The DotGov Program
Putting the US Government on the Internet

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What is .GOV?

The DotGov Program operates the .GOV top-level domain (TLD) and makes it available to US-based government organizations, from Federal agencies to local municipalities.
History of .GOV

- **1985**: .GOV TLD created to develop the internet
- **1997**: GSA begins federal .GOV domain registrations
- **2003**: HTTPS Preloading, MFA & WHOIS added as .GOV security features
- **2018**: Security contacts & Email Notification Zone added as .GOV security features
- **2019**: (Intergovernmental Cooperation Act)
What We Do

Areas of Authority

**Infrastructure**
There are approximately 6,000 .GOV domains

**Policy**
DotGov is the issuing authority for .GOV domain names

**Management**
.GOV Registrar operations with 24/7 help desk support
# .GOV Registrar Help Desk

## The .GOV approach

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<th>24/7 support</th>
<th>Password resets</th>
<th>Domain POC changes</th>
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<td>Domain policy FAQs</td>
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<td>Customer outreach</td>
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State government organizations make up 20% of all .GOV domains.
Did You Know?

New State Domain Types in 2019

**Interstate**

- Port Authority of NY and NJ
- Multistate Tax Commission

**Independent Intrastate**

- Tennessee Valley Authority
Creating a Secure .GOV Domain

DotGov Best Practices

- Add a security contact
- Develop a vulnerability disclosure policy
- Preload your domain with HTTPS
- Sign up for DHS Cyber Hygiene
- Join MS-ISAC

For a complete overview of security best practices, visit us at:
Choosing a TLD

US-based Governments Have Options

.us .org .GOV .net .com
# The .GOV TLD

* .GOV is sponsored, therefore exclusive

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<th>TLD Options</th>
<th>Sponsored?</th>
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<tr>
<td>.gov</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>.com</td>
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<td>.us</td>
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Case Study 1

City of Falmouth switches to .GOV to increase security & legitimacy

A City IT director reported a noticeable rise in services that are masquerading as state or municipal services.

The public is aware of .gov name spaces and relating that to legitimate county, state or municipal services.
Case Study 1 (Continued)

HTTPS Preloading

“McAfee found similarly bad percentages when it also inspected the county election websites for the use of HTTPS, a core technology that prevents third-party observers from snooping or modifying traffic between a user and the election website.”
Case Study 2

Suspicious domain requests rejected in .GOV

An individual had been contacting us attempting to register questionable interstate Domains.

For example, he submitted a request in 2016, which lists Barack Obama as the billing POC.

Hello GSA,

We wanted to bring to your attention regarding an individual who has been contacting us this morning, attempting to register questionable interstate domains. We have determined that he is not eligible for a .gov domain under interstate, or any other .gov entity that we allow. We have already responded back to them that we are rejecting the request, but we wanted to notify you of these peculiar requests. This individual has repeatedly attempted to register .gov domains which are ineligible, under questionable entities. For example, he submitted usdibs.gov back in 2016 (please see attachment) which lists Barack Obama as the Billing POC.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions and or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Phil
.GOV Helpdesk
registrar@dotgov.gov
Case Study 2 (Continued)

Example of a suspicious domain - approved in .US

USDBS is an organization facilitating VOWAS and other Qualitative Phasing economic services with board member seats of individuals from sectors of government, military, public corporation, small business, and non-profit. Although other global leadership organizations recognize a smaller number of total world entities, for strategic, economic, geographical, development, and/or political reasons a higher allotment of world entities (with some in stealth development) was established in 2017.

USDBS members assisted in the identification and creation of the:

- the Proclamations for Qualitative Phasing
- the external factors responsible for long standing institutional damage
- the fourteen (14) Universal Standard Offerings (USO’s)
- Overall plan for the new economy
- the $126 trillion dollar budget for Qualitative Phasing Round one (1)
Case Study 3

.GOVT Preferred by local government officials

According to local officials, county governmental departments and offices operate more effectively on a .gov domain. Important public services can be disrupted because of the inherent lack of authority that comes with all domains not named .gov.
Why .GOV?

Main Takeaways

Secure
HTTPS preloading ensures use of secure servers

Trusted
.gov is exclusive to U.S. government organizations

Authoritative
Oversight for the issuance of .gov domain names