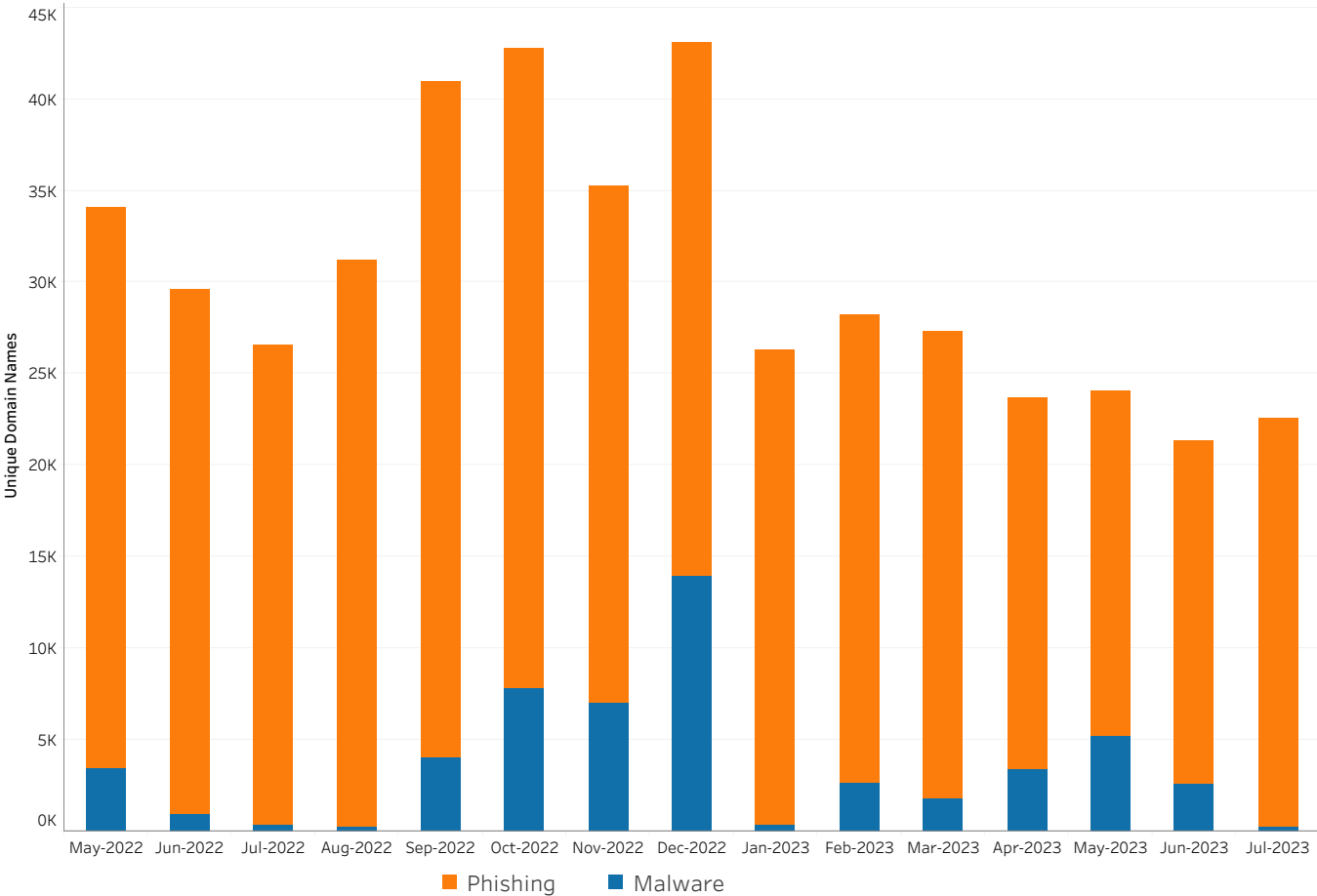


Figure 1: Aggregate Trends - Phishing and Malware

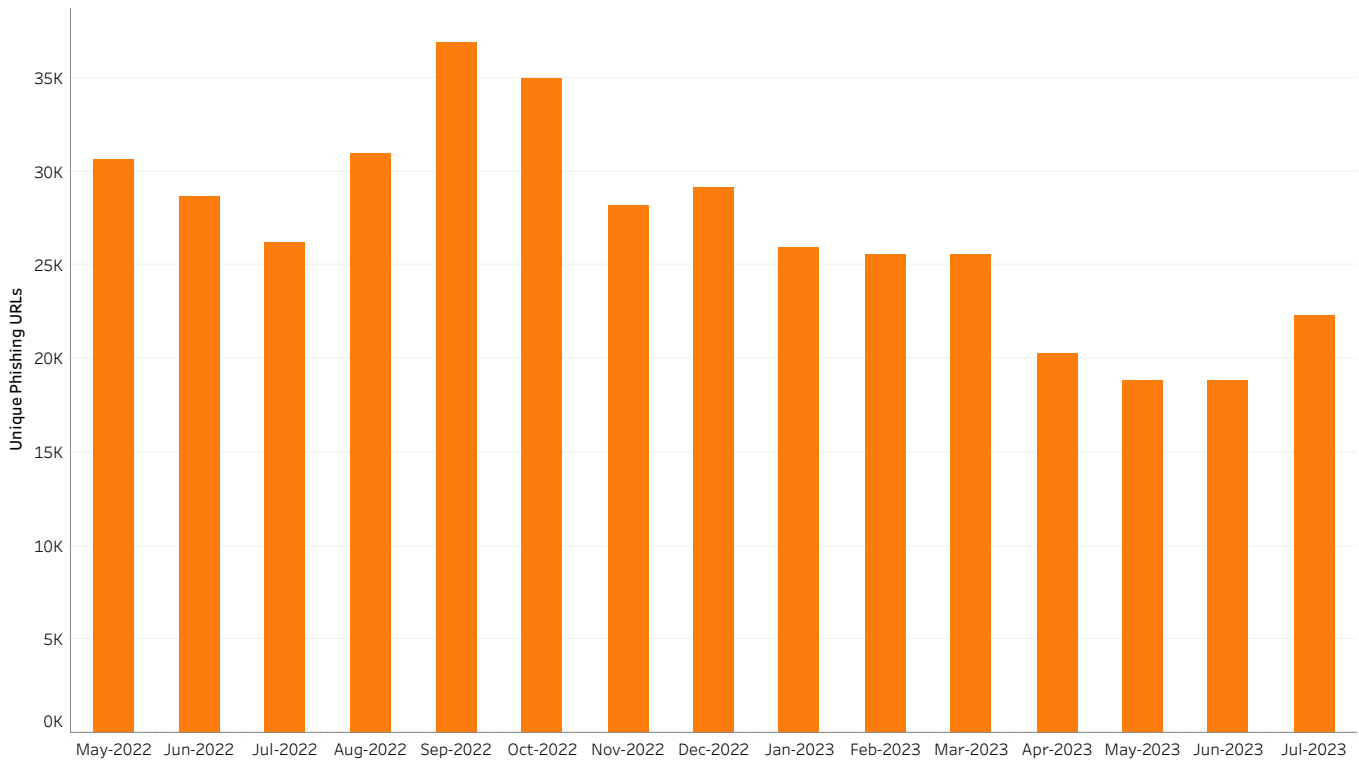


Figure 2: Aggregate Trends - **Phishing**

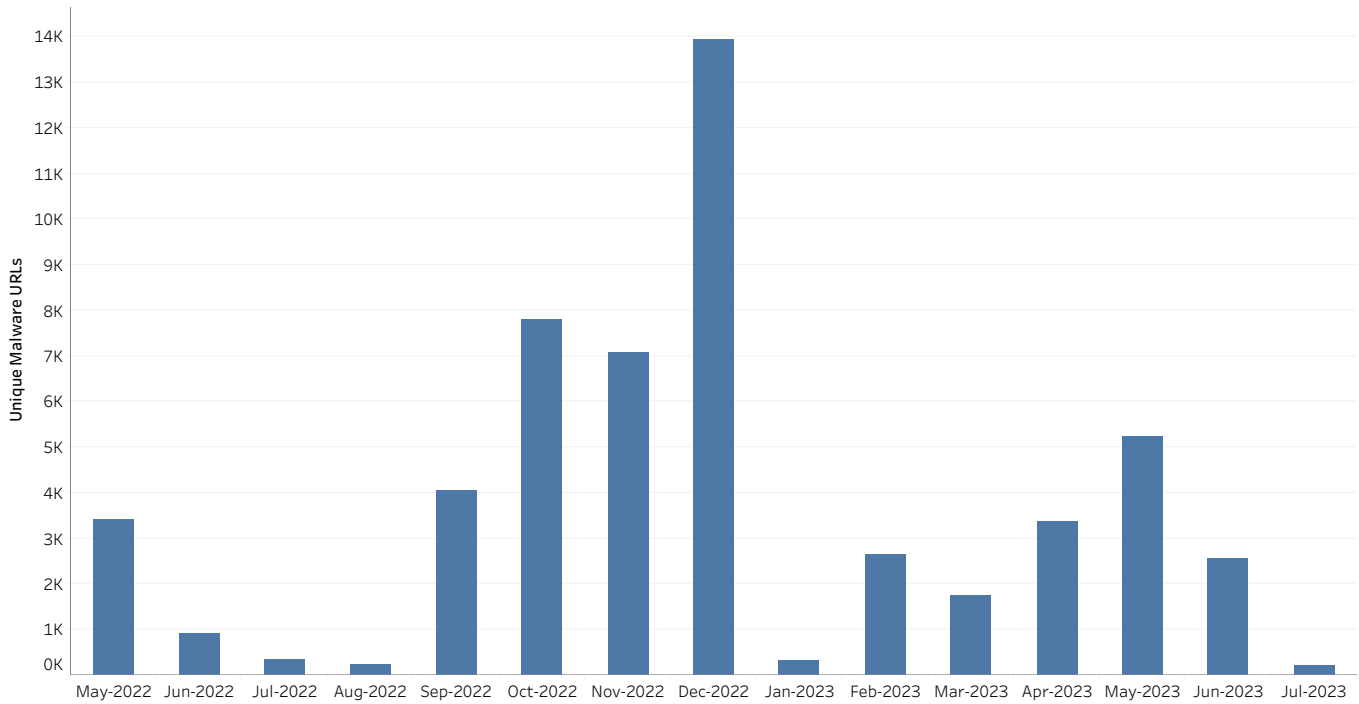


Figure 3: Aggregate Trends - **Malware**

Commentary

Our methodology observed a decrease in the number of unique domains engaged in malware distribution in July 2023, compared to June 2023. Observed phishing increased in July 2023 for the first time in six months.

