



Global Domain Activity Report

Q2 2025

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Dear Reader,

Another quarter has passed and, as always, I'm excited to present the latest edition of the Global Domain Activity Report.

The ever-evolving security landscape demands up-to-date intelligence and insights into emerging global DNS trends, which this report provides.

Join us as we look at global trends related to newly registered domains (NRDs), DNS activities, and verified indicators of compromise (IoCs) in Q2 2025.

Feel free to use the data and share it with your team to aid in your fight against new and emerging cybersecurity threats.



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doing business as WhoisXML API

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Executive Summary

We identified 26.0+ million new domain registrations, up from 23.4+ million in Q1 2025.

Our analysis covered key domain registration trends focusing on the prevalence of popular generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs).

We also analyzed 3.9+ million domains tagged as IoCs during the quarter and examined the top TLDs of the domains found in the associated mail exchange (MX) and name server (NS) records over the past year.

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Methodology

This quarterly report draws insights from WhoisXML API's comprehensive DNS, domain, and cyber threat intelligence sources.

We began by examining the global domain activity trends related to the Q2 2025 NRDs under the lens of our [Newly Registered Domains \(NRD2\)](#) solution.

Our analysis explored the domain registration trends, including the use of specific TLDs and TLD types, registrar distribution, and WHOIS data redaction.

We then examined the DNS activity trends for the past 365 days using our [DNS Database Download](#) files for June 2025, zooming in on the top MX and NS domains and their respective registrant organizations. The analysis was enriched with domain registration data gleaned from [WHOIS API](#).

We also looked at the top MX and NS fully qualified domain names (FQDNs).

Finally, to gain insights into known threats, we obtained data from [Threat Intelligence Data Feeds \(TIDF\)](#) and scrutinized those that have been confirmed as IoCs between 1 April and 30 June 2025.

Q2 2025 Findings

The background features a solid blue color. Overlaid on this are several wavy, horizontal lines composed of small, dark blue dots. These lines create a sense of motion and depth, with some lines appearing more prominent than others, creating a layered effect.



Newly Registered Domains by TLD Type

The new domain registrations increased from 23.4+ million in Q1 2025 to 26.0+ million in Q2. The number of NRDs sporting gTLDs rose by 15.3% while those sporting ccTLDs decreased by 2.7%.

As in previous quarters, the number of gTLD registrations was significantly higher than the ccTLD registrations in Q2. The number of gTLD registrations was, in fact, 3.9 times higher. Overall, the average daily registration volume also rose from 263,615 in Q1 2025 to 286,387 in Q2.

TLD Type	April	May	June	Q2 2025 Total	Q1 2025 Total
gTLD	5,989,761	6,818,927	7,938,276	20,746,964	18,001,203
ccTLD	1,651,412	1,771,893	1,890,934	5,314,239	5,460,511
TOTAL	7,641,173	8,590,820	9,829,210	26,061,203	23,461,714



