

# DENIC Domain Terms and Conditions

The following Terms and Conditions shall apply to the Domain Contract between DENIC eG based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, (hereinafter: DENIC) and the Domain Holder.

## § 1 Domain Registration and Administration

(1) The (future) Domain Holder can submit their domain application to DENIC either through a DENIC member or directly to DENIC. DENIC accepts the application through the successful completion of registration. The Domain Contract, however, is terminated immediately when the Domain Holder has applied for registration of a domain through a DENIC member and subsequently fails to create within a period of four weeks the necessary technical conditions for connectivity of the domain, which shall include transmission of the corresponding technical data to DENIC (condition leading to termination).

(2) In cases in which the application for registration of a domain is made through a DENIC member, it is that same member who will assume administration of the domain on behalf of the Domain Holder afterwards. Any communications which the Domain Holder sends to DENIC on the basis of these Terms and Conditions, including a possible notification of termination of the contract, must also always be transmitted through this same DENIC member. DENIC may also choose to send any communications destined for the Domain Holder through the same DENIC member.

(3) In cases in which the application for registration of a domain is submitted directly to DENIC or in which the DENIC member previously in charge of administering the domain ceases to administer it, it is DENIC itself that will administer the domain directly after that (direct administration by DENICdirect).

(4) It is possible for the Domain Holder to transfer administration of the domain from DENIC to a DENIC member or vice versa and also from one DENIC member to another (known as a "provider transfer"). To make such a transfer, the Domain Holder must submit an appropriate request to DENIC through the DENIC member who is to administer the domain after the transfer (or, in the case of a future direct administration, directly to DENIC). The Domain Holder must enter the password they have previously deposited through the DENIC member who has been administering the domain up until then (or with DENIC in cases of direct administration through DENIC) or which they have received in response to a request to the

DENIC member who has been administering the domain up until then (or with DENIC in cases of direct administration through DENIC). In cases in which the domain is to be transferred to direct administration by DENIC, it is also possible, when submitting the corresponding request, to ask DENIC to issue a password directly. This password is valid for 30 days from the point in time at which it is deposited or issued and can only be used once; in cases in which the Domain Holder has deposited the password through the DENIC member administering the domain to date, the password also loses its validity in the event of that DENIC member ceasing to administer the domain (§ 1 (3) second alternative).

(5) If the Domain Holder has activated the option ".de Registry Lock", modifications to the Domain Holder data or the deletion of the domain can only be implemented if an effectively authorised third party (Lock Contact) has proven their authorisation to DENIC to perform the respective modification. The same applies to updates of DNS records.

## § 2 Duties of DENIC

(1) DENIC adds the domain and its technical data to the name servers for the Top Level Domain .de (connectivity). DENIC may refrain from establishing connectivity if  
a) there are specific indications that the data of the Domain Holder are incorrect or incomplete; or  
b) the technical data is not suitable for establishing connectivity of the domain or if the underlying technical configuration would lead to an excessive load on the name servers. In this latter case, DENIC has the right to make modifications to the technical data in order to ensure connectivity. If connectivity was initially withheld pursuant to sentence 2, DENIC will establish connectivity as soon as  
a) in the case of sentence 2 a), a verification of the Domain Holder's data confirms that they are correct and complete, or the Domain Holder has corrected the data and the verification of the corrected data confirms their correctness and completeness;  
b) in the case of sentence 2 b), the Domain Holder has eliminated the obstacle to connectivity by providing other technical data or by modifying the technical configuration. DENIC may revoke connectivity (deconnect)  
a) if a verification of the Domain Holder's data does not confirm their correctness and completeness, and, following a request by DENIC within the period specified therein, the Domain Holder has neither provided proof of the correctness and

completeness of the data nor corrected the data and supplied corresponding proof for the corrected data;

b) if the circumstances described in sentence 2 b) occur after connectivity has been established. For re-establishing connectivity, sentence 3 applies accordingly.

(2) At no time is there any obligation whatsoever on DENIC to verify whether the data of the Domain Holder are correct or complete, or the registration of the domain on behalf of the Domain Holder or its use by the Domain Holder infringes the rights of others.