Chart 2: Mitigation

About this chart

This chart provides a high level view on how much DNS Abuse mitigation has been identified by our methodology, and how it's changing over time.

The methodology includes a process to determine whether any mitigation has been observed. This involves taking an initial measurement of various factors related to the URL and repeating these measurements for one month. Further details are set out in the methodology.

Our methodology includes four labels:

- **Mitigated:** We detected that a mitigating action has occurred. This action could have been taken by a registrar, registry, a hosting provider, or another relevant actor, including the registrant.
- **Not Mitigated:** We did not detect any indication of mitigation.
- **Uncategorized:** We were unable to determine whether or not mitigation occurred.
- **Unprocessed:** The domains were not processed due to network connectivity, server problems, or other similar issues.

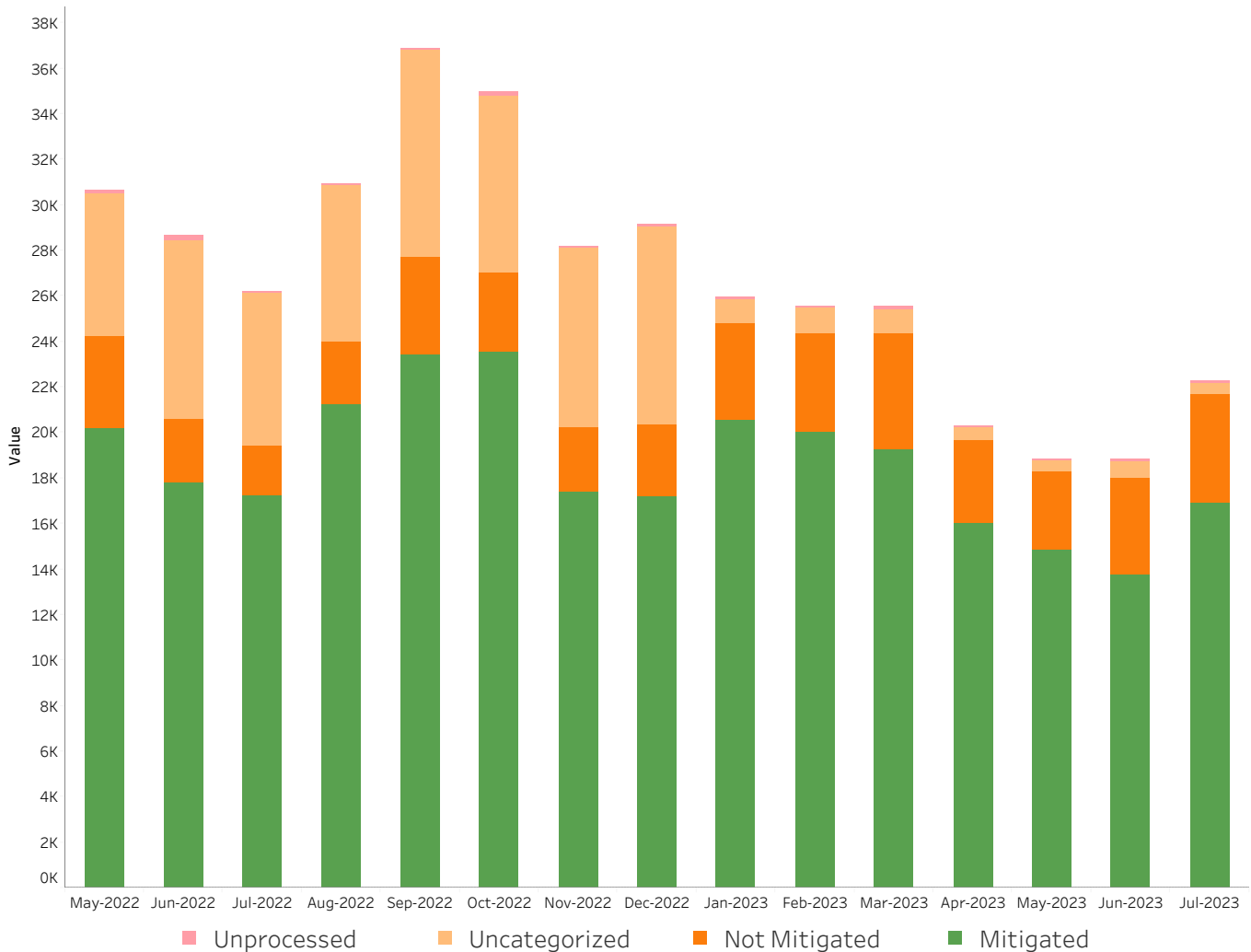


Figure 4: Mitigation - Phishing

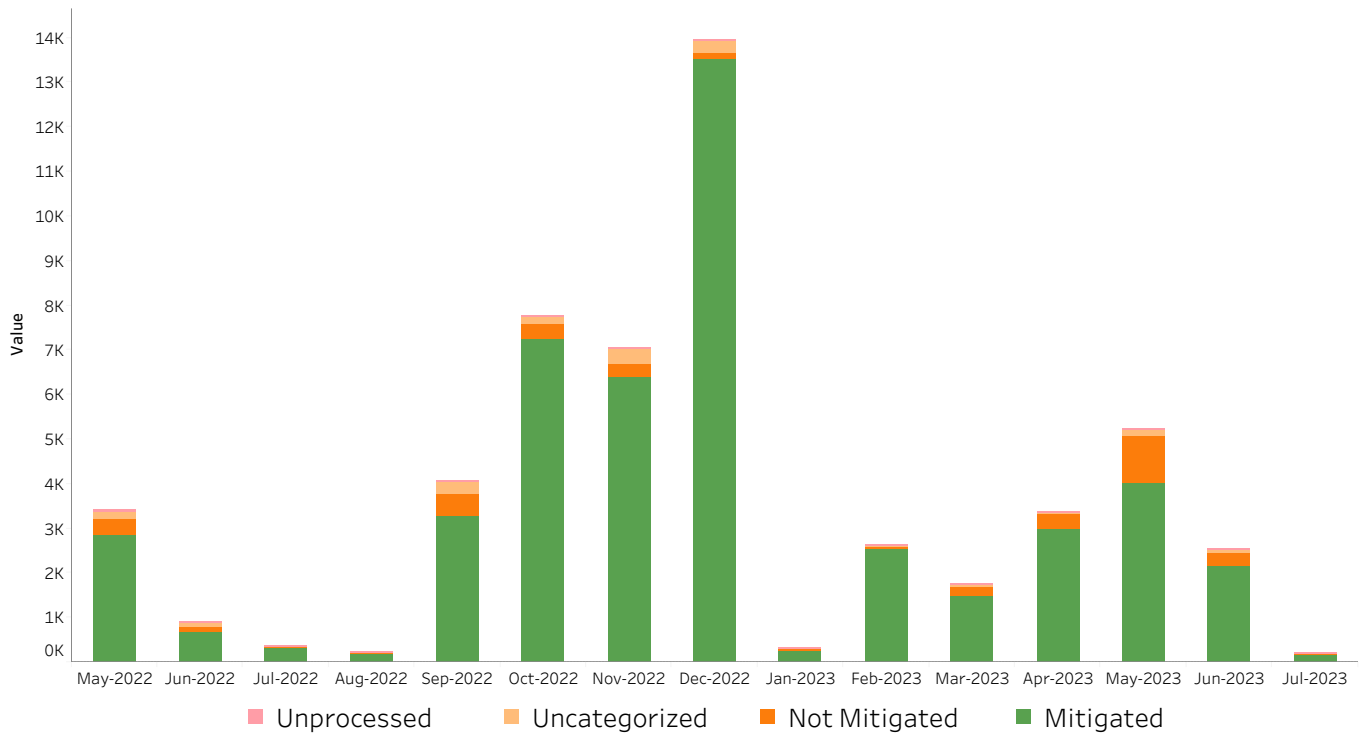


Figure 5: Mitigation - Malware

Commentary

Overall mitigation of phishing and malware in July 2023 (76.3%) remains similar to June 2023 (74.9%). More detailed information is available in the interactive charts on our website: <https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/dnsai-compass/>

Chart 3: Registrar Median Mitigation Time

About this chart

This chart is intended to show the observed time taken to mitigate phishing and malware, and how it is changing over time.

For the domains that our methodology determined were mitigated, this chart shows how many registrars had a median time to mitigation in each category.

After an initial measurement, KOR Labs repeats measurements for one month to determine if mitigation has occurred. The intervals used are (starting at the time of acquiring the URL from the blocklist): 5m, 15m, 30m, 1hr, 2hr, 3hr, 4hr, 5hr, 6hr, 12hr, 24hr, 36hr, 48hr, and then once every 12 hours for one month.

While we are describing this information as a “median registrar mitigation time”, it should be noted that we do not know definitively that it was the registrar that took action. This data could include mitigation taken by the registry, the host, or any other relevant party. The reference to a registrar is indicative that the domain is under their management.