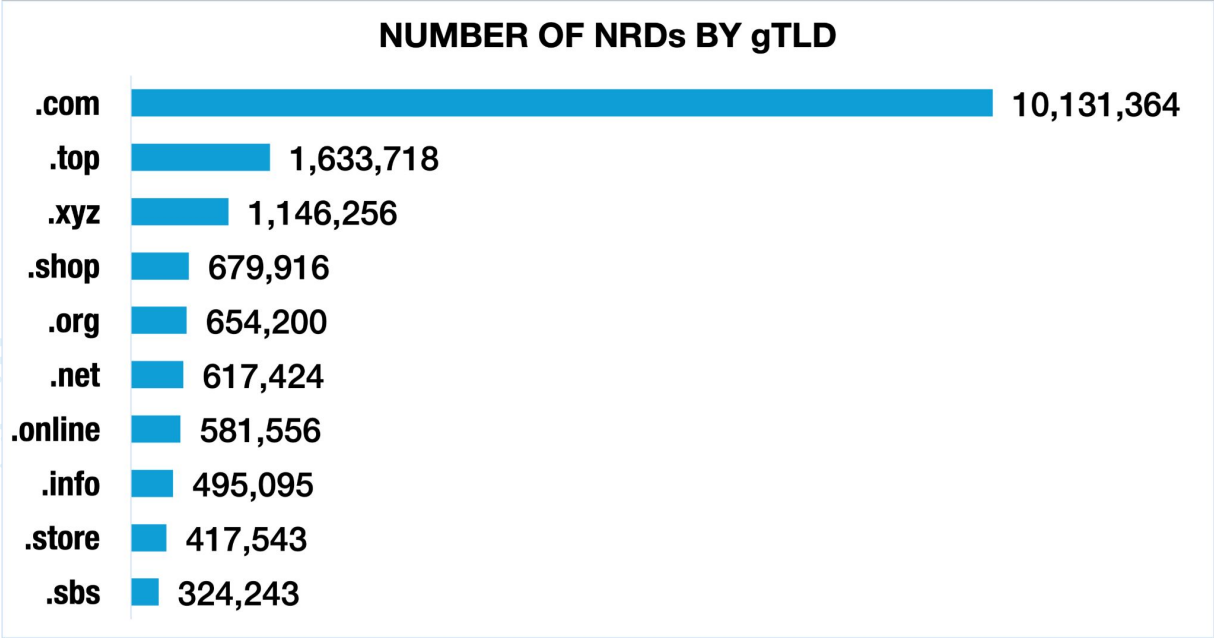
New Domain Activity: gTLD Trends

The volume of NRDs under the .com gTLD in Q2 2025 remained significantly higher compared with other extensions at 10.1+ million.

This trend stayed the same as in previous quarters, showing that individuals and organizations continued to prefer .com over other gTLDs.

The other popular gTLDs were .top, .xyz, .shop, .org, .net, .online, .info, .store, and .sbs.

Data source: [Newly Registered Domains](#)





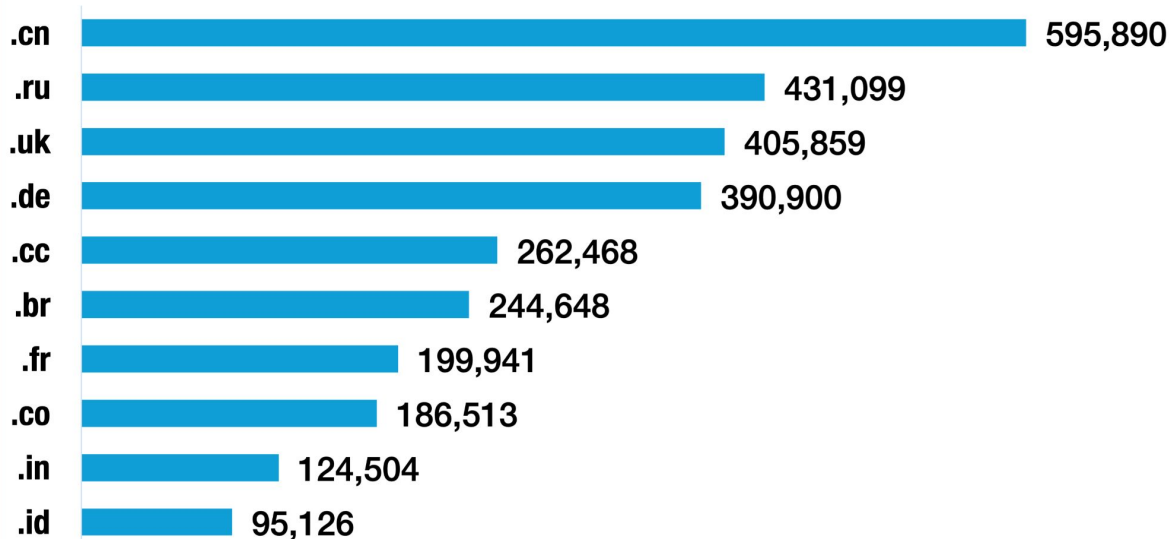
New Domain Activity: ccTLD Trends

The ccTLD extension .cn (China) replaced last quarter's topnotcher .de (Germany). The .de extension, in fact, dropped to fourth place, following .ru (Russia) and .uk (U.K.).

