The DotGov Program

Putting the US Government on the Internet

Jessica Salmoiraghi, Associate Administrator,
Office of Government-wide Policy
U.S. General Services Administration

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

GSA begins federal .GOV domain registrations

HTTPS Preloading, MFA & WHOIS added as .GOV security features

.GOV TLD created to develop the internet

GSA begins state, local & tribal .GOV domain registrations

(Intergovernmental Cooperation Act)

Security contacts & Email Notification Zone added as .GOV security features

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

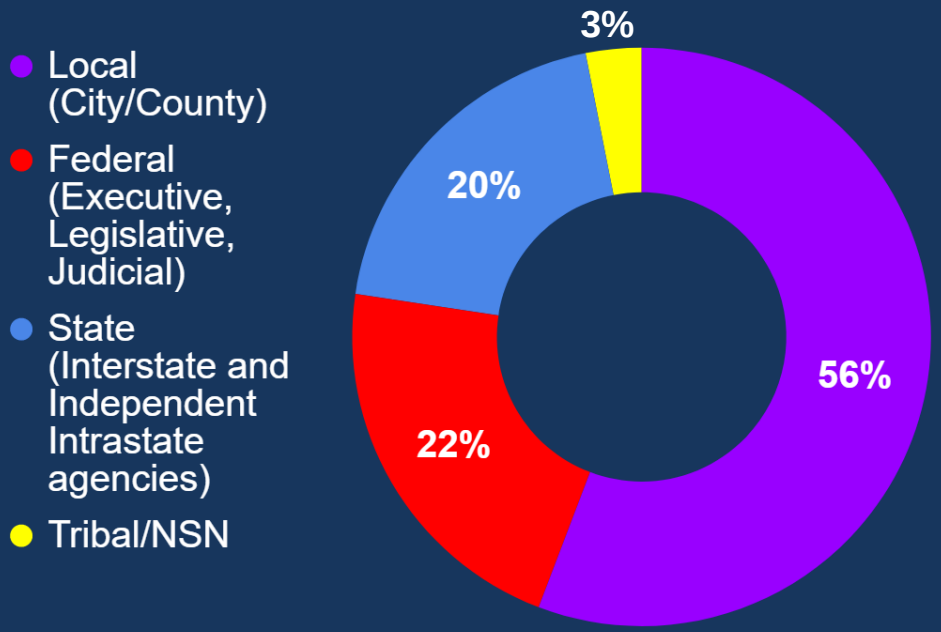
The .GOV approach

24/7 support	Password resets	Domain POC changes
DNS/DNSSEC updates	2-step authentication	Create POC accounts
Domain policy FAQs	Portal navigation	Customer outreach

State government organizations **make up 20%** of all .GOV domains

.GOV customers by domain type

from April 2019

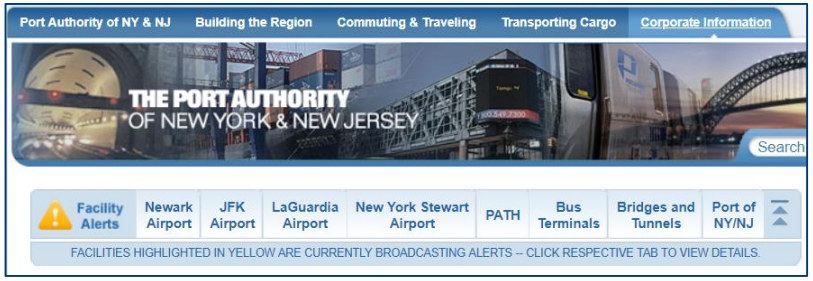


Did You Know?