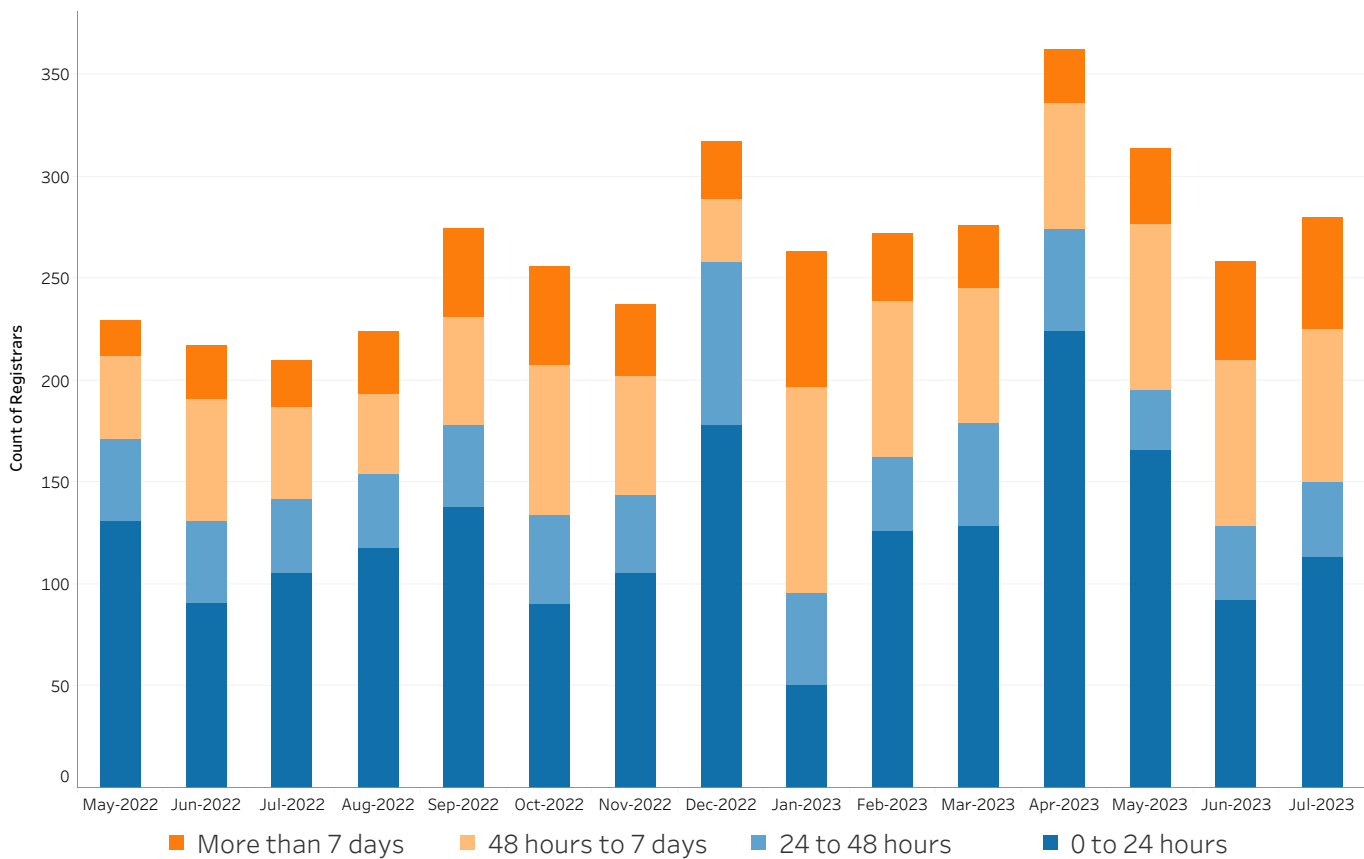


Figure 6: Registrar Median Mitigation Time

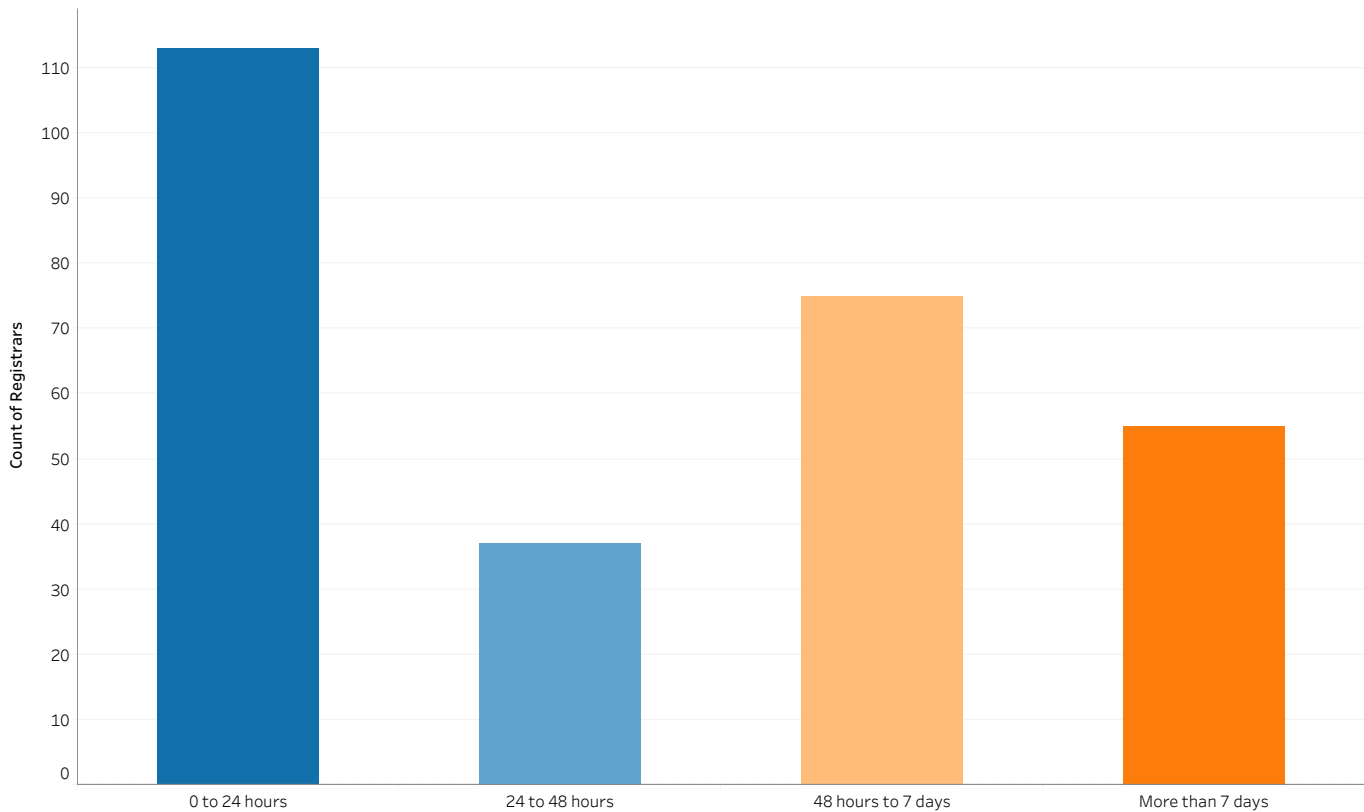


Figure 7: Registrar Median Mitigation Time 2023-07

Commentary

There is no agreed upon industry standard for how quickly mitigation should occur. This makes the presentation of mitigation time challenging. We believe there is a general industry view that mitigation within 24 hours is considered a quick response to sufficient evidence of phishing or malware. As phishing and malware are quite time-sensitive issues, with most harm happening at the start of the attack, we believe that mitigation after 7 days is not quick enough to prevent and disrupt harm, which is why we have included “More than 7 days” as a specific category.

More detailed information is available in the interactive charts on our website:

www.dnsabuseinstitute.org

Chart 4: Malicious vs. Compromised

About this chart

This chart is intended to show the observed registration type (malicious vs. compromised) and how this is changing over time.

Our methodology includes three labels:

- **Malicious:** a domain registered for malicious purposes (i.e., to carry out DNS Abuse).
- **Compromised:** A benign domain name that has been compromised at the website, hosting, or DNS level.
- **Uncategorized:** A domain that our methodology was unable to categorize for a number of reasons, including problems in collecting the metadata necessary to categorize domain names accurately.