The other ccTLDs with high new domain registration numbers were .cc (Cocos [Keeling] Islands), .br (Brazil), .fr (France), .co (Colombia), .in (India), and .id (Indonesia).

Data source: [Newly Registered Domains](#)

NUMBER OF NRDs BY ccTLD





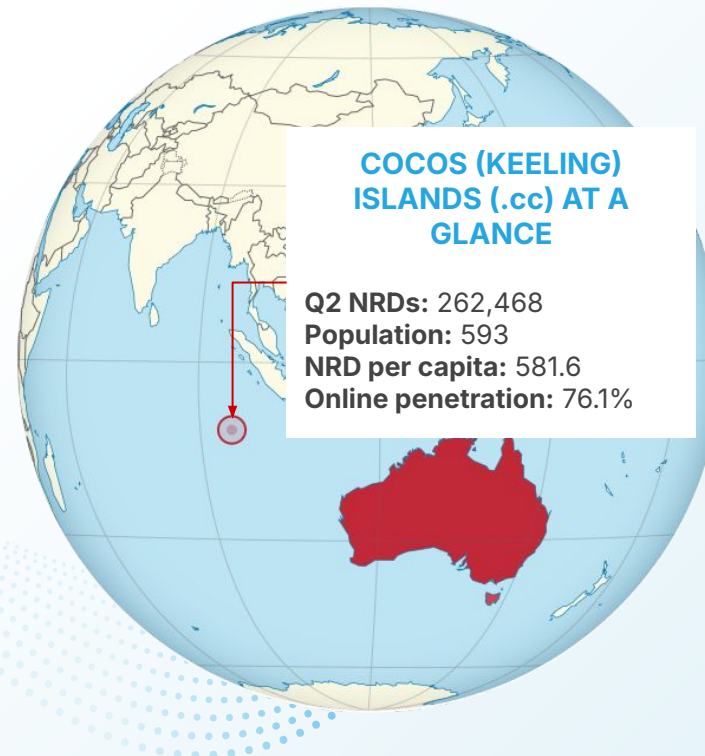
.cc Still NRD Volume-to-Population Size-Incongruent

It's not unusual to see ccTLDs with somewhat irregular registration patterns. Their total NRD registration numbers were significantly higher than their population sizes. Tokelau (.tk) and Samoa (.ws) were prime examples in our [Q3 2023](#) and [Q4 2023](#) reports, respectively.

For three consecutive quarters now, though, we have seen this pattern for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands' .cc. The extension has consistently been part of the quarterly top 10 since Q4 2024. In Q2 2025, it had 262,468 new domains despite having only [593 residents](#).

In fact, this quarter, .cc was number 5, accounting for a 4.9% share of the total number of new domain registrations sporting ccTLDs. That gave the country an NRD per capita of 581.6 considering an online penetration rate of [76.1%](#).

Data source: [Newly Registered Domains](#)



