

Domain auctions in CZ registry



• 4th October 2025

Domain auctions in CZ

- Motivation

- complains from registrants and smaller registrars

- unequal conditions for obtaining expired domains

- multiple analyses of domain dropcatching

- domain fights of few domainers
 - more than 10% domains as subjects of these fights (and dropatched within 1 day)
 - 70% domains dropatched by 3 registrars
 - significant EPP traffic in some cases

- registrants had to rely on domainers

→ to offer fair system for registrants

→ to be able to revise the system of free requests for registrars



Domain auctions in CZ

- How did we release domains before domain auctions
 - to April 2024
 - 60 (30+30) days of protection period
 - domain release 61st day after expiration (randomly)
 - limited free EPP requests for registrars
 - 100 requests per active domain (per month)
 - 25 000 requests as a minimum (per month)
 - price 0,1 CZK per request above limit

Domain auctions in CZ

- How do we release domains with domain auctions
 - from May 2024
 - 60 (30+30) days of protection period
 - 15 days - domains in list of domain for auctions
 - 16th day - first round of domains auctions
 - domain release after unsuccessful auctions (randomly)
 - the term depends on auction result
 - limited free EPP requests for registrars (same as before)

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - object of the auction is the **priority right** to register the domain
 - new behavior after deletion of domain
 - not available for dropcatching
 - published in the list of domains for auctions for 15 days
 - Website: [aukce.nic.cz](https://www.aukce.nic.cz), Domain browser - <https://www.domenovypohlizec.cz/>
 - contains all deleted domains (no matter for what reason the domain was deleted)
 - “enlisted to an auction” in WHOIS, RDAP, EPP
 - auction doesn't take place if CZ.NIC receives a court decision which prohibits it via preliminary measure
 - no request like it up to day

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - 16th day after domain cancellation → English auction
 - duration 9 hours 12:00 – 21:00 (automatic extension in case of bids at the end)
 - starting price 100 Kč ~ 4 EUR
 - minimal bid steps according to current winning price
 - 3 types of bidding (hidden maximal price with automatic bids / direct bid / pre-auction bid)
 - the auction takes place in the Domain Browser (<https://www.domenovprohlizec.cz/>)
 - only for verified bidders:
 - a natural person with a MojID contact which is verified for electronic identification purposes
 - a natural person holding an electronic identity of another Member State of the European Union (eIDAS)
 - a legal entity with a MojID contact that is validated in accordance with the MojID rules
 - hiding the identity for public

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - measures against fraud bidders
 - each identity only 1x
 - limits for 1 identity (50 active auctions, 100 tracked auctions)
 - blocking bidders who
 - doesn't pay the priority right to domain registration (penalty)
 - floods the system with DoS type requests
 - penalty = unpaid price (but at least CZK 1,000 ~ 40 EUR)
 - repeating the auction (5-round system) if occurs:
 - the priority right to domain registration not paid
 - the priority right to domain registration not executed

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - registration of the domain from auction
 - winner
 - pays for the priority right to domain registration - 7 days
 - registers the domain by the registrar (using the holder handle from MojeID) - period of 7 days
 - the registrar sends a standard EPP command
 - registration takes place if the winner handle is listed as the holder
 - release of the domain for dropcatching after an unsuccessful auction
 - no bid in the auction, too many unsuccessful auction rounds
 - at a random moment on following day

Domain auctions in CZ

- What tools do we use?

- system for registry **FRED**

- internally developed (open source registry system)
 - minor changes in EPP, WHOIS, RDAP
 - auctioning is operated by an auction system module (with auction API)
 - auction tools added to already existing tool Domain browser (<https://www.domenovyprohlizec.cz>)

- system of electronic identity **MojeiD**

- recognized electronic identity in the Czech republic and EU

- results of EU project RegelD (eIDAS)

- support for EU eID in Domain browser

- Advanced DNS Analytics and Measurements (ADAM)

- <https://stats.nic.cz/dashboard/cs/auctions.html>



RegelD



Domain auctions in CZ

- Previews

AUCTION

[Back to auction](#)

Follow 

0 bidding

It ends for  07:14:00

techdays.cz (1st auction round)

Current price* 0 CZK

Minimum bid* 100 CZK

Your offer



You bid* 0 CZK

Your offer that you are willing to pay. You can bid more than the minimum amount. The bid is binding and cannot be cancelled.

100

CZK

Bid

Maximum amount you are now willing to pay (limit)



Your limit* 0 CZK

The system will automatically bid the lowest possible amount for you (according to the minimum bid table) so that your offer is the highest. The system will only bid up to your limit in this way. The limit can be increased at any time before the end of the auction.

0

CZK

Set limit

If you bid and win, you will have to pay for the priority right to register the domain and then register the domain with your chosen registrar.