(3) DENIC has the right to place a Dispute entry on the domain if a third party submits evidence suggesting that they have a right that is possibly infringed by the domain, and if such third party declares that they are taking steps to enforce their resultant claims against the Domain Holder. The Dispute entry takes effect for one year, but DENIC will extend it, provided the party in whose name it has been entered requests such an extension and submits evidence that the dispute has still not been resolved. A domain that has had a Dispute entry placed on can continue to be used by its Domain Holder, but it is not possible to transfer it to anyone else.

### **§ 3 Duties of the Domain Holder**

(1) In submitting the application for registration of a domain, the Domain Holder gives an explicit assurance that all the data about them in the application is correct and that they are entitled to register and/or use the domain and, in particular, that the registration and intended use of the domain does not infringe anybody else's rights nor break any general law.

(2) It is the Domain Holder's duty to ensure all the necessary technical conditions for domain's stable connectivity.

(3) Immediately after registration, the Domain Holder must check their data via DENIC's domain query service at

<https://webwhois.denic.de/?lang=en&query=>

and must inform DENIC at once of any necessary corrections to it. This duty also extends to informing DENIC of modifications required to this data at any time after that. In supplying and modifying this data, the Domain Holder must always comply with DENIC's Domain Guidelines, which are available at <https://www.denic.de/en/domain-guidelines/>. In addition, at the request of DENIC, the Domain Holder shall cooperate in the verification of their data.

(4) If the Domain Holder is not domiciled in Germany, they shall name within two weeks of a corresponding request by DENIC an authorised representative domiciled in Germany for receiving the service of official or court documents who shall

have the same rights as defined for an authorised representative for receiving the service of official or court documents in terms of Article 184 of the German Code of Civil Procedure. The appointment of the authorised representative shall be made to the person who wishes to arrange for service and shall be addressed to that person via DENIC. The information to be stated shall include the name of the authorised representative for receiving the service of official or court documents and their full postal address; specifying a post-office box number is not sufficient. In the request, which DENIC is entitled to send to the Domain Holder by e-mail, DENIC will name the person who intends to arrange for the service of documents to the authorised representative for receiving service of official or court documents. The request to name an authorised representative for receiving the service of official or court documents requires that the person wishing to arrange for a service of documents submit a request to that effect and that the conditions for setting a Dispute entry according to § 2 (3) first sentence are met.

### **§ 4 Fees**

(1) It is the Domain Holder's duty to pay all domain charges in accordance with DENIC's current price list and conditions of payment, which are available for consultation at <https://www.denic.de/en/price-list/>. DENIC has the right to change this price list provided it gives two months' notice of its new charges. All bank charges incurred by payments to DENIC are to be borne by the Domain Holder.

(2) For as long as the domain is administered by a DENIC member, the Domain Holder's duty to pay the domain charges as laid down in paragraph 1 is suspended. If the DENIC member ceases to administer the domain (§ 1 (3) second alternative), the Domain Holder's duty to pay is reactivated, and they must pay all domain charges due after that directly to DENIC.

(3) DENIC is allowed to use e-mail to send its invoices to the Domain Holder.

### **§ 5 Liability**

(1) DENIC is only liable for any harm caused by it or by any of its vicarious agents through gross negligence or with malice aforethought as well as for any breach of substantial contractual duties for which it is to blame. In the event of a breach of substantial contractual duties through ordinary negligence, DENIC's liability is limited to the harm typically predictable, as a rule, however, to a sum not exceeding the domain charge for one year. These limitations do not, however, apply if any harm is caused to life and limb.

(2) The members of the DENIC Cooperative are not DENIC's vicarious agents.

(3) The Domain Holder is liable to make good any harm that DENIC may suffer on account of any inaccuracy in the data required by these Terms and Conditions or by its Domain Guidelines.

(4) The Domain Holder agrees not to hold DENIC liable in any way for claims filed by third parties and has the duty to compensate DENIC for any harm and costs that it may suffer through third parties taking action against it on the grounds that the registration of the domain on behalf of the Domain Holder and/or its use by the Domain Holder infringe their rights. In the same way, the Domain Holder also has the duty to compensate DENIC or DENIC employees for any harm and costs they may incur through criminal prosecutions on account of the registration and/or the use of the domain.