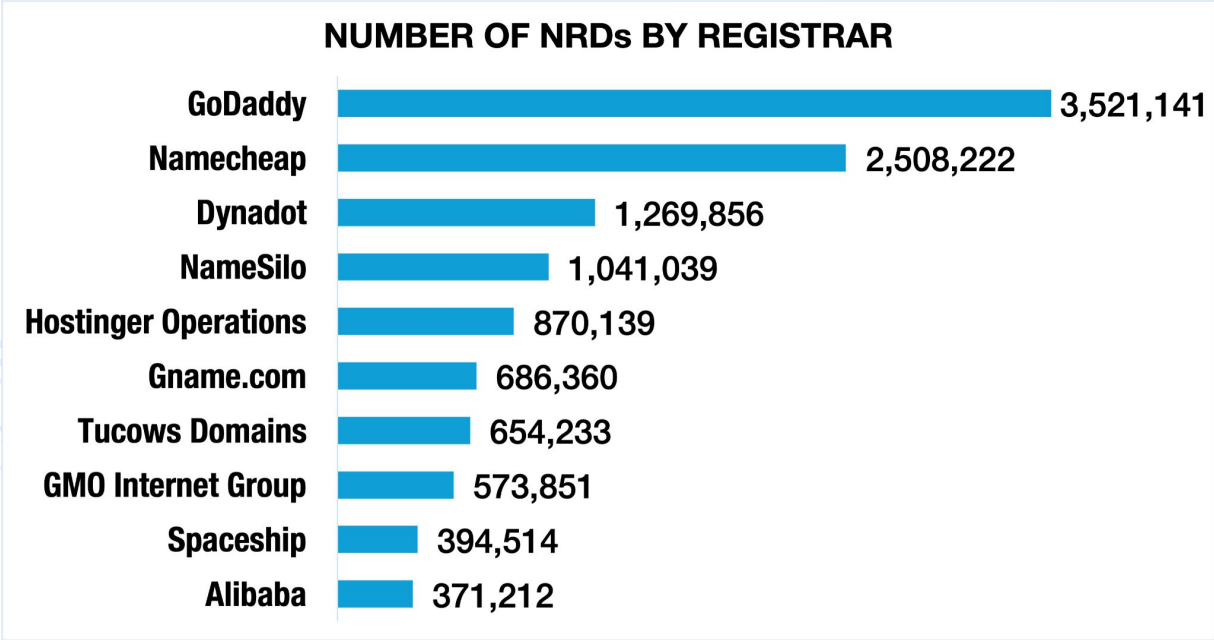


New Domain Activity: Most Popular Registrars

As in previous quarters, GoDaddy continued to be the most popular registrar in Q2. Namecheap, Dynadot, NameSilo, Hostinger Operations, Gname.com, Tucows Domains, GMO Internet Group, Spaceship, and Alibaba rounded out the top 10.

In sum, these 10 registrars accounted for 45.6% of the total Q2 2025 new domain registration volume.

Data source: [Newly Registered Domains](#)





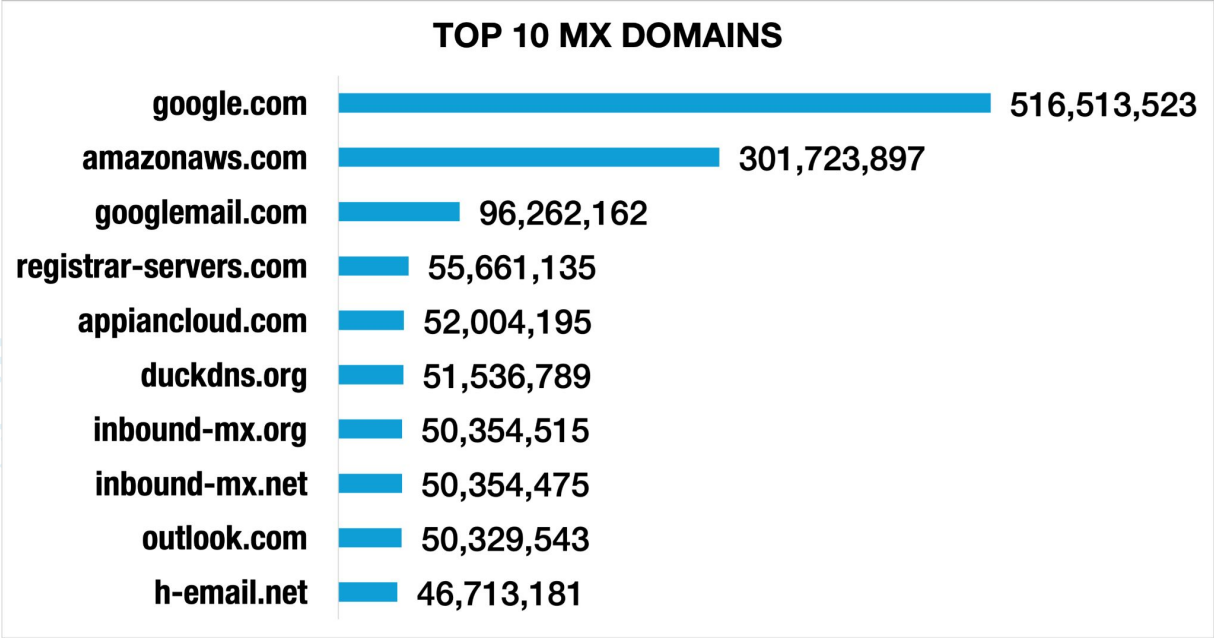
DNS Activity: Most Popular Mail Servers

We then examined the top 100 MX domains, which represented the mail server values that appeared in 1.9+ billion MX records.

