

The Hellenic National Telecommunications and Post Committee, the state authority responsible for the supervision of domain name administration in Greece, has recently announced that, effective 4 July 2005, the registration of .gr domain names in Greek characters will be feasible.

The above process was published in the Committee's Administrative Decision No. 351/76 which resulted from a public session on the issue of allowing the registration of .gr domain names with Greek characters. The country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) will remain .gr, however the domain name itself can also now be in Greek, although it will not be possible to register a domain name consisting of both Greek and Latin characters.

Due to the complicated punctuation of Greek language, which may, as in French, render a completely different meaning to a word spelled identically to another, several issues may arise in registering a .gr domain name in Greek characters.

In particular, if the domain name requested is accented, then its non-accented version will also be available to the user, since in Greek language one word can acquire a completely different meaning depending on the syllable accented, e.g. the word καλός (meaning good) and the κάλος (meaning corn or callus). In such a case, if the requested accented version is e.g. καλός then its non-accented version i.e. καλος will be registered automatically. The other accented version, i.e. κάλος, will be automatically reserved for the applicant, however a separate fee must be paid for its registration. There is no provision for apostrophes.

Irrespective of its punctuation, a word will be granted as a domain name on the basis of its spelling on both lower case and capital letters. Further, the PUNYCODE translation of the Greek word will also be available to the user. In sum, the user that registers a domain name in Greek will have available (reserved) all its different variations with punctuation (while registration with a different punctuation will require an additional fee), or without, and in lower case or capital letters, as well as the PUNYCODE corresponding word.