Bidding history

bids: 0, bidding: 0

Start making your first bids

Domain auctions in CZ

- Previews

Ongoing auctions

New auctions that can be attended start at 12:00 every day and end the same day at 21:00.

🗑️ Clear Search 🔍							
Domain ↑↓ 🗑️	Round	Characters ↑↓ 🗑️	Bids ↑↓ 🗑️	Price ↓ 🗑️	Ends in	Action	
videoprezentace.cz	1.	15	3	300 CZK	7 hours		Bid 
edohoda.cz	1.	7	1	100 CZK	7 hours		Bid 
ejaponsko.cz	1.	9	1	100 CZK	7 hours		Bid 
sounding.cz	1.	8	0	0 CZK	7 hours		Bid 
nazahrady.cz	1.	9	0	0 CZK	7 hours		Bid 
nasnabytek.cz	1.	10	0	0 CZK	7 hours		Bid 

Domain auctions in CZ

- Previews

Bidding history
bids: 14, bidding: 6

Date	Action type	User	Price
May 8, 2025, 8:59:21 PM	Manual bid	User 6 	57 555 CZK
May 8, 2025, 8:43:20 PM	Manual bid	User 5 	56 555 CZK
May 8, 2025, 7:57:09 PM	Manual bid	User 3 	55 555 CZK
May 8, 2025, 7:55:12 PM	Manual bid	User 5 	53 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 7:53:56 PM	Manual bid	User 3 	52 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 2:02:10 PM	Manual bid	User 4 	51 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:14:14 PM	Manual bid	User 3 	50 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:04:01 PM	Manual bid	User 1 	26 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:03:57 PM	Automatic bid 	User 2 	25 000 CZK
	Manual bid	User 1 	24 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:03:51 PM	Automatic bid 	User 2 	23 000 CZK
	Manual bid	User 1 	22 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:01:41 PM	Manual bid	User 2 	21 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:00:05 PM	Automatic bid 	User 1 	5 100 CZK

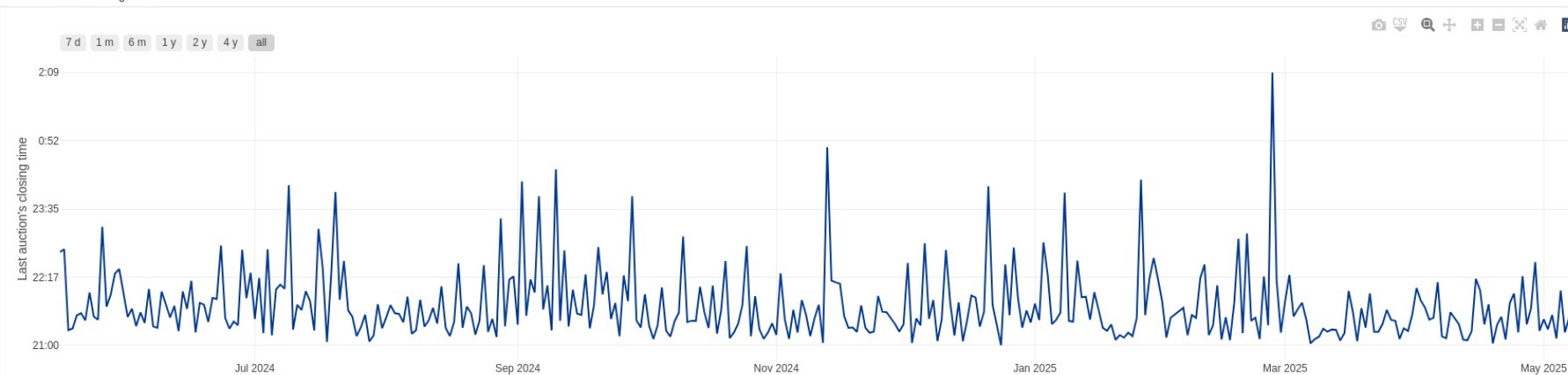
Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - 165 000+ domains in auctions
 - 5 400+ domains auctioned (3,3% from “in auctions”)
 - 5 300+ domains with paid the priority right to domains registration (98% from “auctioned”)
 - 4 900+ domains registered (93% from “paid”)
 - 1500+ different bidders
 - 97% from Czechia (other countries: Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Germany, Bulgaria, Poland, Sweden, UK)
 - 80% natural persons / 20% legal entities
 - 54 bidders blocked (28 unblocked - paid penalty)
 - supported by 16 from 48 registrars (with market share 90%)

Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - 1 100+ different winners
 - 65% winners won 1 domain, 28% won 2 domains, 16% won 3-5 domains
 - 10 winners won 35% auctions
 - 54% auctions ended later than at 9 pm

