

## HISTORY

### 1991-1997

Czechoslovakia already had its own domain; in 1991 and 1992 it was possible to register a .CS domain. It was used until the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. After the dissolution of the Federation, two domains were created: .CZ (Czech Republic) and .SK (Slovak Republic). The highest number of domains existing under .CS was 114.

The .CZ domain was first administered by the employees of the University of Chemistry and Technology, then it was operated by CONET s.r.o., later renamed to Internet CZ s.r.o., and then to EUnet Czechia s.r.o..

The original rules for domain allocation were relatively rigid, as was the habit then. At that time, the administrator also covered the costs of operating the registration system and registration. The use of second-level domain names was free. In 1997 there was a significant change, making the registration of second-level domains available to individuals. This change is connected with the gradual relaxation of the rules of domain registration with the Czech national extension.

### 1998-2002

May 21, 1998. On this day, the CZ.NIC Association was officially established. It was created by 16 ISPs operating in the Czech Republic.

The first period of its operation was mainly marked by preparations for the administration of the registration system.

From September 1999 to 2003, the system was gradually modified and the registration rules were relaxed. CZ.NIC acted both as a registrar providing services to end customers and as a domain registry administrator. Since September 1, 1999, a charge has been imposed on domains.

In 2000, the first BIRD routing daemon was released. This most widely used network router in the world was created in 1999 as a seminar work at Charles University. Its authors are Martin Mareš, Pavel Machek and Ondřej Filip, the current Executive Director of the CZ.NIC Association, who has been involved in its development to this day.

### 2003-2007

This period brings several fundamental changes to the .CZ domain administration. The most important one in 2003 was the transition to a new decentralized registration system. CZ.NIC retained the role of .CZ registry administrator, but the registration service itself is already offered by independent entities - registrars. The .CZ domain thus became part of the free market and got significantly cheaper.

In 2005, the Board of Directors of CZ.NIC changed significantly. Two years later, the Association's new management announced the launch of its own FRED system. This software is used for domain administration and is currently used for example by registry

administrators in Albania, Argentina or Costa Rica. Until 2007, this service was provided by an external supplier.

FRED brought several benefits: immediate reduction of domain wholesale prices to less than half (from 400 to 190 crowns), overall simplification of the registration process and new features such as data hiding and domain locking.

In 2006, CZ.NIC also became a registrar of the so-called ENUM domains used for advanced Internet telephony.

2007 marked a small domain revolution. Reducing the wholesale price of the .CZ domain has had a big impact on the increase in registrations. Just 22 days after the new system was launched, 10,000 domains were registered.

## **2008-2012**

In addition to the .CZ domain administration, CZ.NIC starts also working on other projects to offer new services, strengthen security and educate.

In 2008, CZ.NIC deployed the DNSSEC security technology. The Czech Republic is still one of the world leaders in the number of secure second-level domains.

This year also marks the launching of the CZ.NIC Publications, a project aimed at publishing academic and popular science books, as well as the first year of the Internet and Technology Conference. Those interested are now able to read the first articles in the CZ.NIC staff's electronic diary (CZ.NIC blog).

Since 2009, all research projects have been concentrated under CZ.NIC Labs. Their most important projects include: BIRD, Turris, Knot DNS, Knot Resolver, Tablexia, and Datovka. Labs are based in Prague, Brno and Pilsen. Since April this year, educational activities for professionals and the general public have been provided under the CZ.NIC Academy.

Since 2010, Czech Internet users have been able to use the mojID service as a universal login tool for Czech web services.

In 2011, CZ.NIC assumes responsibility for the agenda of the National Security Team CSIRT.CZ. In November, it presents its own authoritative DNS server Knot DNS in Vienna.

In December 2012, the number of registered .CZ domains reached one million. The average monthly increase has been in the long term above 10 thousand domains. In the same year, the first part of the educational series "How to Use the Internet" was broadcast.

