

# Sponsored Programs for Registries to Combat CSAM Online

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# About PIR

- PIR is the Registry Operator of the .ORG TLD and other mission-driven TLDs
  - .ORG has over 11M domains registered
  - “Cleanest” of the large/legacy gTLDs
- PIR is a nonprofit supporting organization to the Internet Society
- PIR is a leader in the Anti-Abuse space:
  - Formed the NetBeacon Institute
  - Authored the Framework to Address Abuse
  - Led effort to amend ICANN RR/RD agreements to address DNS Abuse
  - Sponsored programs to fight Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) in the DNS

# Using the DNS to Address Website Content Abuse

*“Registries and registrars do not have the ability to surgically target the ‘abusive parts’ of a domain name or a particular page on that domain. Unfortunately, disabling a domain name is as powerful as it is imprecise, especially when the DNS Abuse occurs on a broader platform, forum, marketplace, or other domain shared by large audiences.”*

- *The Framework to Address Abuse*

**There is a real danger of collateral damage.** Example: Someone is selling narcotics on a large forum like Craigslist[.]org

- If PIR suspends the domain name, every single legitimate post on the site is inaccessible via the DNS

# Using the DNS to Address Website Content Abuse

*"Despite the fact that registrars and registries have only one blunt and disproportionate tool to address Website Content Abuse, we believe there are certain forms of Website Content Abuse that are so egregious that a registry or registrar should act when provided with specific and credible notice."*

- *The Framework to Address Abuse*

**We recognize that with some issues, the scale of harms is so great that we should do something. These issues include:**

- 1) Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM)
- 2) Illegal Distribution of Opioids/Narcotics Online
- 3) Human Trafficking
- 4) Specific and Credible Incitements to Violence

# IWF's Work in .ORG/PIR TLDs

- CSAM prohibited in our Anti-Abuse Policy
- From 2013–2018, PIR received referrals of only 4 CSAM instances
- Started receiving Domain Alerts from IWF since 2018
  - To date, more than 5,700 CSAM images referred

We want to share this critical tool so that all registries (both gTLDs and ccTLDs) are able to respond to instances of CSAM in their TLDs

# IWF and PIR Initiatives

- PIR is sponsoring two IWF initiatives in partnership for registries and registry service providers (RSPs) to help combat CSAM online:
  - Reactive: Domain Alerts; and
  - Proactive/Preventative: “TLD Hopping” List.
- Further both PIR and IWF’s charitable missions



# Domain Alerts: Our Process

- IWF searches for known CSAM image hashes and receives complaints
- IWF alerts registries whenever CSAM is identified on a website operating in their TLDs
  - Domain Alerts are 'of the moment' and are a reaction to a resolving instance of CSAM on a site
- Our process is: we receive domain alerts and then notify the registrar and request they work with the registrant to get the content removed
- No one on our team reviews any CSAM, we treat IWF's analysis as determinative
- Ultimately, we may suspend if no action taken, or if the site is dedicated to CSAM distribution

# TLD Hopping List

- Preventative measure: IWF maintains a list of domain names used for the distribution of CSAM in three or more TLDs
- This TLD Hopping List does not lead to “takedowns” of CSAM, but rather prevents the registration of domain names that would be dedicated to distribution of CSAM
  - Registries can reserve, register, or otherwise block the names before they are used for CSAM
- Through a sponsorship with PIR, IWF is providing the TLD Hopping List to all registries at no cost

The more TLDs that participate, the broader the impact of the list



# Results so far ...

- Since launching in February of this year:
  - 43 additional TLDs are now enrolled and covered by the programs
    - 18 registry operators (several have multiple TLD portfolios)
  - More than 30M domains now covered that were not previously receiving IWF alerts
  - Includes several large ccTLD registry operators (and includes APTLD Members)
- These programs are free to registries to use
- To find out more about how your registry can get involved, visit <https://www.iwf.org.uk/membership/> or email the IWF Membership team at [\*\*members@iwf.org.uk\*\*](mailto:members@iwf.org.uk)

**Hoping APTLD members join!**

**Questions?**