NAMESPACESIGNALS / QUICK GUIDE

New domain extensions: dates to watch

What each milestone means, in plain English

ICANN is reviewing applications for new endings to internet addresses, beyond familiar extensions such as .com. A “string” is the proposed extension itself. These are process milestones, not launch dates.

7 OCT 2026 | ALREADY HAPPENED

Reveal Day

ICANN published applicants and proposed names, including applicable backup names and groups of competing applications.

21 OCT 2026 | 23:59 UTC

Backup-name switching closes

Eligible applicants must choose whether to switch from their primary name to their submitted replacement name.

17 NOV 2026

String Confirmation Day

ICANN publishes the confirmed applied-for names and updated competition groups. The community input and objections period opens.

27 NOV 2026 | 23:59 UTC

65% refund deadline

Applicants wishing to withdraw and receive a 65% evaluation-fee refund must submit their request by this deadline.

17 NOV 2026 - 16 MAR 2027

Community input and objections

The public and eligible parties can submit comments, warnings, notifications or formal objections through the applicable channels.

FIRST HALF OF 2027 | DATE NOT CONFIRMED

Prioritization draw

A draw establishes the order for processing applications and competition groups after string evaluation.

Official sources - click to explore

Applicant Journey | ICANN dates announcement (29 Sep 2026)

Sources checked and guide updated: 16 Oct 2026. Later evaluation dates remain unconfirmed.