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

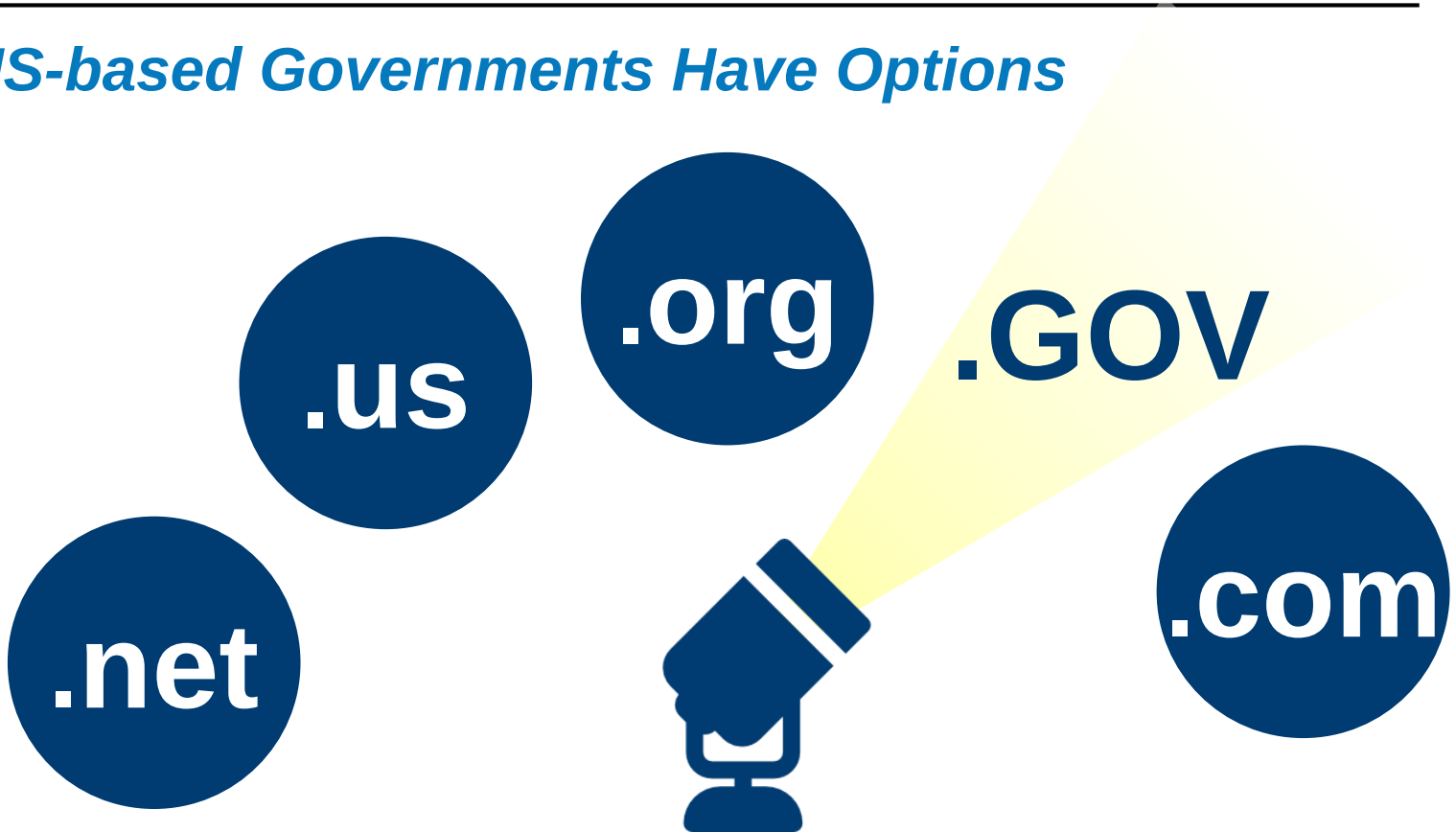
DotGov Best Practices

- **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:
https://home.dotgov.gov/management/security-best-practices/

