

CZ.NIC ASSOCIATION, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CZECH NATIONAL DOMAIN

CZ.NIC is an interest association of legal entities founded by leading Internet service providers in 1998, which now has more than a hundred members. The main activities of the Association are the operation of the .CZ domain name registry and the operation and development of the Czech top-level domain. In addition, the CZ.NIC staff is involved in a number of projects aimed at developing Internet services and technologies, including the open source Turris routers, the BIRD routing daemon, the authoritative DNS server Knot DNS and Knot Resolver, the mojID authentication service and the expansion of DNSSEC technology. These and a number of other projects are aimed at both the Czech and international Internet communities.

The CZ.NIC Association operates the national CSIRT team of the Czech Republic, CSIRT.CZ, and as part of its educational and awareness-raising activities, it publishes professional and popular educational books (the CZ.NIC Publications), produces educational series (How to Use the Internet, Don't be Afraid of the Internet, Dataville, Alice in GIFland) and operates an educational center (the CZ.NIC Academy). CZ.NIC is a member of EURid, the association managing the European EU domain, or the prestigious EU Digital Identity Wallet Consortium (EWC), which brings together over 60 organizations, including governments, experts from the travel and e-payment industry and other international companies with a similar focus (CENTR, ccNSO and others).

In 2013, the Czech National Domain Administrator received internationally recognized certification of its Information Security Management System (ISMS, according to ISO 27001).

Hierarchy of governing bodies of CZ.NIC

The highest body of the Association is the General Assembly. Next are the Collegium, the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board.

Management of the CZ.NIC Association

Information about the managing members of CZ.NIC is available on the Association's website.

MAIN PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

[FRED](#) (Free Registry of ENUM and Domain) is an open-source software designed to manage Internet domains. It was created by CZ.NIC in 2005 and is currently used by registry administrators in Argentina, Costa Rica, Albania, North Macedonia, Tanzania, Angola, Malawi, Lesotho and Macau.

[BIRD Internet Routing Daemon](#) is an open-source routing daemon used by the largest IXPs and CDNs worldwide.

The project started at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, and is currently being developed by the CZ.NIC Labs project team.

Knot DNS and Knot Resolver

[Knot DNS](#) is an authoritative DNS server and [Knot Resolver](#) is a recursive DNS resolver. Both of these open-source projects are being developed in the CZ.NIC Labs.

TURRIS

The [Turris project](#) started in 2013 as a security research project. Today, it also offers commercially available routers [Turris Omnia](#), [Turris MOX](#) and [Turris Shield](#). The main advantage of these devices is their emphasis on security and openness. In addition to automatic security updates, they also provide access to an attacker tracking program. They use it to contribute data about suspicious connection attempts targeting the router from the Internet, while also receiving back a list of automatically detected attackers from around the world. In this way, they actively block and protect themselves and other computers on the local network.

MojelD

[MojelD](#) MojelD is a service that enables users of the Czech Internet to use a single identifier (username and password) to log in to various Internet services. MojelD also keeps the holder's details in one secure place and always up-to-date. From 2020, MojelD users can link their account to the National Identification and Authentication Point ([NIA](#)) to use electronic services of the state.

CSIRT.CZ

[CSIRT.CZ](#) is the National Security Team of the Czech Republic operated by the CZ.NIC Association under a public contract and the Cyber Security Act since January 2011. CSIRT.CZ is involved in the resolution of cyber incidents in networks operated in the Czech Republic.

VIP DOMAIN

The [VIP Domain](#) service is intended for organizations and businesses that value security, flawless functionality and availability of their services operated on a domain with the Czech national TLD name. [VIP Domain](#) is running on the same infrastructure as the entire .CZ domain and thus guarantees high stability and resistance to cyber-attacks. It also provides the shortest possible response time and protects against unauthorized technical or administrative changes to the domain.

DOMAIN NAME AUCTION

The [Domain name auction](#) project was launched by the CZ.NIC Association in May 2024. Since then, bidders can bid daily for cancelled or expired domains with the Czech national extension, and the winners of individual auctions gain a priority right to register them. The auction is open to citizens of the Czech Republic and EU citizens who have a sufficiently verified electronic identity (MojID or EU eID). The starting price for the priority right to register a domain is CZK 100.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL AND AWARENESS-RAISING PROJECTS

[How to Use the Internet](#) and [Don't Be Afraid of the Internet](#) are awareness raising projects aimed at introducing the Internet and its possibilities, but also its pitfalls, to the general public. These projects include not only television series, but also websites with more information, comic books and methodological sheets for teachers.

[CZ.NIC Publications](#) is a publishing program focused on expert and popular publications associated with the Internet and its technologies.

[CZ.NIC Academy](#) is an educational center that offers the possibility of professional education in the field of the Internet and Internet technologies. The wide range of courses is intended for all those who want to learn more about the given topics, to put the lectured material into practice, to share their experience with the lecturers, as well as with other visitors of the courses. The educational center of the CZ.NIC association also includes a laboratory equipped with hardware and software necessary for testing and experimenting during the course.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

- [Tinkerer's Award](#): awarded in 2017 for the Turris project in the Best Project category,
- [IPASCO Award](#): awarded in 2015 for the Turris project in the category Innovative Cyber Security or Privacy Research,
- [Big Brother Award](#): awarded in 2014 for the Turris project in the category Privacy Protection Awards
- [Golden At Sign Award](#): awarded in 2014 for awareness-raising activities in the field of the Internet, support for the implementation of the new Internet protocol IPv6 and activities in the field of open source software,
- [The Best 2013 Award](#): awarded in 2013 for Datovka and iDatovka in the category Best eGovernment Project
- [LINX Award](#): awarded in 2010 for the BIRD project.