nic//anniversary





nic.at – 100 YEARS OF INTERNET COMPETENCE

This year marks several anniversaries in the Austrian internet landscape: 35 years .at, 25 years nic.at, 25 years Stopline and 15 years CERT.at. This results in 100 years of internet competence in Austria.





In 1988, the internet was still in its infancy. The first transatlantic fiber-optic cable connected the American continent with Europe, and the first emails were being sent. During this time, a group of researchers registered the .at internet extension at the University of Vienna. Leading this effort was Dr. Peter Rastl, the longtime head of the Computer Center (ZID) at the University of Vienna, who is now referred to as the »father« of the internet in Austria. In response to the request to include the .at extension in the Domain Name System (DNS), a message came back on January 20, 1988, from internet pioneer Jon Postel in America: »Done.« This marked the birth of the Austrian domain extension.

»We were pioneers and had just learned to understand how the internet worked back then.«

Dr. Peter Rastl, Scientist

How did .at get onto the internet? Which came first: email or the internet? And what bandwidth was available? All these questions we asked Dr. Peter Rastl at our last anniversary party (2018).

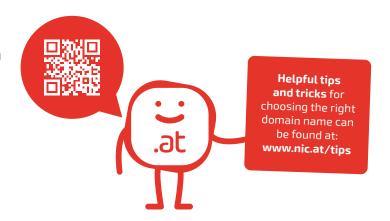
To the interview: youtu.be/3juyaS1DNx4



The demand for .at domains was significant from the start. The increased administrative workload necessitated organized management. The Internet Service Providers Austria (ISPA) founded the »nic.at Internet Verwaltungs- und Betriebsgesellschaft.m.b.H« 25 years ago, which later became the current nic.at GmbH. As a subsidiary of the Internet Foundation, nic.at aims to promote the internet in Austria and professionally manage and secure all .at domains. A monumental task: by the end of 2000, around 160,000 names were registered; in 2023, there are over 1.5 million .at domains (incl. co.at and .or.at).

»The greatest challenges at the beginning of nic.at were the gray areas in the legal, technical, and administrative fields. A lot has changed in these areas in the last 25 years.«

Richard Wein, CEO of nic.at www.nic.at





As the internet rapidly expanded, its darker aspects also became apparent. On a server of an Austrian host provider, instances of sexual exploitation of minors were discovered. This event, 25 years ago, served as the catalyst for the creation of Stopline, the online report centre against child sexual abuse material and national socialism on the internet. The primary objective is the swift and uncomplicated removal of illegal content. Stopline operates in close cooperation between ISPA and nic.at and has processed over 200,000 reports from vigilant internet users since its inception. Anyone who encounters offensive content on the internet can turn to the reporting platform.

»The success of Stopline is primarily thanks to the many vigilant internet users, as well as collaborations and networks both domestically and internationally.«

Dr. Barbara Schloßbauer, Project Manager Stopline www.stopline.at

If you suspect that you have found illegal material or have any other information concerning this matter, please report it to Stopline. Under no circumstances should you send any images or screenshots to Stopline. Doing so could potentially constitute a criminal offense.

More information: www.stopline.at/en



Since 2008, CERT.at (Computer Emergency Response Team Austria) has been the national point of contact and international hub of information for cybersecurity matters. CERT.at issues warnings, shares indicators of attacks, tips, and tricks to those in need, and provides support and assistance in cases of emergency. Through the Network and Information Systems Security Act (NISG), CERT.at became the official national computer emergency response team and, thus, the central point of contact for cybersecurity in Austria for the EU. An important milestone is the ongoing collaboration with the Federal Chancellery in the realm of the Government CERT (GovCERT), as well as the Austrian Energy CERT (AEC), which CERT.at operates for the Austrian energy sector. The Austrian Trust Circle, formed by CERT.at and the Federal Chancellery, brings together those who actively and proactively want to exchange knowledge on cybersecurity topics.

»We are motivated by the fact that Austria relies on us to keep the internet safe and clean.«

Wolfang Rosenkranz Head of CERT.at www.cert.at

CERT.at operates two mailing lists with which you can be informed as quickly as possible about warning alerts and which inform you about interesting links.

Go to list registration: cert.at/de/services/mailinglisten/







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