Choosing a TLD

US-based Governments Have Options



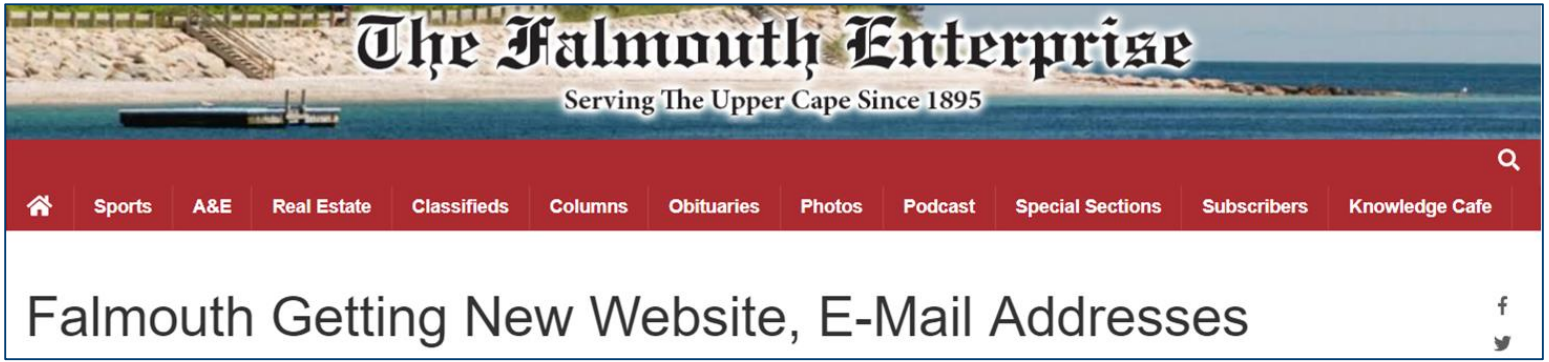
The .GOV TLD

.GOV is sponsored, therefore exclusive

TLD Options	Sponsored?	Exclusive?
.gov	✓	✓
.com	✗	✗
.org	✗	✗
.net	✗	✗
.us	✗	✗

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 Barak Obama as the Billing POC.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

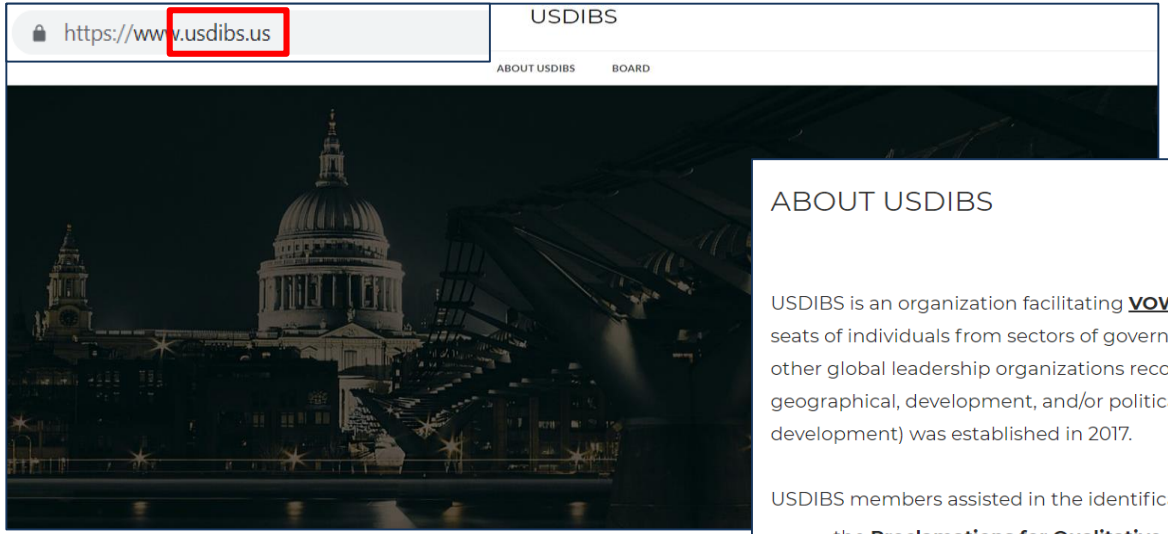
Please let us know if you have any additional questions and or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Phil
.GOV Helpdesk
registrar@dotgov.gov

Case Study 2(Continued)

Example of a suspicious domain - approved in .US



ABOUT USDIBS

USDIBS 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.

USDIBS 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

.GOV 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

GSA