.CO.NO Domain Information, Launch Schedule & FAQ

In short, CO.NO is about the opening of registration possibilities of a Norwegian domain name to parties that can't at the moment, including:

- Private persons in Norway
- Companies without an entity in Norway
- Norwegian companies that already have registered 20 .no domains.

This means that co.no gives your customers the opportunity to register their own Norwegian domain in their own (Company) Name and Ownership, instead of having to use some Norwegian firm that acts as local presence.

1. Domain Information

1) Eligibility

The registration of a .co.no domain name is open to every person or company, whether it has a legal connection with Norway or not. (an advantage compared to regular .no registrations!)

2) Naming Policy

Domains may be comprised of digits (0-9), letters A-Z and hyphens. The minimum length of a .co.no domain name is 3 characters, the maximum is 63 characters.

3) Registrations

In order to register a .co.no domain only an existing zone is required (SOA + NS). All domains will be activated directly after registration and usually live within 2 minutes after registration (up to 48 hours, depending on your location).

4) Transfers

Domains can be transferred easily to the account of another registrar. The whois data will be automatically updated.

5) Whois

After getting our IPs white listed, we can connect Domain checker on our website to the co.no whois via port43 of whois.co.no.

6) Web Interface & API: Both management methods are available.

7) Premium and reserved lists: Being finalized.

8) Pricing (Registry Cost)
a. Sunrise domain pricing:

a) If the application is submitted by the registrar directly at CoDNS (In this case validations are performed after submitting the application to CoDNS)
- Validation fee of Deloitte: 70 Euro
- Domain registration: 39 euro (2 yrs registration)

In this situation CoDNS collects the total amount of domain registration + the validation fee.

b) If the application is submitted to CoDNS via the IP Clearing House (In this case validations are performed before submitting the application to CoDNS)
- Validation fee of Deloitte: Tbd (this amount is charged directly to the applicant via the IP Clearing House and valid for multiple sunrises)
- Domain registration: 39 euro (2 yrs registration)

In this situation CoDNS collects only the amount for the domain registration.

b. Go Live:

39 euro per registration and/or renewal/year; valid as per the Go Live on February 22nd 2011.

c. Important Notes:
- Transfers and trades itself are free of charge.
- During the 3 months Sunrise the minimum registration period is 2 years. As per Go Live the minimum registration period is 1 year
- During Sunrise the Validation fees are non-refundable. The domain registration fees will be restituted if the registration is unsuccessful.
- All mentioned amounts are excluding VAT.

2. Launch plan

The launch of CO.NO will take place in 2 steps:

1) **Sunrise**: November 1st 2010 the Sunrise period will start (together with .SO), which will last until January 31st 2011. During this period only holders of a valid Trademark will be able to register their .co.no domain name. As usual, Deloitte Laga will take care of the validation of each Sunrise application.

Sunrise applications can be (not obliged) submitted via Deloitte´s IP Clearing House system, known from the recent Sunrise of the Columbian TLD .CO. This will result in a very low Sunrise fee for each Trademark that is already validated and in this system.

2) Go Live: February 22nd 2011 CO.NO will go Live and all registrations will be accepted on a ´first come first served´ basis.

3. Sunrise Process

All accepted Sunrise registrations will be put live before Go Live.
During the Sunrise period applications can be submitted to the Operator in two ways:

1) Directly with CoDNS, through an Accredited Registrar. All trademark claims will be subject to a validation by Deloitte Laga.

2) By making use of the IP Clearing House (*CHIP**).

*About the IP Clearing House ('CHIP')

CHIP is a centralized repository of trademark claims in relation to domain names that can be used by the corresponding brand owners in order to safeguard their brands in the context of TLD launches. CHIP is designed, implemented and operated by professionals from Deloitte Lage who have assisted in the past the .EU, .MOBI, .ASIA, .ME, and .CO registries in launching their domain name extensions.

The big advantage of using CHIP is for trademarks that are already validated in the context of the .CO Sunrise process, AND already included in CHIP: in that case the corresponding registrar is entitled to re-use this validation in the context of the .CO.NO launch for a small processing fee. It is the expectation that (new) validations in the system can all be used for future run Launches via CHIP for a lower Sunrise fee as well!

More information on who can use the IP Clearinghouse, and how to use it can be found at: www.ipclearinghouse.org.

Contacts at CHIP:

Bart Lieben for general matters (blieben@crowell.com)
Jan Jansen for technical matters (jan@nexperteam.be)

4. FAQ

1) General

a. What if the name I want contains spaces or special characters?

The Operator does not support IDN, so domain names may only contain: letters a – z; numbers 0 – 9; hyphens (-).
Domain names should consist of at least 2 letters and/or numbers and a maximum of 63 characters. It is not possible to let your domain start or end with a hyphen.

b. Who can register a .co.no domain name?

Every natural person or organization can register its .co.no domain name(s). An address in Norway is not required.

c. How long is the registration period?

During the Sunrise phase the minimum period of registration is two years. As per Go Live, the minimum period is 1 year.

2) CO.NO & the Registry

d.   Why do we need a .co.no domain?

Anyone without an address in Norway is not able to register a domain under the national Norwegian TLD. These international companies and individuals are given the opportunity to display their local business with a .co.no sub domain. Furthermore there is no limit on the amount of .co.no domains that you are allowed to register.
Besides the strong international image, .co.no is of course re-offering availability of the best key words under the trustworthy Norwegian domain name extension.

e.   Who are the targeted customers of a .co.no domain?

Norwegian individuals and companies with an international perspective as well as international companies and individuals with interests in Norway.

f.   Is .co.no an official ICANN approved extension?