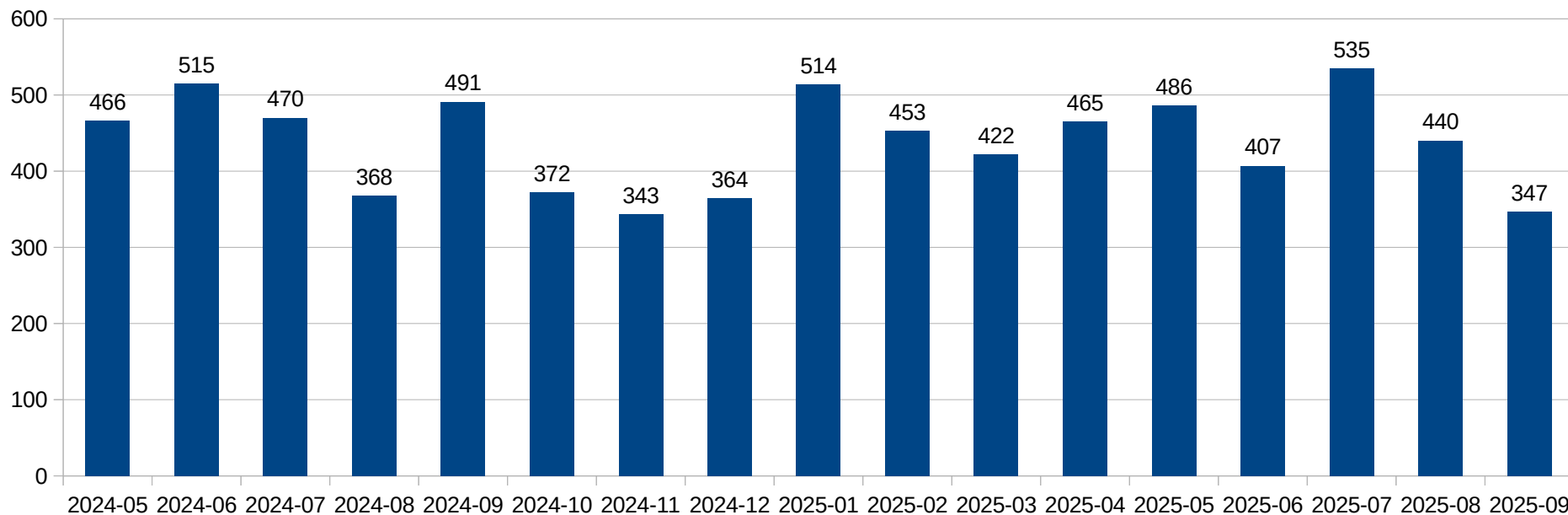
Last auction's closing time



Domain auctions in CZ

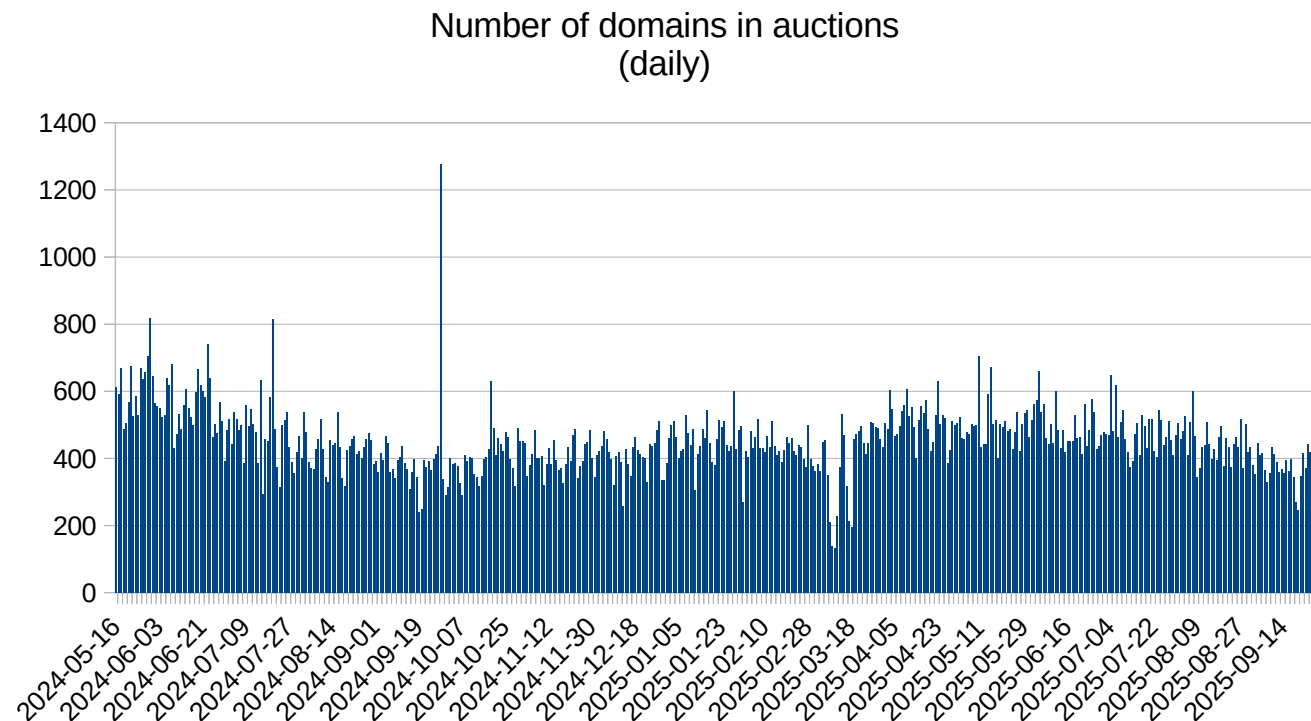
- Results after 1 year

Number of auctioned domains
per month



Domain auctions in CZ