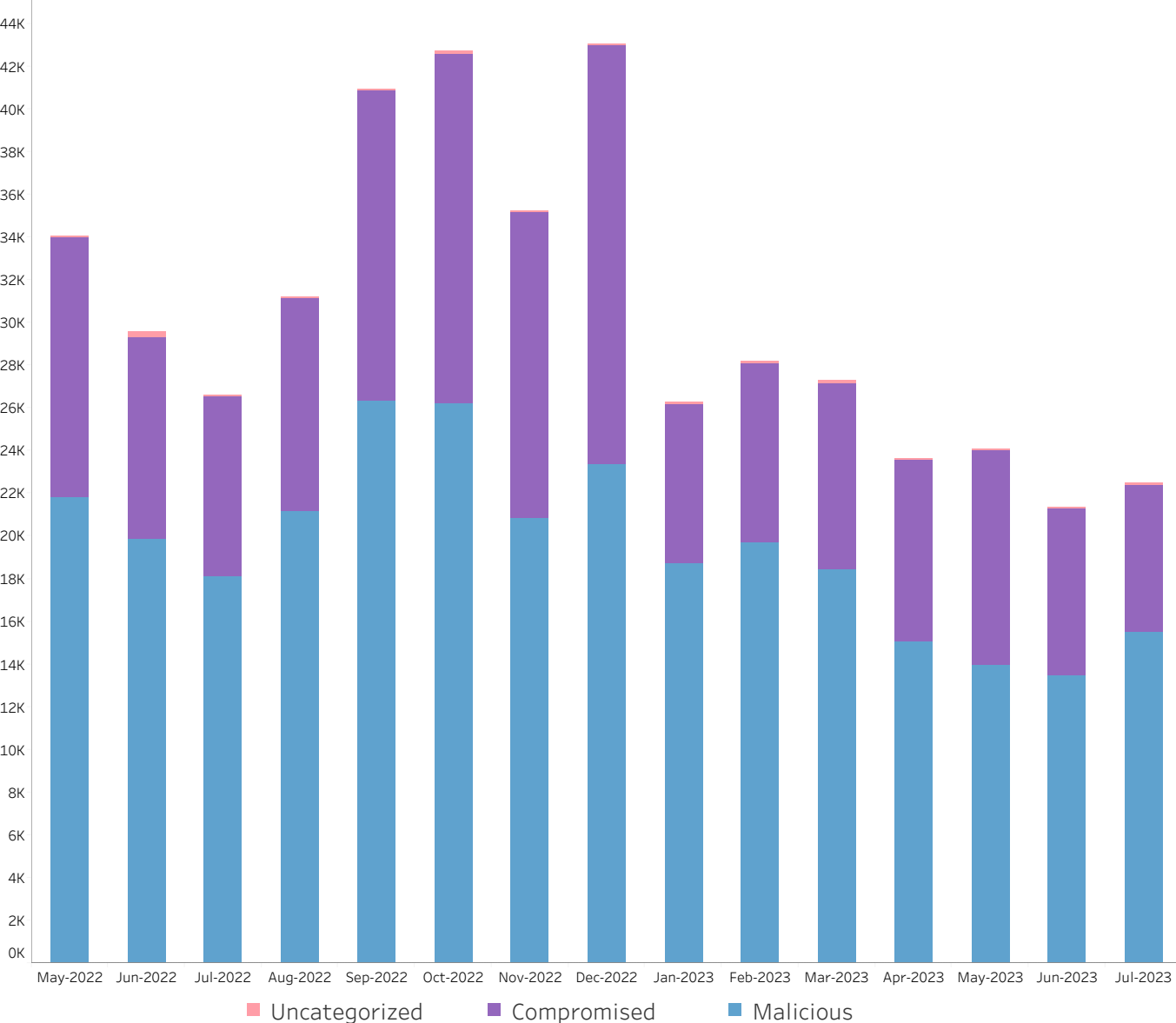


Figure 8: Compromised vs Malicious - Phishing and Malware

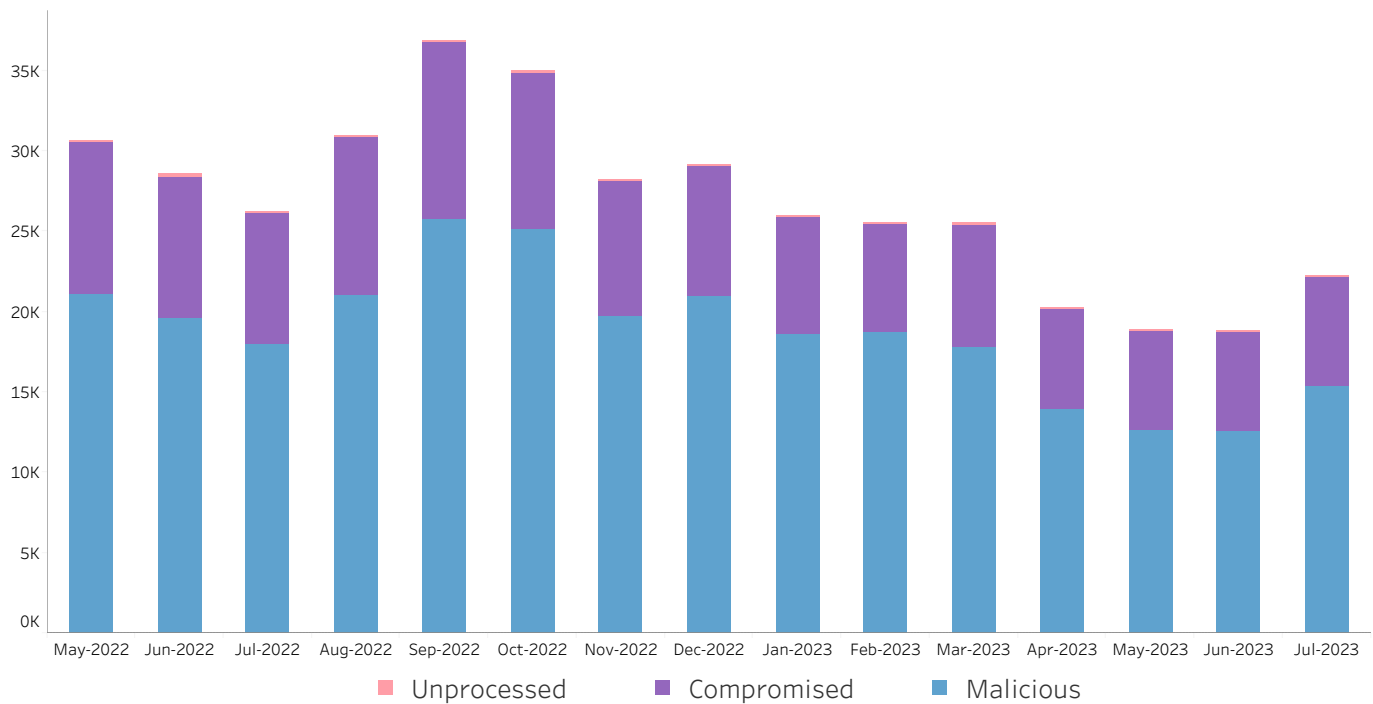


Figure 9: Compromised vs Malicious - **Phishing**

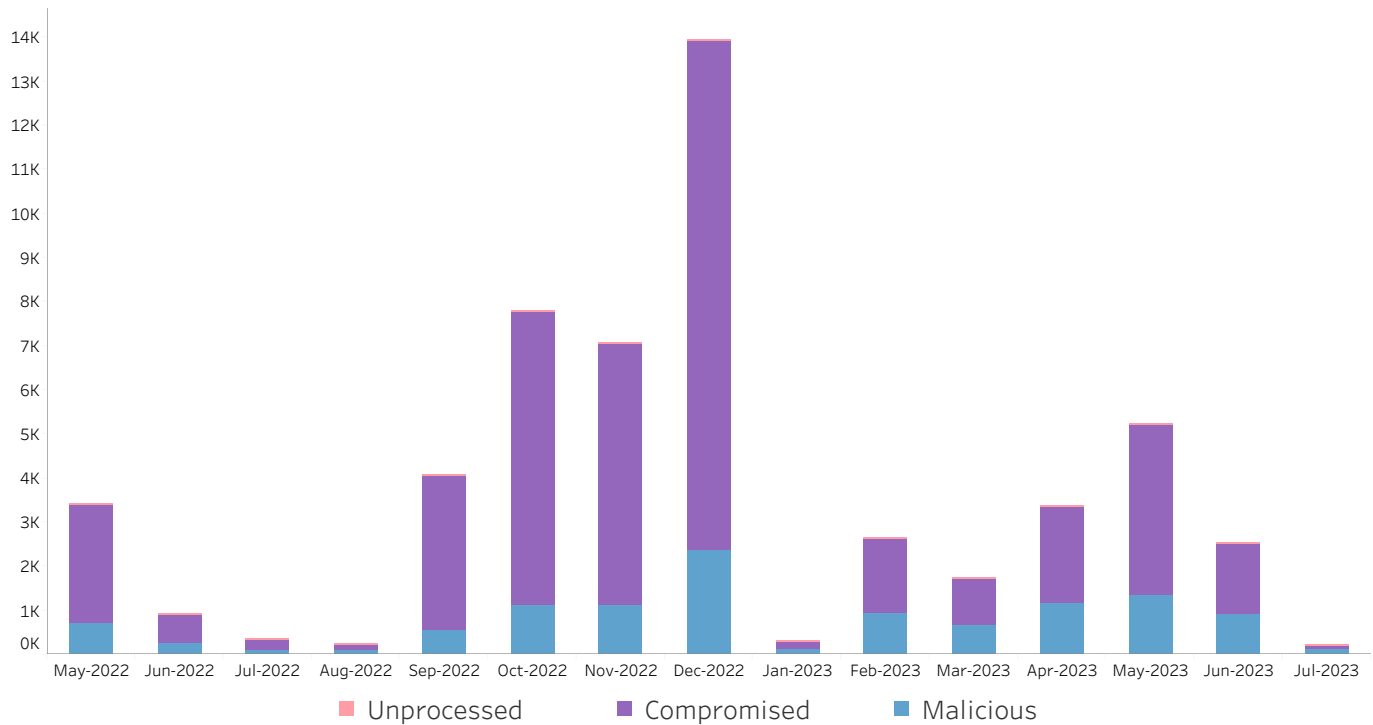


Figure 10: Compromised vs Malicious - **Malware**

Commentary

More detailed information is available in the interactive charts on our website:
www.dnsabuseinstitute.org

Specific Reporting

About

This reporting is intended to show the spectrum of how malicious phishing and malware is concentrated across the DNS registration ecosystem. To demonstrate this, we are^[1] identifying registrars and TLDs with higher and lower relative volumes of malicious domain registrations in their Domains Under Management (DUM), or new registrations.

The metrics we have chosen in this section of reporting were selected to provide a straightforward mechanism to understand DNS Abuse using the data points observed by our methodology. In future reports, we may add additional metrics or combine various data points.

This specific reporting has an additional month of delay from our aggregate reporting which has allowed us to attempt to contact all named registrars and registries prior to the publication of this data. We believe it is important to speak to registrars and registry operators prior to publication whenever possible. This allows registries and registrars to provide us with context for their data which we may choose to include in commentary, the opportunity to prepare public communications, and us to offer support on improving their management of DNS Abuse where appropriate.

To the best of our ability in accordance with our methodology, all metrics are compiled using only **observed maliciously registered domains**, and exclude observed compromised domain names^[2]. This decision was made following significant outreach with the DNS Community and because malicious registrations are typically more directly within the control of a registrar or registry operator. We also provide registrars and registries with data relating to compromised domain names within their DUM on a one-to-one basis.

It is important to recognise the limitations of this work. We are faced with the universal challenge of understanding malicious activity in society; we can only measure the harms that are identified. In our case, we identify phishing and malware through the source lists we use for Compass, as detailed in our methodology. Identified phishing and malware will always be a subset of all existing phishing and malware. There will also be “false positives,” that is domain names categorized as phishing and malware that actually aren’t, due to both classification errors and differences in standards. There is also the potential that identified DNS Abuse is biased to particular geographic regions or activities that are more likely to be subject to reporting. Another challenge we encounter is accurately enumerating the number of DUM for each registrar and TLD (which can impact “per 100K DUM” density metrics). Generally, our observed DUM is lower than officially reported DUM for all TLDs and registrars. For additional information on the limitations of this work, please refer to our methodology.

With these metrics, we want to provide the industry with evidence and information on how phishing and malware is distributed across the ecosystem. We have therefore made several exclusions from each table to reduce the risk of including false positives and to increase the focus on credentials that account for the bulk of domain registrations exhibiting generalizable practices and policies.

We look forward to improving this reporting and working with the DNS Community to better understand, reduce, and prevent abuse. If you would like to provide feedback, please contact us.

^[1] Compass reporting currently focuses on the DNS registrars and DNS registry operators. The DNS ecosystem also includes additional parties such as hosting providers which are typically a more appropriate point of contact for compromised domain names, where a benign domain has been compromised at the website or hosting level.

^[2] DNSAI Compass uses the following definition of compromised: “A benign domain name that has been compromised at the website, hosting, or DNS level.”

Understanding this report

This report shows specific data for **June 2023 (Part A)** and **July 2023 (Part B)**.

For each month, there are four detailed metrics: two relating to registrars and two relating to Top Level Domains (TLDs).