This data was collected from a passive DNS database file for June 2025 and includes MX records from the past 365 days.

The top 10 MX domains accounted for 66.1% of the top 100.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)





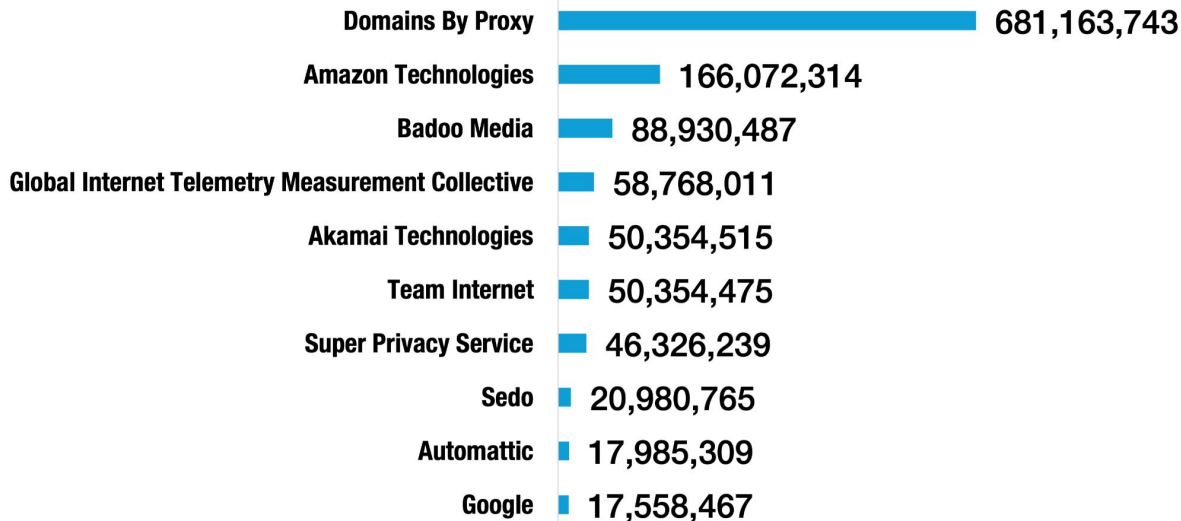
DNS Activity: Top Mail Server Providers

A bulk WHOIS lookup for the top 100 MX domains revealed that Domains by Proxy topped Q1 2025's topnotcher Google this quarter. The company accounted for 35.4% of the total MX domain resolution volume.

It's also worth noting that 34.7% of the MX domain resolutions could not be attributed to any provider due to WHOIS record redaction or nonidentification.

Data sources: [Bulk WHOIS Lookup](#), [DNS Database Download](#)