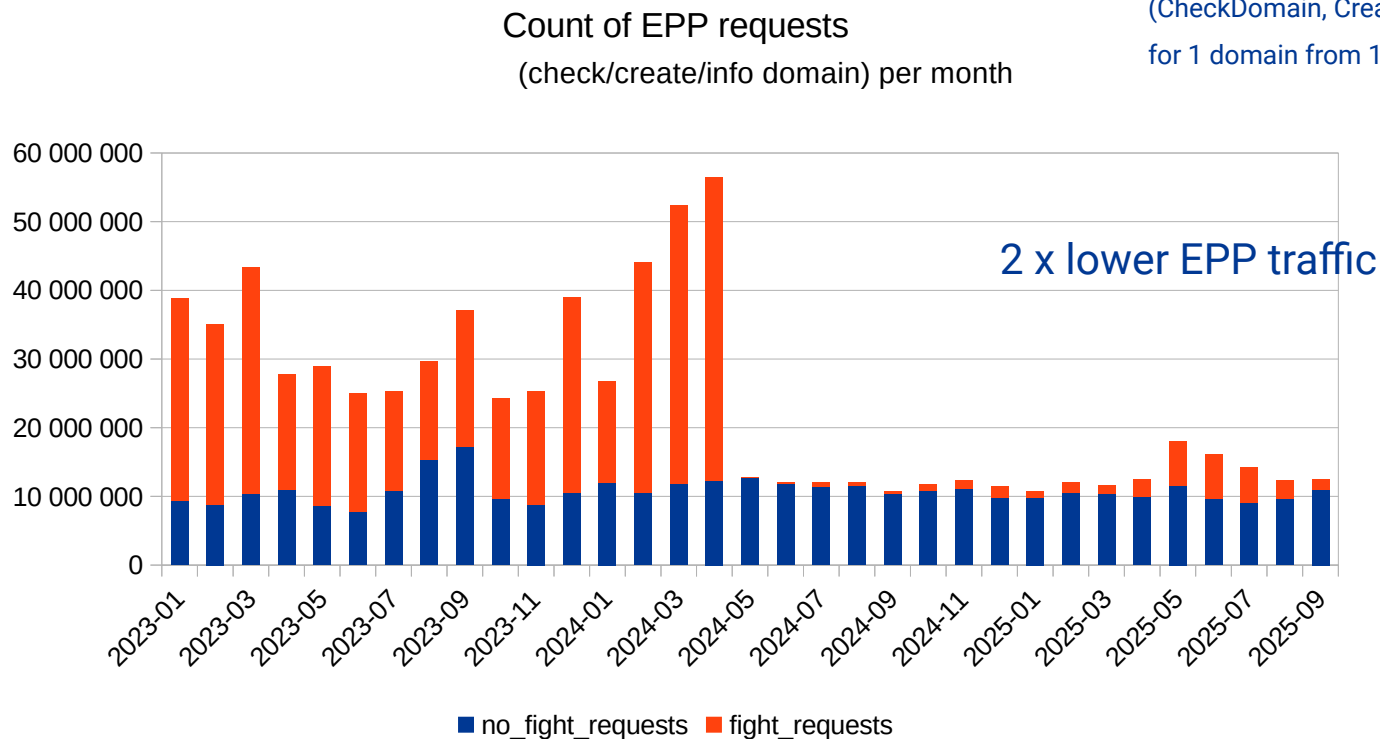
- Results after 1 year



Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

Fight EPP request ~ more than 100 requests
(CheckDomain, CreateDomain, InfoDomain)
for 1 domain from 1 registrar