- **Registrars:** observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM
- **Registrars:** observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration
- **Generic Top Level Domains:** observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM
- **Country Code Top Level Domains:** observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM

Each metric is accompanied by:

- **‘About this Metric’** to help the reader understand the data being displayed and any exclusionary criteria, and;
- **‘Commentary’** where we have added any observations on the data, as appropriate for each month.

Our reporting is indifferent to registrar corporate families; we report on the level of the registrar credential, as identified by the IANA ID.^[3] We understand that some corporate entities have more than one IANA ID, and an entity may choose to use its registrar credentials differently, for example, by using one credential for all new registrations. We chose not to manually combine credentials to minimize the risk that we could unintentionally attribute data to the incorrect registrar family as a result of missing a credential sale or corporate acquisition.

Our methodology includes two labels for the type of registration at the registrar and TLD level:

- **Malicious:** a domain registered for malicious purposes (i.e., to carry out DNS Abuse).
- **Compromised:** A benign domain name that has been compromised at the website, hosting, or DNS level.

Our registrar and TLD specific reporting only includes registrations identified as “malicious.” It excludes those identified as “compromised”.

The end of the report includes Appendices on exclusions:

Registrars

- Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix C: Registrar Credentials With with Less Than 300 New Registrations per Month

gTLDs

- Appendix D: gTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix E: gTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

ccTLDs

- Appendix F: ccTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix G: ccTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

[3] See <https://www.iana.org/assignments/registrar-ids/registrar-ids.xhtml> for the authoritative list of ICANN-accredited registrars, which links the assigned IANA ID to the registrar name. The corporate entity controlling the registrar accreditation may not have (or do business under) the same name.

Specific Reporting: Part A (June 2023)

Registrars: Observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the prevalence of observed maliciously registered domains in each registrar according to our methodology. We use observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM to allow comparison across registrars. Focusing only on absolute numbers of observed maliciously registered domains would typically result in the largest registrars having the largest number of malicious domain registrations. The observed maliciously registered domains is a count of the number of unique domain names, not URLs.^[4]

Our methodology identified a substantial number of registrar credentials that have zero observed maliciously registered domains in the current month of reporting. There are several reasons for why a registrar credential may have zero observed malicious domain names. For example, the credential may be:

- used for corporate purposes,
- operate a business model of brand protection (offering defensive registrations for existing brands),
- register low numbers or no new domain names, or
- used predominantly for registering expiring domain names for the purposes of resale (“drop catching”).

A specific business model or operational practice (rather than a generalizable policy or practice that other registrars could adopt) may cause registrar credentials to be identified as having zero observed maliciously registered domains. Zero observed maliciously registered domains is likely not feasible for typical credentials held by most registrars, particularly large retail registrars who sponsor the overwhelming majority of domains. Nevertheless, zero observed maliciously registered domains is still a laudable achievement. Accordingly, we have listed these registrar credentials in Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

While every effort has been made to reduce the chance of false positives (reports of malware or phishing that prove to be mistaken), it is impossible to eliminate this risk. To minimize the impact of false positives we have required a minimum number of observed maliciously registered domains per registrar ID. With this requirement we are aiming to avoid the situation where tables are largely composed of registrar credentials that would—other than for the existence of a few false positives—be listed in Appendix A. However, as very low numbers of observed malicious domain names is also a laudable result, we have included a list of these registrars in Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered.

Finally, the registrar data excludes ccTLD domains due to challenges in mapping domains to registrars in ccTLD ecosystems. See our methodology for more details.

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered

^[4] Typically reputation block lists—the starting point of our methodology—are created for the purposes of network blocking, not measuring DNS Abuse. As described in our methodology, we have observed incidences of malicious websites generating a unique URL for each individual visit of a website (human or crawler). One incident resulted in the same domain name being reported over 70,000 times with different URLs. While this is typically valuable information for the purposes of network blocking, counting unique URLs is less appropriate for measuring DNS abuse at the registration level. Registries and registrars have limited blunt tools for mitigation, all of which operate at the domain level. As a result, we measure and calculate the occurrence metrics for unique observed abusively registered domain names.

Commentary: Registrar Credentials

Our reporting is indifferent to registrar corporate families, we report on the registrar IANA ID (i.e., at the credential level). This means that some corporate entities will have more than one IANA ID, and they may choose to operate these credentials differently.

Commentary: Brand Protection

MarkMonitor Inc. (IANA ID 292) is a brand protection registrar, a specific type of registrar that provides domain registrations to corporate entities for the purpose of protecting brands. As with most brand protection registrars, registrations with MarkMonitor Inc. are tightly controlled; it is therefore surprising to see any domains identified as malicious under the IANA ID 292.

We believe the inclusion of MarkMonitor Inc. (IANA ID 292) in Table 1 is the result their brand protection business model, and the fact that domains registered for legitimate protective use may appear malicious to the outside world, rather than a result of malicious activity on their registrar credential.

After analysing a large sample from a previous month and working with MarkMonitor Inc., we identified that all malicious domains in that sample were either false positives or “special domains”. We are working to resolve these challenges going forwards. As we continue examining this issue, we will consider whether it’s appropriate to exclude MarkMonitor Inc., and registrar credentials used exclusively for brand protection from future reports.

For example, several of these domains names should have been categorized as “special domains” – a domain name that provides subdomains or a redirection that can be abused by attackers, but the original purpose of the registered domain name is legitimate. Our methodology excludes “special domains”, however, this is based on a manually maintained list – which we will now update accordingly as a result of this analysis.

Other examples included authorized phishing attack simulations on behalf of brands, for example, these are often used for staff training purposes. These types of simulations can be reported as phishing. It is difficult to identify protective activity from malicious activity, however, we are aiming to account for this in our methodology.

Tables

To account for the diversity of registrar credential sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller (**1 - 999,999 gTLD DUM**) registrars (Table 1) and larger (**1 million + gTLD DUM**) registrars (Table 2). We note that this threshold of 1 million is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

Table 1: Smaller registrars in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: 1 - 999,999

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 gTLD DUM	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
292	MarkMonitor Inc.	0.89	8	897,382
1515	123-Reg Limited	0.90	7	778,960
431	DreamHost, LLC	1.58	12	759,346
3827	Squarespace Domains LLC	1.65	16	968,339
1505	Gransy, s.r.o.	1.90	6	316,136
1557	Netowl, Inc.	2.04	11	538,656
1291	Dreamscape Networks Internation..	2.05	11	536,542
379	Arsys Internet, S.L. dba NICLINE.CO..	2.79	11	394,673
1697	DNSPod, Inc.	2.91	26	892,166
1915	West263 International Limited	3.42	11	321,251

Table 2: Larger registrars in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: Equal to or greater than 1 million

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 gTLD DUM	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
1441	TurnCommerce, Inc. DBA NameBright..	0.23	11	4,795,808
3817	Wix.com Ltd.	0.31	8	2,609,814
420	Alibaba Cloud Computing (Beijing) Co..	0.43	12	2,817,368
83	1&1 IONOS SE	0.52	23	4,462,103
141	Cronon GmbH	0.60	7	1,171,423
9	Register.com, Inc.	0.71	11	1,546,605
433	OVH sas	0.74	16	2,151,247
886	Domain.com, LLC	0.94	16	1,694,444
440	Wild West Domains, LLC	0.97	24	2,477,795
146	GoDaddy.com, LLC	1.12	714	63,559,183

Table 3: Registrars in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

For higher numbers of observed maliciously registered domains, we have used one table (Table 3) and introduced a concept of consistency: a registrar credential will only be listed if they appear in this table of ten registrars for **4 or more of the last 6 months**, otherwise they will be redacted. We attempted to contact all registrars in advance of publications, regardless of redaction. To further reduce the possibility of false positives, we also require a higher threshold of minimum malicious domain names for inclusion **more than 10 observed malicious domain names per month**.

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month
- Consistency: If a registrar does not appear in the list of 10 registrars with the highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 4 or more of the last 6 months, its data has been redacted.

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 gTLD DUM	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM	Number of Months
Redacted	*Redacted*	921.38	*	*	3
3765	NICENIC INTERNATIONAL GR..	915.32	350	38,238	6
3775	ALIBABA.COM SINGAPORE E..	70.64	349	494,059	6
3954	Whogohost Limited	49.02	12	24,482	6
1606	Registrar of Domain Names ..	46.61	250	536,413	6
Redacted	*Redacted*	42.19	*	*	2
1636	Hostinger, UAB	38.91	531	1,364,728	4
1479	NameSilo, LLC	29.61	1,091	3,684,416	5
Redacted	*Redacted*	29.10	*	*	3
Redacted	*Redacted*	21.99	*	*	1

Registrars: observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the relationship between new registrations and observed malicious registration abuse. If the number of observed malicious domain names is a significant proportion of newly registered domain names, it may be an indication that a registrar should consider mechanisms to prevent incoming maliciously registered domains, for example, by utilizing improved fraud prevention techniques. [5]

As with our previous registrar metric, we have excluded registrar credentials with zero observed maliciously registered domains, and those with low numbers (**1-5**) of observed maliciously registered domains to reduce the risk of false positives. Instead we have focused on registrar credentials that account for the bulk of domain registrations that may exhibit generalizable practices and policies.

As our reporting is based on registrar IANA ID (credential), not registrar corporate family, there may be some unexpected results in the data. It should be noted that a registrar may use one ID for new registrations, and another ID for holding registrations. We have minimized the risk of this type of discrepancy by introducing an inclusion requirement for registrar credentials to have a substantial amount of new registrations per month **300 per month, or approximately 10 new gTLD domain registrations per day.**

To account for the diversity of registrar credential sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller (**300-20,000 Newly Registered gTLD Domains**) registrars (Table 4) and larger (**20,000+ Newly Registered gTLD Domains**) registrars (Table 5). We note that this threshold of 20,000 is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

[5] <https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/best-practice-anti-fraud-tools-and-registration-flows-for-registrars/>

Finally, the registrar data excludes ccTLD domains due to challenges in mapping domains to registrars in ccTLD ecosystems. See our methodology for more details.

