

Matt Didcoe

PO Box 3315
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Saturday, July 24, 2010

ATTN: New 2LDs Advisory Panel
C/- Jo Lim
Chief Operations and Policy Officer, auDA

RE: .conf.au domain as part of auDA 2LD offering

Dear Sir or Madam:

Upon reviewing your draft recommendations¹ from the public consultation process, I write to raise concern regarding recommendation 2C – *“That conf.au should not be reactivated by auDA.”*

I feel that there was a lack of advertisement and publication of the availability of this 2LD and that the consultation process did not canvas the broader community, including independent conference organisers and community groups that offer conference events.

I for one, was not aware of this consultation process until looking to register a domain for a conference I organise and found that the .conf.au domains were not available for registration. This must raise the question, perhaps there is a genuine demand for this domain but due to the fact it can't be registered, people are just giving up and choosing lesser alternates?

Upon reviewing the submission by Tearle² (submission by Walsh unavailable), I feel that a genuine need exists for this domain to remain active and would urge the auDA to recommence discussion with Robert Elz and Melbourne University to get control of the zone file for this 2LD.

Further consultation regarding this domain, or a suitable substitute in .event.au, which you are also choosing not to support at this time (Draft recommendation 2B – *“That the proposal for event.au should not be accepted by auDA at this time”* is required. If auDA chooses to not continue with the .conf.au domain, at least the .event.au 2LD allows for flexibility and could be used for other events such as expos, concerts and festivals.

auDA rarely has the opportunity for such a review and I would encourage a more thorough and broad community consultation before any final decisions are made with regards to retiring/grandfathering .conf.au and not supporting the .event.au domain.

¹ <http://www.auda.org.au/document.php?documentid=1173>

² <http://www.auda.org.au/document.php?documentid=1141>

In summary, I thank the auDA panel for taking the time to consider the .au 2LD space and the public submissions and would ask auDA and the New 2LDs Advisory Panel to do more community consultation and ensure that an appropriate domain exists for conferences and other events outside the .com.au 2LD space which is rapidly becoming cluttered.

Kind Regards,

Matt Didcoe