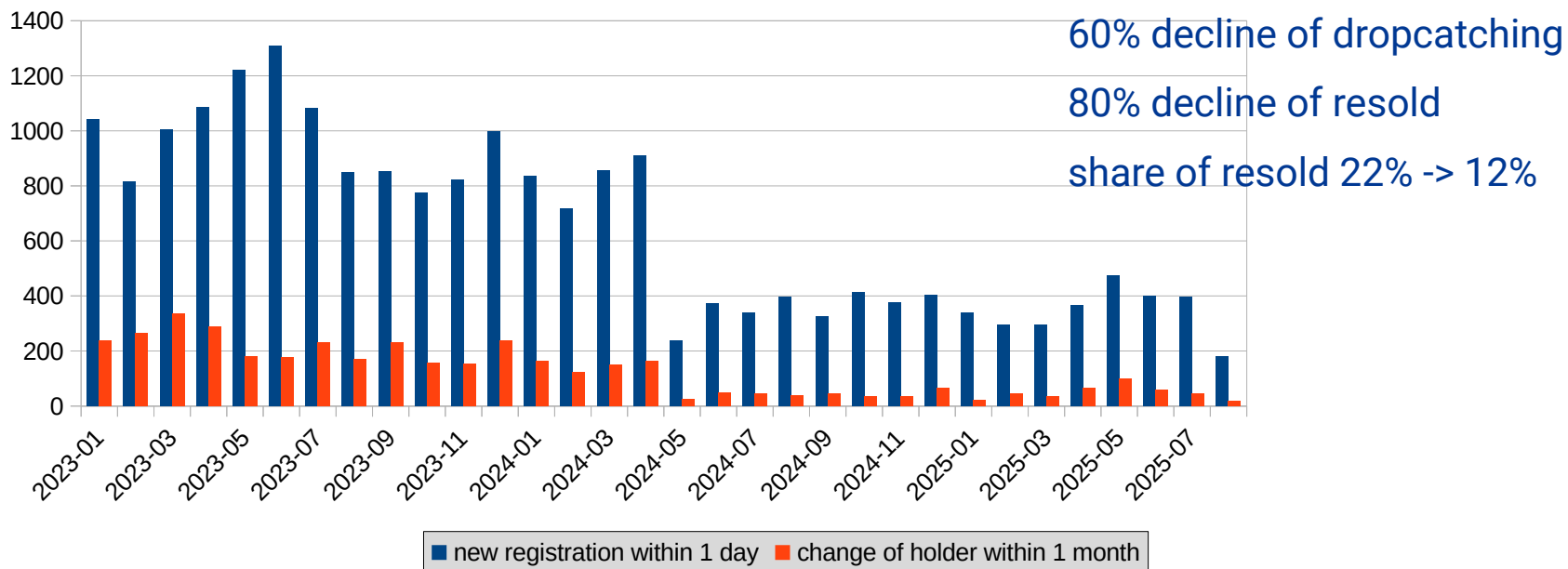


Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

Count of dropatched domains within 1 day (resold within 1 month)