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered
- Appendix C: Registrars With Registrars with Less Than 300 New Registrations per Month

Table 4: Registrars with a smaller volume of new registrations, in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed Newly Registered Domains: 300 - 20,000

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per New gTLD Domain Registration	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed Newly Registered gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
141	Cronon GmbH	0.05%	7	15,013	1,171,423
9	Register.com, Inc.	0.06%	11	19,131	1,546,605
1291	Dreamscape Networks In..	0.08%	11	13,367	536,542
1515	123-Reg Limited	0.09%	7	8,186	778,960
1557	Netowl, Inc.	0.10%	11	11,540	538,656
1675	CV. Rumahweb Indonesia	0.11%	6	5,698	102,384
1388	Dattatec Corp	0.12%	8	6,870	142,557
244	Gabia, Inc.	0.12%	22	18,605	523,825
431	DreamHost, LLC	0.14%	12	8,670	759,346
3972	Hongkong Kouming Inter..	0.15%	10	6,863	34,577

Table 5: Registrars with a higher volume of new registrations, in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed Newly Registered Domains: Equal to or greater than 20,000

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per New gTLD Domain Registration	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed Newly Registered gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
3817	Wix.com Ltd.	0.01%	8	69,870	2,609,814
1505	Gransy, s.r.o.	0.02%	6	35,678	316,136
151	PSI-USA, Inc. dba Domain Ro..	0.03%	22	81,483	1,072,611
1915	West263 International Limit..	0.04%	11	29,692	321,251
83	1&1 IONOS SE	0.04%	23	56,583	4,462,103
3827	Squarespace Domains LLC	0.05%	16	34,035	968,339
886	Domain.com, LLC	0.05%	16	29,302	1,694,444
1697	DNSPod, Inc.	0.07%	26	39,840	892,166
433	OVH sas	0.07%	16	23,653	2,151,247
269	Key-Systems GmbH	0.07%	46	65,759	2,456,170

Table 6: Registrars in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month
- Observed Newly Registered Domains: Equal to or greater than 300
- Consistency: If a registrar does not appear in the list of 10 registrars with the highest percentage of new registrations observed as malicious 4 or more of the last 6 months, its data has been redacted.

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per New gTLD Domain Registration	Observed Newly Registered gTLD Domains	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM	Number of Months
817	MAFF Inc.	7.12%	618	44	201,491	6
3765	NICENIC INTERNATION..	7.07%	4,949	350	38,238	6
Redacted	*Redacted*	3.00%	*	*	*	2
1621	Shanghai Meicheng Tec..	2.16%	2,036	44	151,209	6
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.28%	*	*	*	1
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.18%	*	*	*	1
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.13%	*	*	*	2
Redacted	*Redacted*	0.94%	*	*	*	3
Redacted	*Redacted*	0.86%	*	*	*	3
Redacted	*Redacted*	0.85%	*	*	*	3

Generic Top Level Domains: Observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the prevalence of observed maliciously registered domains in each gTLD.

When reported in raw numbers, the TLDs with the largest DUM will typically have the most observed maliciously registered domains. To create a benchmark which takes into account the different sizes of TLDs, we have reported the number of observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM. The observed abuse is a count of the number of unique domain names, not URLs.

We report on gTLDs and ccTLDs separately to reflect the fact that gTLDs have a consistent contractual framework^[6], are bound by consensus policies produced through the ICANN multistakeholder process, while ccTLDs are largely unique in their policies, processes, and governance models (e.g., nexus requirements, three-party contracts that include the ccTLD registry, only names for accredited businesses, etc.).

However, there is considerable policy, process, and business model diversity within gTLDs, any of which can influence abuse rates. For example, some gTLDs are brand-operated, closed for public registration, and have dozens of registrations, while others are operated by publicly traded companies, open for public registration, and have millions of registrations.

^[6] Registry Agreement (RA); <https://www.icann.org/en/registry-agreements/base-agreement> Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en>

Our methodology observed a substantial number of gTLDs that have zero observed maliciously registered domains in the current month of reporting. There are several reasons for why a gTLD may have zero observed malicious domain names. Some TLD operators have specific and unique business models that may not translate to open gTLDs. For example, operating at very small volumes, maintaining a closed and exclusive number of customers, or applying human verification to every single domain name registration. This can result in very low concentrations of abuse, but is less helpful for generalizable information and not scalable to the wider ecosystem. Zero observed maliciously registered domains is likely not feasible for most gTLDs. Nevertheless, zero observed maliciously registered domains is still a laudable achievement. Accordingly, we have listed these TLDs in Appendix D: gTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

While every effort has been made to reduce the chance of false positives (reports of malware or phishing that prove to be mistaken), it is impossible to entirely eliminate this risk. To minimize the impact of false positives, we have required a minimum number of observed maliciously registered domains per TLD. As very low numbers of observed malicious domain names is also a laudable result, we have included a list of these TLDs in Appendix E: gTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix D: gTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix E: gTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

Commentary: Comparing ccTLDs and gTLDs

We have split ccTLD and gTLDs into two separate sections for the reasons described above and used the same methodology for reporting and abuse categorization. However, the absolute numbers of Observed Maliciously Registered Domains and rates of Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM are noticeably lower in the ccTLD table. If Table 12 (ccTLDs) and Table 9 (gTLDs) were grouped together, none of the ccTLDs listed in Table 12 would be identified in a similarly structured descending list of observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM.

Tables

To account for the diversity of gTLD registry sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller (**1 - 199,999 DUM**) gTLDs (Table 7) and larger (**200,000+ DUM**) gTLDs (Table 8). We note that this threshold of 200,000 is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

Table 7: Smaller gTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: 1 - 200,000

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
tokyo	6.96	8	114,894
digital	7.50	9	120,062
email	8.74	10	114,442
one	10.20	20	196,166
world	11.13	21	188,743
services	13.38	9	67,274
ltd	14.96	17	113,657
network	18.23	13	71,296
works	19.46	6	30,826
pics	22.05	11	49,880

Table 8: Larger gTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: Equal to or more than 200,000

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
org	2.23	242	10,844,501
com	2.84	4,582	161,261,290
biz	3.05	40	1,310,510
net	3.13	407	13,021,512
blog	3.20	7	219,034
art	3.90	9	230,718
store	6.31	68	1,077,732
dev	6.44	24	372,933
link	6.76	14	207,031
info	7.09	266	3,752,533

Table 9: gTLDs in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month 27
- Consistency: If a TLD does not appear in the list of 10 TLDs with the highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 4 or more of the last 6 months, its data has been redacted

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM	Number of Months
Redacted	134.08	*	*	2
ink	112.96	78	69,053	5
click	63.61	291	457,461	5
Redacted	60.48	*	*	1
Redacted	58.19	*	*	1
cfid	54.09	222	410,417	5
Redacted	53.93	*	*	1
Redacted	47.90	*	*	1
monster	45.31	32	70,620	6
Redacted	39.72	*	*	1

Country Code Top Level Domains: Observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the prevalence of observed maliciously registered domains in each ccTLD.

When reported in raw numbers, the largest TLDs will typically have the most observed maliciously registered domains. To create a benchmark which takes into account the different sizes of TLDs we have reported the number of observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM. The observed abuse is a count of the number of unique domain names, not URLs.

We report on gTLDs and ccTLDs separately to reflect the fact that gTLDs have a consistent contractual framework^[7], are bound by consensus policies produced through the ICANN multistakeholder process, while ccTLDs are largely unique in their policies, processes, and governance models (e.g., nexus requirements, three-party contracts that include the ccTLD registry, only names for accredited businesses, etc.).

This allows ccTLDs to create policies that are relevant and appropriate for their distinct local circumstances and population. This can still involve the use of multi-stakeholder processes, but is conducted by each individual country in line with its local regulations, values, languages, and expectations of the communities it serves. There is considerable diversity within the ccTLD community, so caution should be applied in comparing these TLDs.

Our methodology observed a substantial number of ccTLDs that have zero observed maliciously registered domains in the current month of reporting. There are several reasons for why a ccTLD may have zero observed malicious domain names. Some TLD operators have specific, unique and typically untranslatable business models when applied to other ccTLDs or gTLDs. For example, operating at very small volumes, having a geographical nexus requirement, requiring a government identity number, restricting the number of domains available to each individual or business, or applying human or electronic identity verification to every domain name registration. This can result in very low concentrations of abuse, but is less helpful for generalizable information and not scalable to the wider ecosystem. Zero observed maliciously registered domains is likely not feasible for most TLDs. Nevertheless, zero observed maliciously registered domains is still a laudable achievement. Accordingly, we have listed these TLDs in Appendix F: ccTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

While every effort has been made to reduce the chance of false positives (reports of malware or phishing that prove to be mistaken), it is impossible to entirely eliminate this risk. To minimize the impact of false positives we have required a minimum number of observed maliciously registered domains per TLD. As very low numbers of observed malicious domain names is also a laudable result, we have included a list of these TLDs in Appendix G: ccTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

^[7] Registry Agreement (RA); <https://www.icann.org/en/registry-agreements/base-agreement> Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en>

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix F: ccTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix G: ccTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

Commentary: Comparing ccTLDs and gTLDs

We have split ccTLD and gTLDs into two separate sections for the reasons described above and used the same methodology for reporting and abuse categorization. However, the absolute numbers of Observed Maliciously Registered Domains and rates of Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM are noticeably lower in the ccTLD table.

Tables

To account for the diversity of ccTLD registry sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller **1 - 999,999** DUM ccTLDs (Table 10) and larger **1,000,000+ DUM** ccTLDs (Table 11). We note that this threshold of 1 million is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

Table 10: Smaller ccTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: 1 - 999,999

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
nz	1.09	8	732,964
fi	1.13	6	529,442
qr	1.23	6	488,538
ar	2.08	11	527,793
ua	2.27	11	484,185
ro	2.30	13	564,510
pt	2.53	10	394,822
ai	2.89	6	207,845
tr	3.12	25	802,139
io	3.33	33	992,217

Table 11: Larger ccTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: Equal to or more than 1 million

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
nl	0.18	11	6,029,010
uk	0.41	43	10,403,923
ca	0.46	15	3,251,404
de	0.57	94	16,566,800
it	0.57	18	3,167,399
es	0.59	12	2,021,830
be	0.60	10	1,653,646
ch	0.76	19	2,504,545
za	0.85	11	1,300,810
cf	0.90	13	1,436,582

Table 12: ccTLDs in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-06

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month
- Consistency: If a TLD does not appear in the list of 10 TLDs with the highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 4 or more of the last 6 months, its data has been redacted

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM	Number of Months
id	34.11	222	650,872	6
pk	34.08	41	120,304	6
cc	24.60	247	1,004,241	6
ng	21.19	32	150,993	5
Redacted	14.16	*	*	3
pl	12.93	307	2,374,654	4
pe	8.77	11	125,369	6
Redacted	7.73	*	*	1
ru	7.24	356	4,915,213	6
Redacted	7.20	*	*	3

Specific Reporting: Part B (July 2023)

Registrars: Observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the prevalence of observed maliciously registered domains in each registrar according to our methodology. We use observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM to allow comparison across registrars. Focusing only on absolute numbers of observed maliciously registered domains would typically result in the largest registrars having the largest number of malicious domain registrations. The observed maliciously registered domains is a count of the number of unique domain names, not URLs.^[8]

Our methodology identified a substantial number of registrar credentials that have zero observed maliciously registered domains in the current month of reporting. There are several reasons for why a registrar credential may have zero observed malicious domain names. For example, the credential may be:

- used for corporate purposes,
- operate a business model of brand protection (offering defensive registrations for existing brands),
- register low numbers or no new domain names, or
- used predominantly for registering expiring domain names for the purposes of resale (“drop catching”).

