

Domain registration service unification

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Abstract

The UIS currently has two domain registration services, the publicly documented Managed Zone Service, and a collection of domains registered for various parts of the UAS. This is an outline of what is required to move the UAS domains to the Managed Zone Service.

1 Moving UAS domains to the MZS

As a minimum we will need to obtain a list of managers for each domain, for billing contacts and so that the domains can be set up on the MZS.

To avoid dealing with a lot of purchase orders at once, we can defer the MZS charge for each domain until it nears its registry expiry date.

The technical details can be handled behind the scenes. The rough process is:

- Give the web load balancer team privileged access to the MZS, for managing the DNS for those parts of the UAS that lack technical staff.
- Give the hostmaster team access to the UAS 123-Reg account.
- Assess how much work is required to move DNS hosting to the MZS infrastructure; if it is easy then it can be done straight away, otherwise it may be better to move domains as and when they come up for renewal.
- Decide how to handle web and mail forwarding, either move to the UIS's own services (Managed Mail Domains and the web traffic managers) or to Mythic Beasts.

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- If (like the MZS Gandi migration) it is possible to transfer domains under .uk without a fee, they can be moved to the MZS Mythic Beasts account without obtaining a purchase order.
- Domains under other top-level domains require a transfer fee, so they can be moved to the MZS Mythic Beasts account when they are renewed.
- The UAS 123-Reg account will be kept in maintenance mode like the MZS Gandi account, until all the domains are moved across.

2 Background

The rest of this memo has some background details to explain some of the jargon in the previous section.

2.1 The Managed Zone Service

The Managed Zone Service is documented at (<https://www.dns.cam.ac.uk/domains/mzs.html>). It hosts about 100 domains for institutions around the Collegiate University.

As a domain registration service, the MZS ensures that University domains have consistent ownership details and contact addresses, and that they are properly monitored for renewals.

The MZS also includes a DNS hosting service that shares infrastructure with the University's main DNS systems. Management of DNS for domains in the MZS is delegated, so that colleagues around the Collegiate University can be in control of their domains while benefiting from central management of our registrar accounts and domain renewals. UIS staff can be granted various levels of privileged access to the MZS so they can modify domains on behalf of their owners.

We charge a fee of 200 for each domain in the MZS, which covers domain registration fees, DNS hosting costs, and staff time for 5 years.

We currently use Mythic Beasts as the registrar for most domains on the MZS, because they are a friendly local business that we can pay through the University finance system rather than using the department credit card. There are a number of older MZS domains registered through Gandi, which are being moved to Mythic Beasts as and when they come up for renewal. We have an account at Nominet related to our .uk domains, but we no longer register them directly with Nominet. And we have an account with JISC for managing our .ac.uk domains, including cam.ac.uk as well as several MZS domains.

2.2 UAS domains

[*this section needs more details...*]

The UAS domain registration service is not documented.

UAS domains are registered through an account at 123-Reg, who also host the DNS for the domains.

Management of the DNS is not delegated, so any changes require help from UIS staff.

We do not charge the UAS for these domains.

The 123-Reg account is also used for web forwarding and mail forwarding.

2.3 Moving domains to the MZS

When a domain is moved to the MZS, we require the same details as for a new domain: the list of the domain's managers and a purchase order.

We do *not* adjust our charge if there is any time remaining before the domain expires – domain transfers can take a lot of staff time.

(Similarly, we do not adjust the MZS charge based on different registrar fees for different domain names.)