per month

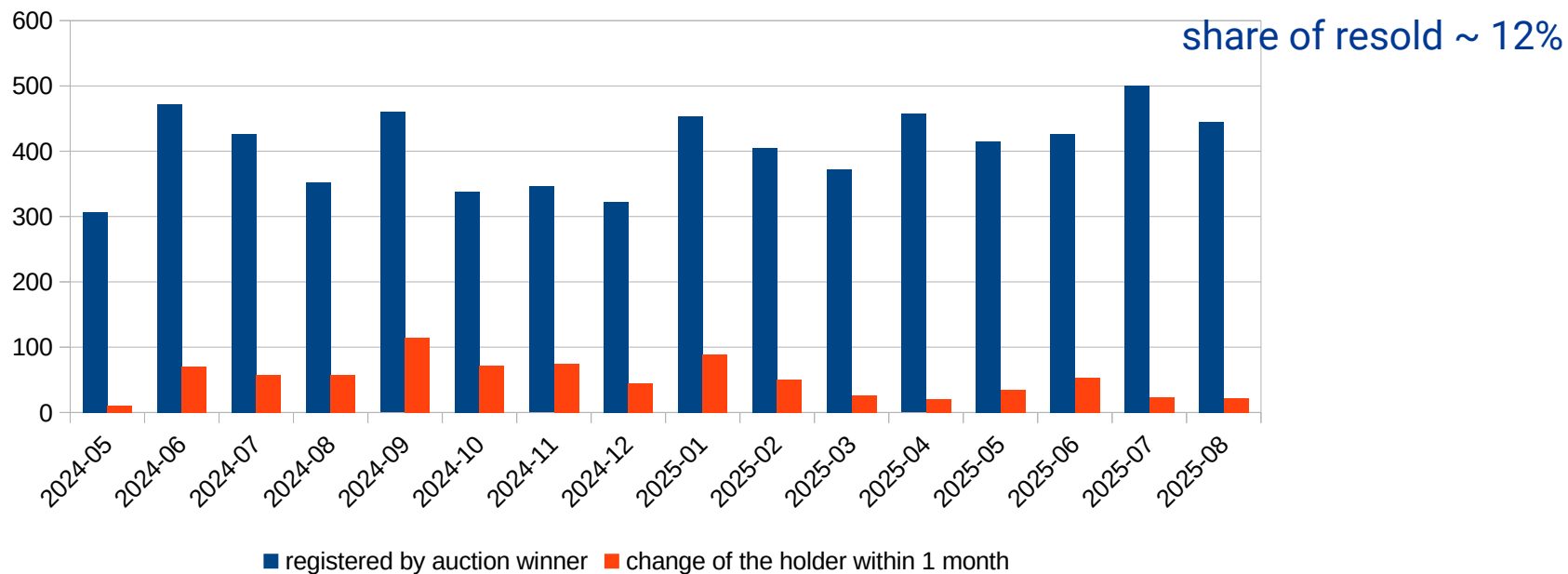


Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

Count of resold domains from auctions within within 1 month

per month

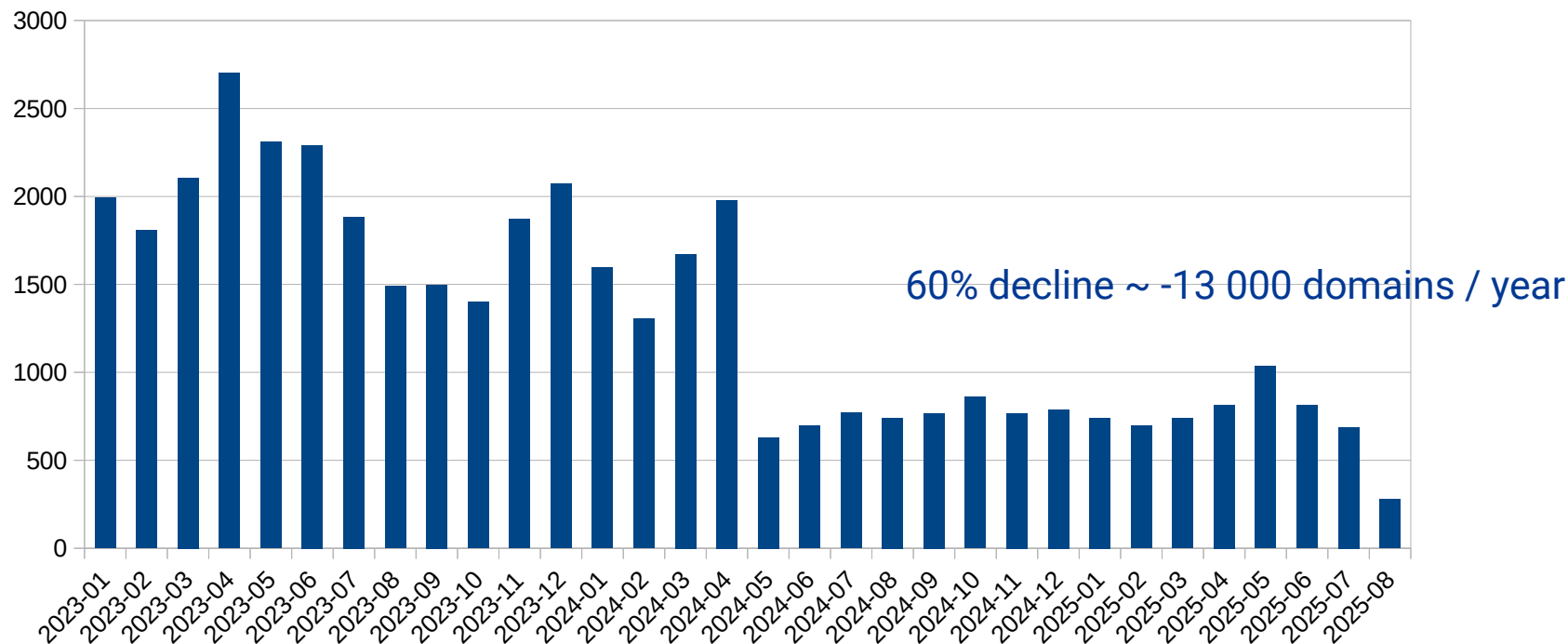


Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

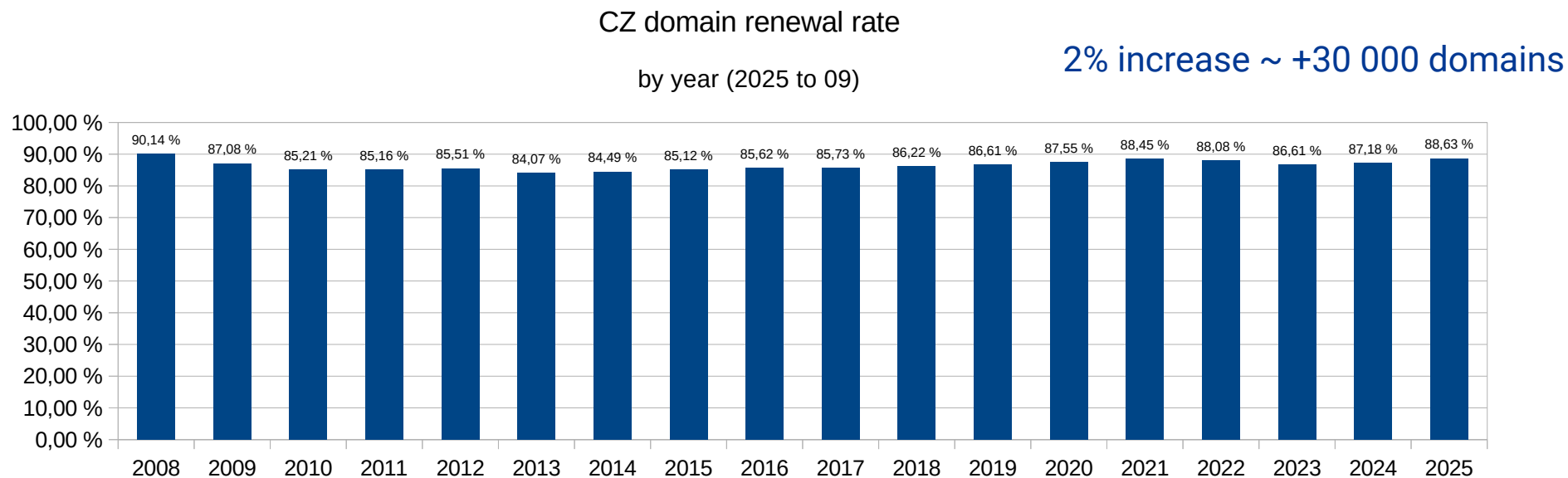
Count of re-registered domains

within 1 month from release



Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - slight increase of renewal rate
 - too short period to be sure (auctions or because of price increase from 1st of March 25)

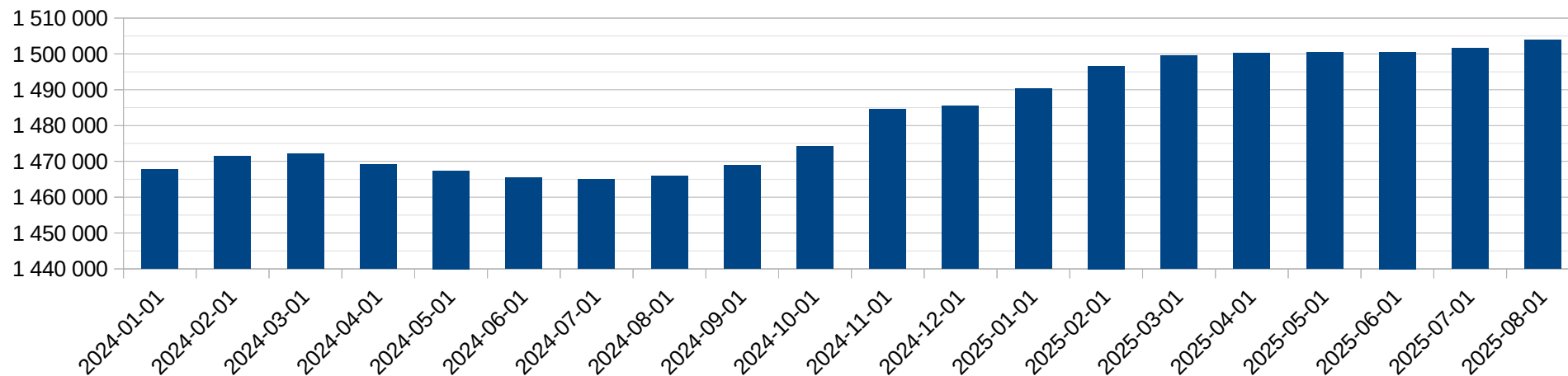


Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - growth of total number of domains
 - other reason is because of price increase from 1st of March 25