A specific business model or operational practice (rather than a generalizable policy or practice that other registrars could adopt) may cause registrar credentials to be identified as having zero observed maliciously registered domains. Zero observed maliciously registered domains is likely not feasible for typical credentials held by most registrars, particularly large retail registrars who sponsor the overwhelming majority of domains. Nevertheless, zero observed maliciously registered domains is still a laudable achievement. Accordingly, we have listed these registrar credentials in Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

While every effort has been made to reduce the chance of false positives (reports of malware or phishing that prove to be mistaken), it is impossible to eliminate this risk. To minimize the impact of false positives we have required a minimum number of observed maliciously registered domains per registrar ID. With this requirement we are aiming to avoid the situation where tables are largely composed of registrar credentials that would—other than for the existence of a few false positives—be listed in Appendix A. However, as very low numbers of observed malicious domain names is also a laudable result, we have included a list of these registrars in Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered.

Finally, the registrar data excludes ccTLD domains due to challenges in mapping domains to registrars in ccTLD ecosystems. See our methodology for more details.

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered

^[8] Typically reputation block lists—the starting point of our methodology—are created for the purposes of network blocking, not measuring DNS Abuse. As described in our methodology, we have observed incidences of malicious websites generating a unique URL for each individual visit of a website (human or crawler). One incident resulted in the same domain name being reported over 70,000 times with different URLs. While this is typically valuable information for the purposes of network blocking, counting unique URLs is less appropriate for measuring DNS abuse at the registration level. Registries and registrars have limited blunt tools for mitigation, all of which operate at the domain level. As a result, we measure and calculate the occurrence metrics for unique observed abusively registered domain names.

Commentary: Registrar Credentials

Our reporting is indifferent to registrar corporate families, we report on the registrar IANA ID (i.e., at the credential level). This means that some corporate entities will have more than one IANA ID, and they may choose to operate these credentials differently.

Commentary: Brand Protection

MarkMonitor Inc. (IANA ID 292) is a brand protection registrar, a specific type of registrar that provides domain registrations to corporate entities for the purpose of protecting brands. As with most brand protection registrars, registrations with MarkMonitor Inc. are tightly controlled; it is therefore surprising to see any domains identified as malicious under the IANA ID 292.

We believe the inclusion of MarkMonitor Inc. (IANA ID 292) in Table 1 is the result their brand protection business model, and the fact that domains registered for legitimate protective use may appear malicious to the outside world, rather than a result of malicious activity on their registrar credential.

After analysing a large sample from a previous month and working with MarkMonitor Inc., we identified that all malicious domains in that sample were either false positives or “special domains”. We are working to resolve these challenges going forwards. As we continue examining this issue, we will consider whether it’s appropriate to exclude MarkMonitor Inc., and registrar credentials used exclusively for brand protection from future reports.

For example, several of these domains names should have been categorized as “special domains” – a domain name that provides subdomains or a redirection that can be abused by attackers, but the original purpose of the registered domain name is legitimate. Our methodology excludes “special domains”, however, this is based on a manually maintained list – which we will now update accordingly as a result of this analysis.

Other examples included authorized phishing attack simulations on behalf of brands, for example, these are often used for staff training purposes. These types of simulations can be reported as phishing. It is difficult to identify protective activity from malicious activity, however, we are aiming to account for this in our methodology.

Tables

To account for the diversity of registrar credential sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller (**1 - 999,999 gTLD DUM**) registrars (Table 1) and larger (**1 million + gTLD DUM**) registrars (Table 2). We note that this threshold of 1 million is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

Table 1: Smaller registrars in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: 1 - 999,999

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 gTLD DUM	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
1390	Mesh Digital Limited	0.76	6	794,052
1515	123-Reg Limited	0.81	6	742,979
168	Register SpA	1.10	7	637,327
292	MarkMonitor Inc.	1.15	10	870,420
1557	Netowl, Inc.	1.51	8	530,441
1291	Dreamscape Networks Internation..	1.91	10	523,040
379	Arsys Internet, S.L. dba NICLINE.CO..	2.09	8	382,064
1316	Xiamen 35.Com Technology Co., Ltd.	2.11	6	283,960
244	Gabia, Inc.	2.33	12	513,975
3758	Hefei Juming Network Technology ..	2.48	6	242,005

Table 2: Larger registrars in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: Equal to or greater than 1 million

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 gTLD DUM	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
420	Alibaba Cloud Computing (Beijing) Co..	0.26	7	2,675,460
1441	TurnCommerce, Inc. DBA NameBright..	0.28	13	4,651,101
141	Cronon GmbH	0.61	7	1,146,541
433	OVH sas	0.72	15	2,096,567
886	Domain.com, LLC	0.73	12	1,648,362
83	1&1 IONOS SE	0.74	32	4,340,570
3817	Wix.com Ltd.	0.79	20	2,537,231
269	Key-Systems GmbH	0.92	22	2,393,734
48	eNom, LLC	1.05	40	3,797,853
120	Xin Net Technology Corporation	1.07	14	1,303,084

Table 3: Registrars in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

For higher numbers of observed maliciously registered domains, we have used one table (Table 3) and introduced a concept of consistency: a registrar credential will only be listed if they appear in this table of ten registrars for **4 or more of the last 6 months**, otherwise they will be redacted. We attempted to contact all registrars in advance of publications, regardless of redaction. To further reduce the possibility of false positives, we also require a higher threshold of minimum malicious ..

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month
- Consistency: If a registrar does not appear in the list of 10 registrars with the highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 4 or more of the last 6 months, its data has been redacted.

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 gTLD DUM	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM	Number of Months
3765	NICENIC INTERNATIONAL GR..	1,328.74	517	38,909	6
3858	Aceville Pte. Ltd.	506.84	246	48,536	4
3775	ALIBABA.COM SINGAPORE E-..	87.34	427	488,912	6
Redacted	*Redacted*	76.04	*	*	1
Redacted	*Redacted*	51.41	*	*	1
Redacted	*Redacted*	49.26	*	*	3
1606	Registrar of Domain Names ..	48.60	262	539,079	6
1636	Hostinger, UAB	44.37	648	1,460,602	4
Redacted	*Redacted*	43.02	*	*	2
Redacted	*Redacted*	38.59	*	*	1

Registrars: observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the relationship between new registrations and observed malicious registration abuse. If the number of observed malicious domain names is a significant proportion of newly registered domain names, it may be an indication that a registrar should consider mechanisms to prevent incoming maliciously registered domains, for example, by utilizing improved fraud prevention techniques. [\[9\]](#)

As with our previous registrar metric, we have excluded registrar credentials with zero observed maliciously registered domains, and those with low numbers (**1-5**) of observed maliciously registered domains to reduce the risk of false positives. Instead we have focused on registrar credentials that account for the bulk of domain registrations that may exhibit generalizable practices and policies.

As our reporting is based on registrar IANA ID (credential), not registrar corporate family, there may be some unexpected results in the data. It should be noted that a registrar may use one ID for new registrations, and another ID for holding registrations. We have minimized the risk of this type of discrepancy by introducing an inclusion requirement for registrar credentials to have a substantial amount of new registrations per month **300 per month, or approximately 10 new gTLD domain registrations per day.**

To account for the diversity of registrar credential sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller (**300-20,000 Newly Registered gTLD Domains**) registrars (Table 4) and larger (**20,000+ Newly Registered gTLD Domains**) registrars (Table 5). We note that this threshold of 20,000 is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

[\[9\] https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/best-practice-anti-fraud-tools-and-registration-flows-for-registrars/](https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/best-practice-anti-fraud-tools-and-registration-flows-for-registrars/)

Finally, the registrar data excludes ccTLD domains due to challenges in mapping domains to registrars in ccTLD ecosystems. See our methodology for more details.

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered
- Appendix C: Registrars With Registrars with Less Than 300 New Registrations per Month

Table 4: Registrars with a smaller volume of new registrations, in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed Newly Registered Domains: 300 - 20,000

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per New gTLD Domain Registration	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed Newly Registered gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
1316	Xiamen 35.Com Technolo..	0.03%	6	19,894	283,960
141	Cronon GmbH	0.04%	7	16,845	1,146,541
1449	URL Solutions, Inc.	0.06%	8	13,462	170,676
3824	Cloud Yuqu LLC	0.06%	10	16,360	291,478
1557	Netowl, Inc.	0.06%	8	12,761	530,441
244	Gabia, Inc.	0.06%	12	18,760	513,975
168	Register SpA	0.07%	7	9,953	637,327
1515	123-Reg Limited	0.09%	6	6,678	742,979
1291	Dreamscape Networks In..	0.10%	10	10,412	523,040
1390	Mesh Digital Limited	0.10%	6	5,994	794,052

Table 5: Registrars with a higher volume of new registrations, in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed Newly Registered Domains: Equal to or greater than 20,000

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per New gTLD Domain Registration	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed Newly Registered gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM
1915	West263 International Limit..	0.03%	10	36,063	335,850
3817	Wix.com Ltd.	0.03%	20	70,267	2,537,231
120	Xin Net Technology Corpora..	0.03%	14	41,663	1,303,084
886	Domain.com, LLC	0.04%	12	30,113	1,648,362
1697	DNSPod, Inc.	0.06%	25	41,615	886,850
83	1&1 IONOS SE	0.06%	32	53,076	4,340,570
269	Key-Systems GmbH	0.06%	22	35,740	2,393,734
433	OVH sas	0.07%	15	22,128	2,096,567
146	GoDaddy.com, LLC	0.08%	734	955,896	61,838,644
1556	Chengdu West Dimension Di..	0.09%	67	73,691	1,072,390

Table 6: Registrars in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per new domain registration for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month
- Observed Newly Registered Domains: Equal to or greater than 300
- Consistency: If a registrar does not appear in the list of 10 registrars with the highest percentage of new registrations observed as malicious 4 or more of the last 6 months, its data has been redacted.