TOP 10 MX DOMAIN REGISTRANT ORGANIZATIONS





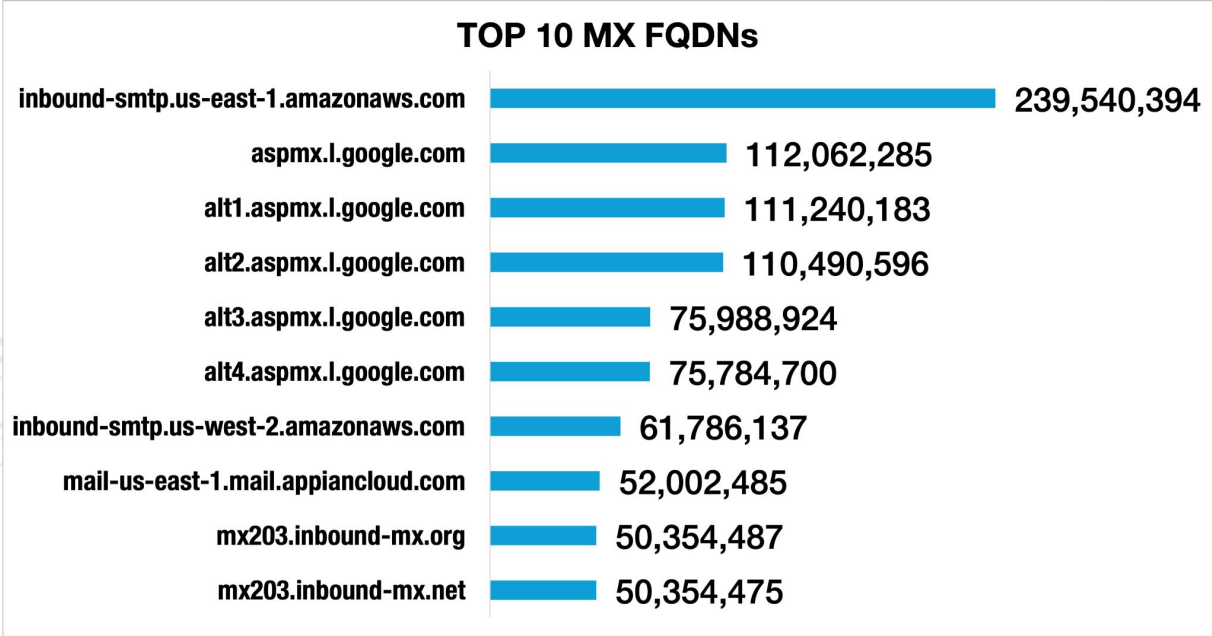
DNS Activity: Most Popular MX FQDNs

We also took a closer look at 1.6+ billion MX domain records to determine the top 100 MX FQDNs.

This data was collected from a passive DNS database file for June 2025 and includes MX records from the past 365 days.

The top 10 MX FQDNs accounted for 56.0% of the top 100. And the topnotcher was inbound-smtp[.]us-east-1[.]amazonaws[.]com.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)