Number of CZ domains

at the end of the month



Domain auctions in CZ

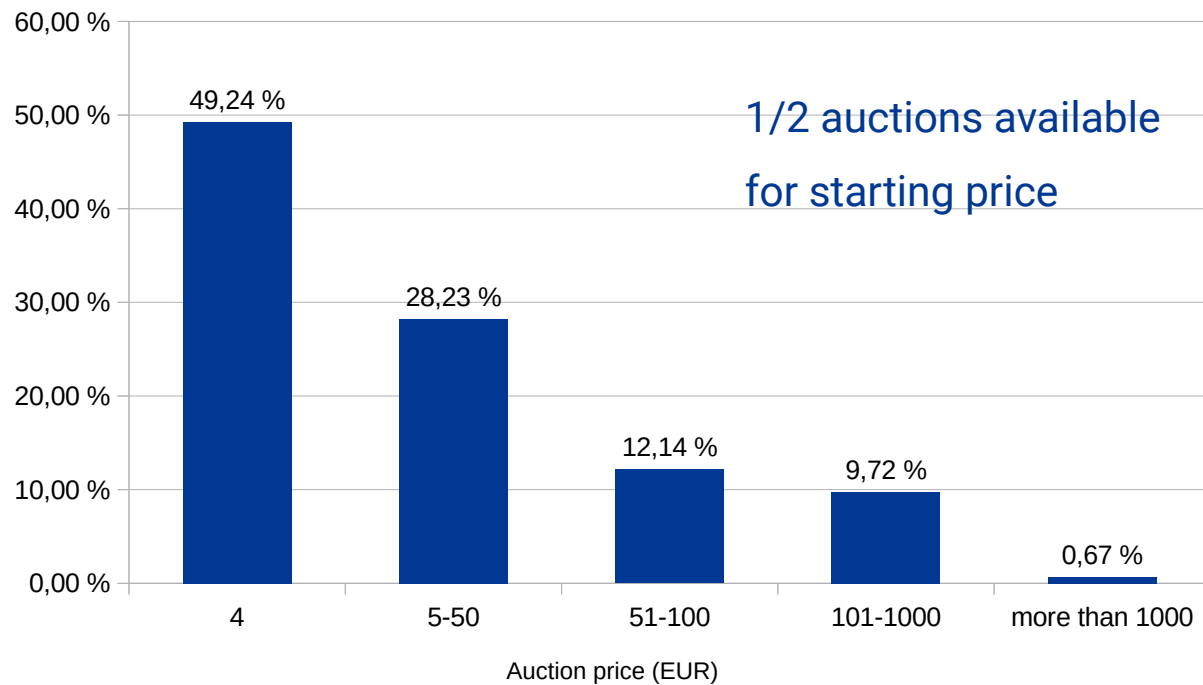
- Results after 1 year
 - 6 mil. CZK income
 - the most expensive auctions:
 - virtualnisidlo.cz - 152 077 CZK ~ 6 000 EUR
 - wgz.cz - 121 000 CZK ~ 4 800 EUR
 - zuno.cz - 119 888 CZK ~ 4 700 EUR
 - ergo.cz - 113 000 CZK ~ 4 500 EUR
 - mypage.cz - 101 000 CZK ~ 4 000 EUR
 - legal.cz - 100 000 CZK ~ 4 000 EUR

Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

Auction price - the most common price

share of price range



Domain auctions in CZ

- Delivered changes after launch
 - optimization of payment/invoice processing
 - adding “direct bid” and “pre-auction bid” besides “hidden maximal price”
 - list of domains in JSON format
 - forcing 2FA in Domain browser
 - more intelligent sorting of domains in lists (usability in CZ, SK, EN languages)
 - clearer view of bid history (available even for non-bidders)
 - public statistics (<https://stats.nic.cz/dashboard/cs/auctions.html>)
 - automatic surveys among participants

Domain auctions in CZ

- Planned and considered changes
 - better support for occasional bidders
 - watching of existing domains if these appear in auctions
 - using AI for suggesting domains in auctions
 - supporting auctions as a parameter of certification program for registrars
 - using AI for sorting and advertising domains in auctions
 - Domain browser with an auction extension as available module of FRED (open source)

Domain auctions in CZ

- Summary of main achieved goals

- 1) The market with domains released from the registry opened to public

- hundreds of auction participants
- significant decline of fast domain resale
- transparent pricing of domains by the market

- 2) Dropcatching weakened

- 3) Significant EPP traffic decline

- EPP limit for registrars increased 4x (from 09/25)

- 4) No negative impact to the domain market

- 5) FRED as innovative SW for domain registries

- 6) Financial income

- ROI less than 3 years



Thank you for watching!



• 4th October 2025

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