Privacy Policy

Registration Checker (RegCheck)

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Classification
Public

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Title of application/study	Registration Checker (RegCheck)
Policy start date	30 November 2021
Purpose of application/study	The study has two aims: 1. To increase the detection of malicious .nl registration data 2. To increase the security and resilience of the .nl domain by using registration data to automatically identify suspect registrations RegCheck is a pilot, the longer-term goal of which is the identification of suspect registrations, for further investigation by SIDN's Support team. The suspect registrations targeted by RegCheck are registrations where the registrant has malicious intentions (e.g. phishing or setting up a fake webshop). Registrations that involve erroneous data, but appear to be legitimately motivated are outside the scope of the study. RegCheck automatically classifies domain name registrations at the time of registration. Labs makes the suspect registrations visible on a dashboard, enabling the Support team to decide whether to investigate further or, for example, initiate an Article 18 procedure (registrant investigation). The aim of the pilot is to determine the best way of automatically identifying suspect registrations. To that end, two candidate methods will be compared. One is a data-driven method that utilises a machine learning algorithm. The other method is a

scoring system based on static rules. Support will help Labs with the study by annotating the identifications made using the two methods.

Personal data

Registration data (registrant and admin-c details) on all registered domains within the .nl domain. In some cases, the following data items will constitute personal data: name, e-mail address, phone number, postcode, street, property number, country.

Legitimate basis

Reasonable interest

Filters

In order to develop the machine learning algorithm and scoring system, we will utilise a list of known malicious registrations (compiled using data from Netcraft and other sources), plus a random selection of the registrations made in the past two years.

For the classification, we will use each day's new registrations, starting on 01-11-2021. The support department receives a daily list of registrations classified as suspect and investigates these registrations more closely.

Support will be sent 50 to 100 registrations a day for evaluation. The referrals will include suspect registrations, a number of randomly selected registrations and a number of dubious cases. The latter group will be made up of registrations that the machine learning model was unable to classify as suspect or legitimate.

Retention

New registration data, classification results and Support team annotations will be retained for the duration of the pilot.

At the end of the pilot, we will evaluate the findings to decide whether to continue with RegCheck. If RegCheck is to be developed further, the data retention policy will be reviewed.

If RegCheck is not to be developed further, all the data gathered and processed in the context of the pilot will be destroyed. The pilot will run until January 2023.

Access

The new registration data and classifications will be accessible only to SIDN Labs staff who are involved in the RegCheck pilot. The data will be saved in a secure database.

	The Support team will have access to the registration data referred to them on a daily basis. The registration data will be displayed on an online dashboard accessible only to Support and Labs personnel from the SIDN network, with access controlled by username-plus-password protection.
Publication/sharing	A blog post and an academic article about the study may be published. The publications will provide information about the performance of the systems and will not include any personal data.
Type	R&D, research and prototype
Other security measures	None