## **2013-2018**

In 2013, the Czech national domain administrator received an internationally recognized information security management system certification (ISMS, according to ISO 27001). The CZ.NIC Labs have created two major projects, the unique security project Turris to help users protect their home network with a specially developed centrally managed router, and the Tablexia app, intended for people with specific learning disabilities.

Regarding domain name registrations, a relatively significant legal change occurred in 2015 – a new alternative dispute resolution system was introduced. The original arbitration has been replaced by a mechanism similar to that used for generic TLDs, .eu and a large group of national domains.

The Turrís research project took a new direction, which was the development of a commercial version of the secure Turrís Omnia router. The successful crowd-funding campaign on Indiegogo has already proved that this device is in great demand. The first Turrís Omnia routers got to their users a year later. This year, i.e. 2016, the number of .CZ domains secured by DNSSEC technology exceeded the number of unsecured ones and the Knot Resolver project was introduced.

Towards the end of 2017, a major upgrade of the CZ.NIC infrastructure was launched, the peak of which was the launch of a DNS node at 100 Gbps. Such a powerful DNS system is usually not possessed even by significantly larger registries than CZ.NIC. The FRED system was implemented in more locations in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The Turrís project continues with the development of the Turrís MOX modular router. Again, CZ.NIC is embarking on a crowd-funding campaign, which proves that this device, too, will find its place on the market.

The autumn of 2018 brought cooperation with the Canadian organization CIRA administering the domain registry with the extension .CA. Under mutual agreement, the Czech registry administrator began to provide the Canadian partner with the capacity of its DNS servers.

## **2019 - 2022**

The Turrís project progresses further with the development of the Turrís MOX modular router. Again, CZ.NIC went for a crowdfunding campaign, which confirmed that the device would find its place in the market. By mid-2019, all routers purchased as part of the campaign were sent out and unrestricted market sales began.

The fall of 2018 brought a partnership with CIRA, the Canadian .CA domain registry administrator. As part of the agreement, the Czech registry administrator began to provide the Canadian partner with the capacity of its DNS servers. This year also saw the establishment of the CSNOG, Czech and Slovak Network Operators Group. The first community meeting of the group was held in cooperation with NIX.CZ in Brno.

In 2019, a completely new dedicated data room was built in the DC TOWER of Czech Radio Communications, where we moved all the equipment. With this step, the Association has increased the quality and security of its registration system.

During these years, the MojID service underwent a great development. In 2019, the FIDO 2 authentication standard was introduced to increase security. Another innovation was the added option for validating accounts via CzechPOINT. A year later, MojID celebrated its 10th anniversary, and thanks to the acquisition of the appropriate accreditation, MojID was connected to public administration systems, specifically to the

National Identification Authority (NIA). During 2021, accreditation for the level of guarantee "high" was obtained, making MojelD the first service to offer both important levels of guarantee. At the same time, it also managed to obtain the level of guarantee "substantial" for the MojelD Klíč application.

## **2023-2024**

In 2023, CZ.NIC celebrated 25 years of its existence. This was also the year when it became part of the prestigious EU Digital Identity Wallet Consortium (EWC), which brings together over 60 organizations, including governments, and experts from the travel and e-payment industry. In these years, the Association has strengthened its DNS anycast by launching several additional sites, specifically in Sydney, Australia, Ukraine and South Africa. Among others, a new version 3.0 of the BIRD routing daemon was released.

In the field of education and public awareness, the CZ.NIC Association, through the Safer Internet Centrum project, supported the creation of a popular children's educational program Alice in GIFland (broadcast on ČT :D). The association also supported the next season of the Dataville program, also on ČT :D.

In 2024, the Association introduced VIP Domain, a service for organizations and companies that consider the security and availability of their services absolutely crucial. The service makes a significant contribution to the security and uninterrupted availability of websites on the .CZ domain, thus responding to the ever-growing need for a robust and reliable online environment. In May 2024, the Domain Auction service was launched, where bidders can bid daily for cancelled or expired .CZ domains.