## **§ 6 Transfer of the Domain**

(1) The domain is transferable, unless it is subject to a Dispute entry (§ 2(3)).

(2) DENIC registers the domain in the name of the future Domain Holder once the Domain Holder to date has terminated their contract, unless, for legal reasons, termination is superfluous and provided that the future Domain Holder also submits an application to register the domain, presenting documents that clearly identify them. Along with the submission of the domain application, the future Domain Holder can, in addition, transfer the administration of the domain to a DENIC member of their choice or to DENIC. This is, however, subject to the provision laid down in § 1 (4) that the future Domain Holder submits the necessary documents to identify themselves as such beyond doubt when submitting the request for the domain to be transferred and when depositing or requesting a password.

(3) A domain transfer takes effect upon successful completion of the registration in the name of the new Domain Holder.

## **§ 7 Termination**

(1) The Domain Contract is concluded for an indefinite period. It is possible for the Domain Holder to terminate it at any time without prior notice.

(2) DENIC is only permitted to terminate the contract on substantial grounds. These grounds include, in particular, any case in which:

a) the domain itself includes a manifestly illegal statement; or  
b) the Domain Holder has entered into a written, unconditional commitment subject to criminal sanction not to use the domain, or the Domain Holder has issued a corresponding final declaration in proceedings for an interim injunction, or a corresponding final and absolute judgment on the substance of the case has been handed down against the Domain Holder; or

c) in a final and absolute judgement on the substance of the case, it has been determined that the registration of the domain for the Domain Holder infringed the rights of others, or that the Domain Holder has issued a corresponding final declaration in proceedings for an interim injunction; or

d) the registration of the domain for the Domain Holder manifestly infringes the rights of others or is otherwise illegal, regardless of the specific use made of it; or

e) the Domain Holder has persistently breached substantial contractual duties and has remained in breach of them despite receiving a formal warning accompanied by a deadline for compliance; or

f) the data supplied to DENIC regarding the Domain Holder or an authorised representative for receiving the service of official or court documents named pursuant to §3 (4) is inaccurate; or the identity of the Domain Holder or of the authorised representative cannot be established from such data; or

g) a verification of the Domain Holder's data does not confirm their correctness and completeness, and, following a request by DENIC within the period specified therein, the Domain Holder has

- neither provided proof of correctness and completeness of such data nor corrected the data, or

- has corrected the data, but verification of the corrected data does not confirm their correctness and completeness; or

h) the Domain Holder not being domiciled in Germany, the formal service of a document on an authorised representative for receiving the service of official or court documents named pursuant to §3 (4) arranged by a third party has failed at two consecutive attempts; or  
i) the Domain Holder is not being domiciled in Germany and in violation of §3 (4) having received a formal warning accompanied by a deadline for compliance, fails to appoint an authorised representative for receiving the service of official or court documents; or

j) in the case of direct administration (§ 1 (3)), the Domain Holder fails to pay the domain charges despite receiving a formal warning accompanied by a deadline for compliance; or

k) following the reactivation of the duty to pay charges to DENIC (§ 4 (2) second sentence), the Domain Holder, having received a demand for payment accompanied by a threat of termination, fails within a month either to transfer the domain to another DENIC member for administration or to pay the domain charge to DENIC.

(3) Notwithstanding any further reaching legal rights it may have, DENIC has the right, when it gives notice of termination of the domain, to remove the domain and its technical data from the name servers for the Top Level Domain .de.

(4) DENIC will not refund any domain charges already paid to it.

**§ 8 Contractual Language, Applicable Law and Place of Jurisdiction**

- (1) The contractual language shall be German.
- (2) The Domain Contract shall be governed by German law.
- (3) For all legal persons as well as for all natural persons having their domicile or habitual residence outside of Germany, the courts with exclusive jurisdiction shall be those of Frankfurt am Main. DENIC, however, also shall have the right to take legal action against the Domain Holder before the courts having general jurisdiction for them.
- (4) DENIC does not use dispute resolution proceedings before a consumer arbitration board.