The .no is an ICANN approved extension and is run by Norid, the Norwegian registry. .co.no domains are third level domains of this .no extension and therefore not an approved extension in itself. But the .co.no happens to have a strong international appearance and more flexibility.

g.   Who is the founder and operator of CO.NO?

CO.NO is operated and founded by CoDNS B.V. This Dutch company is part of the EuroDNS S.A. group. EuroDNS is one of the largest multi-tld registrars of Europe, has an extensive experience with the management of domain names and is familiar in the ICANN community.

3) **Disputes**

h.   What is .co.no domain dispute policy?

The CO.NO Operator offers an alternative procedure for solving disputes about .co.no domain names. It is called an ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Policy. It is an alternative to a normal court procedure. The ADR is facilitated by a third party with extensive experience in this field.
Domain name registrations can always be challenged in a regular court. In the meantime to allow a faster and smoother settlement of potential disputes, the Operator has appointed the Czech Arbitration Court as Alternative Dispute Resolution Provider for domain names bearing the ".co.no" ending. An ADR is usually faster, often cheaper and more convenient than a traditional court case.
The Czech Arbitration Court's rulings are legally binding, unless a losing party chooses to appeal the decision through a conventional court of law.

i.   What is .co.no domain dispute process?

ADR cases are unlike traditional court cases in several ways:

- Rulings are made by panelists, not judges. Panelists are drawn from a group of intellectual property experts located throughout Europe.

- Cases are conducted online. The correspondence between all parties occurs via CAC's online platform and email.
- Cases are usually conducted in English
- In order for a .CO.NO domain name to be transferred to a complainant as the result of an ADR, the complainant must be eligible for a .CO.NO name

For more information on the Czech Arbitration Court, please refer to their website. For more information about the ADR or to file a dispute about a .co.no domain, please refer to www.adr.eu.

4) Whois

j. What is the whois?

The WHOIS is a database containing all .co.no domain names that have been registered to date. By querying a name you are able to see if the domain is already registered or not i.e. whether it is still available. If the name has already been registered you will be able to see who registered it.

k. What do the different statuses of domain names mean?

Available: The name is available, you can register it
Reserved: The name is reserved by the operator and can't be registered
Premium: The name is reserved by the operator for as a special Premium name.
Registered: The name is already registered
Invalid: The name you entered contains characters that are not allowed, or contains less then 2 or more then 63 characters

5) Trades & Transfers
l. What is a trade/transfer?

A trade is the change of ownership of a domain name from one registrant to another.
A transfer is the change of registrar (ISP) of a domain. The ownership does not change.

m. How do I trade/transfer my domain name(s)?

Trade: If you would like to sell your domain name to another party, it is up to your registrar to execute that trade. The request can only be initiated by an Accredited Registrar.
Once the Operator has received the trade request, it will be dealt with in the following few hours.
Transfer: If you would like your domain name to be managed by another registrar, you have to request your current registrar to transfer that domain to your new registrar. Hence you need to inform both your current registrar and your new registrar. Only Accredited Registrars can process transfer applications.
Once the Operator has received the transfer request (the 'push') from your current registrar, an email is issued to the new registrar. If the transfer is not confirmed, the procedure will be terminated and your current registrar should initiate a new transfer.

n.   What happens if I make a mistake when initiating a trade/transfer?

If you make a mistake, you will have to wait until the request has expired (10 days). Afterwards you can initiate the trade or transfer again.

o.   How long does it take to complete the trade/transfer?

When the request has been confirmed by all parties involved, the domain will be traded or transferred instantly with a minimum of delay.

p.   Can domains be traded/ transferred in bulk?

Yes, both are technically possible.

6) Deleting domains

q.   How do I delete my domain name?

Request your Accredited Registrar to delete your domain. You will need to specify as per when you want the domain to be deleted. Deletions must be offered before the expiration date of your domain.

r.   How do I get back my deleted domain?

Following the deletion, the domain will be in **redemption for 45 days;** afterwards it will be available for registration for the public again. There are 3 options to get back your domain:

- If the deletion data has not yet passed, you can ask your registrar to undelete the domain.
- If the deletion data has passed, but the domain is still in its redemption period, you can ask your registrar to reactivate the domain. You will be separately charged for reactivation.
- If the redemption period passed as well, you can re-register the domain (but so can third parties!)

s.   What happens to my domain after deletion?

Any "delete" of a domain name will result in a 45-day Deleted Name Redemption Grace Period. This grace period will allow the domain name registrant, registrar, and/or operator time to detect and correct any mistaken deletions.

During this 45-day period, the deleted name will be placed on OPERATOR-HOLD, which will cause the name to be removed from the zone. (The domain name therefore will not function/resolve.) This feature will help ensure notice to the registrant that the name is subject to deletion at the end of the Redemption Grace Period, even if the contact data the registrar has for the registrant is no longer accurate.

During the Redemption Grace Period, registrants could redeem their registrations through registrars. Registrars would be able to redeem the name for the original registrant by paying renewal fees, plus **a service charge**, to the operator.

7) **Sunrise**

t.   What is a Sunrise and how does it work?

The Sunrise is a period before opening for general registration of domain names where holders of prior rights can apply for domain names. The objective is to avoid the so called cyber squatting.
The Sunrise of .co.no takes place in one 2 months period where "Registered Trademarks" are given priority.

u.   Who will receive priority during Sunrise?

During the Sunrise the holders of registered Trademarks have the priority right to register their .co.no domains. All applications will be verified by an independent agent to make sure that only the rightful owner will receive their .co.no domain. It's important to realize that all applications will be evaluated and assigned based on a first come first serves basis.