

# 1 Domain Name System (DNS)

2 Effective: Moved to the Policy Library from ITS on August 26, 2009

3 Contact: [Information Technology Services \(ITS\)](#)

## 4 Introduction

5 The Domain Name System (DNS) is a hierarchical naming system for computers, services, or any resource participating in  
6 the Internet. The DNS translates meaningful domain names to the numerical (binary) identifiers associated with networking  
7 equipment for the purpose of locating and addressing these devices world-wide.

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9 The purpose of this policy is to:

- 10 • Define the format for university domain names
- 11 • Provide a review mechanism to avoid naming conflicts
- 12 • Safeguard the reputation of the university
- 13 • Avoid competition with commercial entities
- 14 • Protect the privacy and security of confidential information

## 15 Policy Statement

16 The format for Iowa State University domain names is "hostname.subdomain.iastate.edu." This naming structure is intended  
17 to follow Iowa State University's internal organizational structure. The subdomain component of the domain name is the  
18 official Iowa State University entity name or its official university abbreviation. The hostname component of the domain name  
19 may be chosen by the affiliated entity and will be reviewed by ITS for appropriateness.

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21 University entities do not have permission to purchase .com or .biz domain names as those domains are reserved for  
22 commercial purposes.

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24 University entities may apply for .org or .info domain names under certain conditions such as a specific name not normally  
25 possible under the Iowa State University domain name format. All avenues of compliance to the university's above listed  
26 structure must be explored before allowance to deviate will be considered. One condition of allowance is that the domain(s)  
27 must redirect to the approved university iastate.edu domain name.

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29 A university domain name may not point to an off campus hosted web site. An exception may be granted if the requestor  
30 meets the following requirements:

- 31 • A written contract is executed between the university entity and the off campus vendor.
- 32 • The contract identifies what university data is transmitted and stored by the vendor.
- 33 • The contract identifies how university data will be protected and that the vendor asserts which federal and state data  
34 security policies it is compliant with.
- 35 • The contract stipulates that Iowa State University owns the data and how ISU obtains possession of said data after the  
36 contract ends.
- 37 • The contract is reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Department (under guidelines from General Counsel and the  
38 Chief Information Officer).
- 39 • If university trademarks are included in the domain name(s), upon expiration or termination of the contract, the domain  
40 name(s) must be assigned to the university.

41 The Trademark Licensing Office has been delegated the responsibility for managing and maintaining the university's domain  
42 names that contain university marks. The use of any university trademarks in domain name(s) must be reviewed and  
43 approved by the Trademark Licensing Office, and, if appropriate, the Trademark Licensing Office may register and maintain  
44 the domain name(s).

## 45 Resources

- 46 • [Information Technology at ISU](#)
- 47 • [Trademark Licensing Office](#)
- 48 • [Purchasing Department](#)
- 49 • [Office of General Counsel](#)