IANA ID	Registrar Credential	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per New gTLD Domain Registration	Observed Newly Registered gTLD Domains	Observed Malicious gTLD Domains	Observed gTLD DUM	Number of Months
3765	NICENIC INTERNATION..	9.35%	5,527	517	38,909	6
817	MAFF Inc.	7.23%	553	40	173,529	6
Redacted	*Redacted*	4.98%	*	*	*	3
1621	Shanghai Meicheng Tec..	2.22%	2,251	50	141,609	6
3855	Hong Kong Juming Net..	2.18%	3,539	77	584,797	4
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.66%	*	*	*	1
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.39%	*	*	*	2
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.26%	*	*	*	3
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.12%	*	*	*	3
Redacted	*Redacted*	1.03%	*	*	*	3
Redacted	*Redacted*			*	*	

Generic Top Level Domains: Observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the prevalence of observed maliciously registered domains in each gTLD.

When reported in raw numbers, the TLDs with the largest DUM will typically have the most observed maliciously registered domains. To create a benchmark which takes into account the different sizes of TLDs, we have reported the number of observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM. The observed abuse is a count of the number of unique domain names, not URLs.

We report on gTLDs and ccTLDs separately to reflect the fact that gTLDs have a consistent contractual framework^[10], are bound by consensus policies produced through the ICANN multistakeholder process, while ccTLDs are largely unique in their policies, processes, and governance models (e.g., nexus requirements, three-party contracts that include the ccTLD registry, only names for accredited businesses, etc.).

However, there is considerable policy, process, and business model diversity within gTLDs, any of which can influence abuse rates. For example, some gTLDs are brand-operated, closed for public registration, and have dozens of registrations, while others are operated by publicly traded companies, open for public registration, and have millions of registrations.

^[10] Registry Agreement (RA); <https://www.icann.org/en/registry-agreements/base-agreement>. Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA): <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en>.

Our methodology observed a substantial number of gTLDs that have zero observed maliciously registered domains in the current month of reporting. There are several reasons for why a gTLD may have zero observed malicious domain names. Some TLD operators have specific and unique business models that may not translate to open gTLDs. For example, operating at very small volumes, maintaining a closed and exclusive number of customers, or applying human verification to every single domain name registration. This can result in very low concentrations of abuse, but is less helpful for generalizable information and not scalable to the wider ecosystem. Zero observed maliciously registered domains is likely not feasible for most gTLDs. Nevertheless, zero observed maliciously registered domains is still a laudable achievement. Accordingly, we have listed these TLDs in Appendix D: gTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

While every effort has been made to reduce the chance of false positives (reports of malware or phishing that prove to be mistaken), it is impossible to entirely eliminate this risk. To minimize the impact of false positives, we have required a minimum number of observed maliciously registered domains per TLD. As very low numbers of observed malicious domain names is also a laudable result, we have included a list of these TLDs in Appendix E: gTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix D: gTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix E: gTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

Commentary: Comparing ccTLDs and gTLDs

We have split ccTLD and gTLDs into two separate sections for the reasons described above and used the same methodology for reporting and abuse categorization. However, the absolute numbers of Observed Maliciously Registered Domains and rates of Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM are noticeably lower in the ccTLD table. Typically if Table 12 (ccTLDs) and Table 9 (gTLDs) were grouped together, none of the ccTLDs listed in Table 12 would be identified in a similarly structured descending list of observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM. However, July 2023 is the first month where this is not true.

Tables

To account for the diversity of gTLD registry sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller (**1 - 199,999 DUM** gTLDs (Table 7) and larger (**200,000+ DUM** gTLDs (Table 8). We note that this threshold of 200,000 is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

Table 7: Smaller gTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: 1 - 200,000

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
win	8.09	6	74,164
ltd	9.68	11	113,677
fyi	10.31	6	58,218
bio	12.40	7	56,435
today	12.81	15	117,116
digital	13.30	16	120,286
agency	13.75	14	101,810
network	13.94	10	71,740
pics	13.95	7	50,181
world	15.57	30	192,656

Table 8: Larger gTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: Equal to or more than 200,000

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
biz	2.30	30	1,302,791
blog	2.70	6	222,624
org	2.96	319	10,761,745
com	3.48	5,556	159,459,691
mobi	4.09	11	268,681
store	4.43	50	1,128,442
net	4.60	593	12,889,054
tech	7.02	31	441,707
info	7.36	277	3,763,582
art	8.24	19	230,619

Table 9: gTLDs in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month 27
- Consistency: If a TLD does not appear in the list of 10 TLDs with the highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 4 or more of the last 6 months, has been redacted

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM	Number of Months
Redacted	230.95	*	*	1
Redacted	125.86	*	*	3
ink	100.42	72	71,697	5
Redacted	90.74	*	*	2
click	64.54	323	500,462	5
Redacted	59.82	*	*	2
top	45.92	1,005	2,188,382	5
Redacted	41.36	*	*	1
beauty	32.89	13	39,529	5
Redacted	32.29	*	*	3

Country Code Top Level Domains: Observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM

About this metric

This metric is intended to show the prevalence of observed maliciously registered domains in each ccTLD.

When reported in raw numbers, the largest TLDs will typically have the most observed maliciously registered domains. To create a benchmark which takes into account the different sizes of TLDs we have reported the number of observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM. The observed abuse is a count of the number of unique domain names, not URLs.

We report on gTLDs and ccTLDs separately to reflect the fact that gTLDs have a consistent contractual framework^[11], are bound by consensus policies produced through the ICANN multistakeholder process, while ccTLDs are largely unique in their policies, processes, and governance models (e.g., nexus requirements, three-party contracts that include the ccTLD registry, only names for accredited businesses, etc.).

This allows ccTLDs to create policies that are relevant and appropriate for their distinct local circumstances and population. This can still involve the use of multi-stakeholder processes, but is conducted by each individual country in line with its local regulations, values, languages, and expectations of the communities it serves. There is considerable diversity within the ccTLD community, so caution should be applied in comparing these TLDs.

Our methodology observed a substantial number of ccTLDs that have zero observed maliciously registered domains in the current month of reporting. There are several reasons for why a ccTLD may have zero observed malicious domain names. Some TLD operators have specific, unique and typically untranslatable business models when applied to other ccTLDs or gTLDs. For example, operating at very small volumes, having a geographical nexus requirement, requiring a government identity number, restricting the number of domains available to each individual or business, or applying human or electronic identity verification to every domain name registration. This can result in very low concentrations of abuse, but is less helpful for generalizable information and not scalable to the wider ecosystem. Zero observed maliciously registered domains is likely not feasible for most TLDs. Nevertheless, zero observed maliciously registered domains is still a laudable achievement. Accordingly, we have listed these TLDs in Appendix F: ccTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

While every effort has been made to reduce the chance of false positives (reports of malware or phishing that prove to be mistaken), it is impossible to entirely eliminate this risk. To minimize the impact of false positives we have required a minimum number of observed maliciously registered domains per TLD. As very low numbers of observed malicious domain names is also a laudable result, we have included a list of these TLDs in Appendix G: ccTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains.

^[11] Registry Agreement (RA); <https://www.icann.org/en/registry-agreements/base-agreement> Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en>

For excluded data, see:

- Appendix F: ccTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains
- Appendix G: ccTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

Commentary: Comparing ccTLDs and gTLDs

We have split ccTLD and gTLDs into two separate sections for the reasons described above and used the same methodology for reporting and abuse categorization. However, the absolute numbers of Observed Maliciously Registered Domains and rates of Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM are noticeably lower in the ccTLD table.

Tables

To account for the diversity of ccTLD registry sizes, we have reported low numbers of observed maliciously registered domains for both smaller **1 - 999,999** DUM ccTLDs (Table 10) and larger **1,000,000+ DUM** ccTLDs (Table 11). We note that this threshold of 1 million is somewhat arbitrary and slightly different rankings would result from a different threshold.

Table 10: Smaller ccTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: 1 - 999,999

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
ro	1.42	8	564,955
gr	1.42	7	491,627
tw	1.67	6	359,032
pt	1.77	7	396,570
cl	1.83	10	545,640
tr	2.74	23	840,763
my	2.78	8	288,087
tv	4.20	20	475,725
vn	6.74	35	519,010
pw	7.77	29	373,236

Table 11: Larger ccTLDs in ascending order of lowest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 5 per month
- Observed DUM: Equal to or more than 1 million

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM
nl	0.23	14	6,026,936
ca	0.28	9	3,258,700
at	0.40	6	1,483,716
it	0.41	13	3,166,580
ml	0.41	6	1,450,092
cz	0.43	6	1,405,491
tk	0.59	26	4,425,388
uk	0.64	66	10,365,602
ch	0.64	16	2,507,352
es	0.64	13	2,031,357

Table 12: ccTLDs in descending order of highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 2023-07

Inclusion criteria:

- Observed Maliciously Registered Domains: More than 10 per month
- Consistency: If a TLD does not appear in the list of 10 TLDs with the highest observed maliciously registered domains per 100,000 DUM for 4 or more of the last 6 months, its data has been redacted

TLD	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains Per 100,000 DUM	Observed Maliciously Registered Domains	Observed DUM	Number of Months
id	65.45	429	655,483	6
Redacted	46.27	*	*	2
cc	38.43	394	1,025,291	6
pk	19.78	24	121,308	6
pl	12.75	310	2,430,467	5
pe	11.17	14	125,304	6
ng	9.81	15	152,892	6
Redacted	8.07	*	*	1
ru	7.92	391	4,936,989	6
Redacted	7.77	*	*	2

Appendices

Registrars

Appendix A: Registrar Credentials With Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

Appendix B: Registrar Credentials With One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered

Appendix C: Registrars With Registrars with Less Than 300 New Registrations per Month

gTLDs

Appendix D: gTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

Appendix E: gTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

ccTLDs

Appendix F: ccTLDs with Zero Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

Appendix G: ccTLDs with One to Five Observed Maliciously Registered Domains

All Appendices are available on our website at:

<https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/dnsai-compass-appendices>