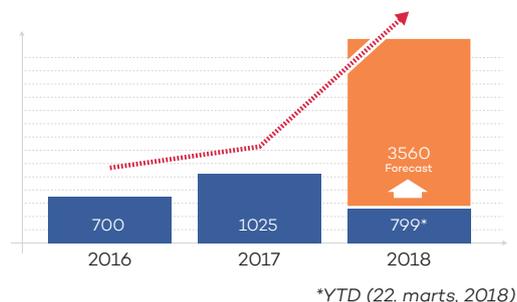


Crime prevention on the internet

Background

In recent years, we have seen an increase in internet-based crime involving IPR violations. At DIFO, this trend is evidenced by the frequency of seizures of .dk domain names that have engaged in IPR violations. Domain names seized at the request of the State Prosecutor for Serious Economic and International Crime (SØIK), under court order. Seizures rose by nearly 46% from 2016 to 2017, and are projected to rise by more than 240% from 2017 to 2018.

The most significant problem is webshops known as “scam webshops” which sell counterfeit goods.



Focus

The credibility of .dk domain names is a high priority for DIFO, which means we also make it a high priority to address the misuse of .dk domain names for criminal purposes.

Based on a public hearing on internet crime prevention held on 6 June 2016, DIFO has implemented stricter identity checks for customers seeking to register .dk domain names.

Danish customers are now required to use NemID validation when registering new domain names or accessing DK Hostmaster’s self-service portal. Foreign customers are subject to a risk assessment and may be required to provide proof of their identity by submitting authoritative documentation in the form of a passport, driving license or the like.

DIFO does not consider the specific content of active .dk domain names, as we consider such activity to be incompatible with our role as an infrastructure provider.

Results

In November 2017, DIFO commissioned an analysis to elucidate the issue of IPR violations under .dk domain names. The analysis found that 3,075 active webshops were likely committing IPR violations. This corresponds to 6.73% of all active webshops in the .dk zone.

Since the analysis, DK Hostmaster has implemented stricter identity checks for Danish and foreign customers. In the period since the implementation of these stricter checks, 3,816 domain names have been deleted or seized by DIFO and transferred to the authorities.

The aforementioned analysis was conducted again the end of March, and the findings revealed that the share of .dk domain names suspected of IPR violations has dropped from 6.73% of all active webshops to 1.03%. In actual numbers, this represents a decline of 2,600 webshops suspected of IPR violations, from 3,075 to 475.

					 Nov. 2017	 Mar. 2018
Websites suspected of intellectual property rights infringement in relation to total number active websites in local zone.	0,43%	0,25%	0,05%	0,17%	0,28%	0,04%
Websites suspected of intellectual property rights infringement in relation to total number of online stores in local zone.	9,08%	9,52%	2,90%	6,33%	6,73%	1,03%

Source: "Analysis of Domains Suspected of Infringing Intellectual Property", conducted for DIFO by EIT DK ApS / Henrik Bjørner.

Note: Only the .dk and .se zones were examined 100% by the analysis.

➤ DIFO’s stricter identity checks have led to a significant reduction in the number of webshops suspected of IPR violations.

The next step

In the period April-May 2018, DIFO will be conducting a re-inspection of all existing Danish and foreign customers, and expects these efforts to result in further deletions of currently active .dk domain names.

DIFO / DK Hostmaster administer domain names ending in .dk. We maintain part of the infrastructure (DNS) on the Danish part of the internet, and administer a database (WHOIS) containing master data on everyone with a registered .dk domain name.