

TECHNOLOGY LETTER

SUBJECT:

INTERNET DOMAIN NAME TAXONOMY

REFERENCES:

Government Code Section 11546
 41 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 102-173
 State Administrative Manual (SAM) Sections 4819.2, 5195, 5195.1, and 5195.2
 Statewide Information Management Manual (SIMM) Section 40A

BACKGROUND

The United States General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for managing the registration of “.gov” top-level internet domain names. The “.gov” domain is primarily used to promote government services and increase the ease of finding government related information. In order to extend the use of this domain to state and local entities, the GSA has delegated the State of California authority to administer the “ca.gov” second-level domain. As part of this delegated authority, the Government Operations Agency (GovOps) will be responsible for overseeing the “ca.gov” domain name program and the California Department of Technology (CDT) will manage the registration, change, and re-certification process for “ca.gov” domains.

The “ca.gov” domain name accommodates official websites for state, county, city, or cross-agency government entities throughout the State of California. Users of websites or other internet services with a DNS record within ca.gov zone can be assured they are accessing an official California governmental resource. To administer the “ca.gov” second-level domain, CDT has established policies and protocols consistent with federal guidelines including, but not limited to, [41 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 102-173](#) and the Federal Interagency Committee on Government Information’s Recommendations for Federal Public Websites.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Technology Letter (TL) is to announce:

- State Administrative Manual (SAM) Section 5195, which includes policies and identifies the authority for the State of California to administer the “ca.gov” internet domain.
- SAM Section 5195.1, which outlines the requirements for “ca.gov” internet domain usage.
- SAM Section 5195.2, which requires annual re-certification of compliance with federal and state requirements from all entities that use the “ca.gov” internet domain.
- Updated SAM Section 4819.2 to include a definition of Domain Name Service (DNS).
- Statewide Information Management Manual (SIMM) Section 40A, which includes the processes and instructions for managing the registration, change, and renewal of “ca.gov” internet domains.
- Websites using the “ca.gov” internet domain prior to the release of this policy will be grandfathered-into the new process, compliance with SAM Section 5195.1 requirements will be evaluated as part of the annual re-certification process.

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Technology Letter should be directed to the Department of Technology, Office of Governmental Affairs at ITPolicy@state.ca.gov.

SIGNATURE

/s/

Amy Tong, Director

California Department of Technology