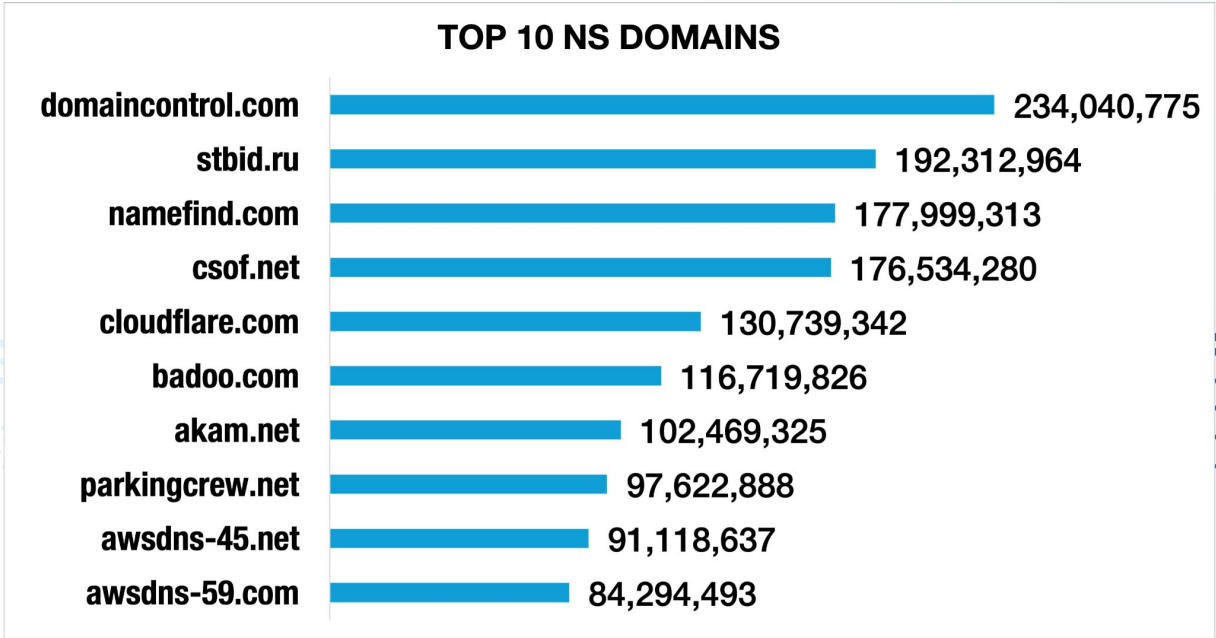
DNS Activity: Most Popular Name Servers

Next, we dove into the top 100 NS domains, which represented the exact NS values that appeared in 3.8+ billion NS records.

This data was collected from a passive DNS database file for June 2025 and includes NS records from the past 365 days.

The top 10 NS domains accounted for 36.9% of the top 100.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)



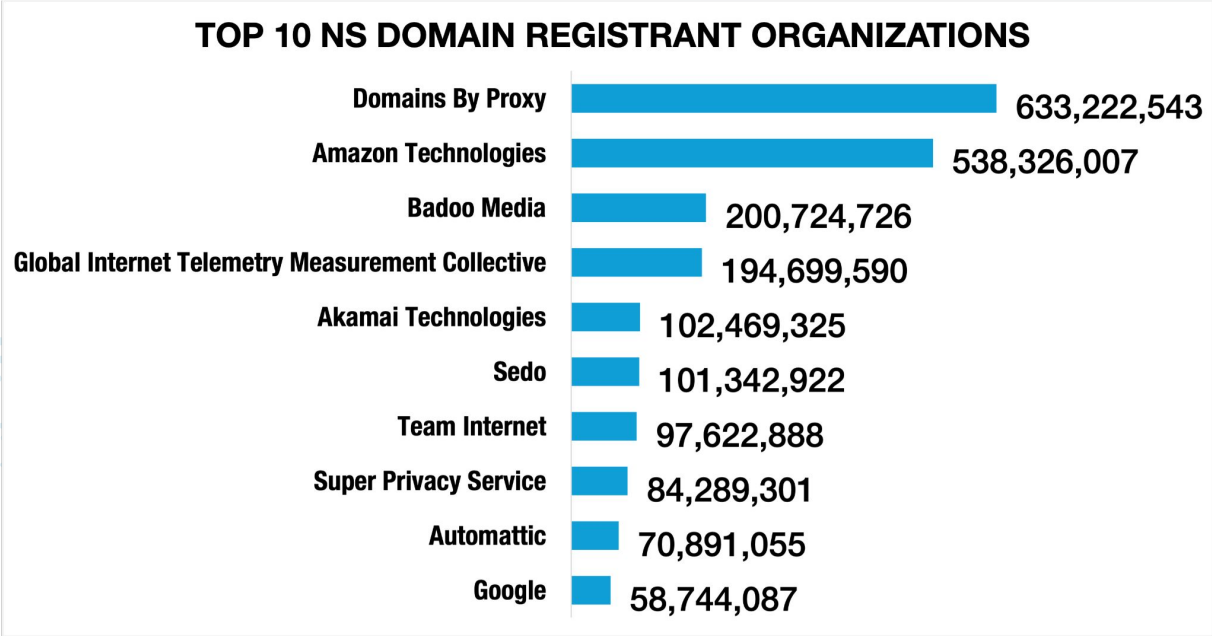


DNS Activity: Top Name Server Providers

A bulk WHOIS lookup for the top 100 NS domains showed that Domains By Proxy was the top registrant organization. The company accounted for 16.6% of the total NS domain resolution volume.

Note, however, that 37.3% of the NS domain resolutions could not be attributed to any provider since their WHOIS records have either been redacted or left blank.

Data sources: [Bulk WHOIS Lookup](#), [DNS Database Download](#)





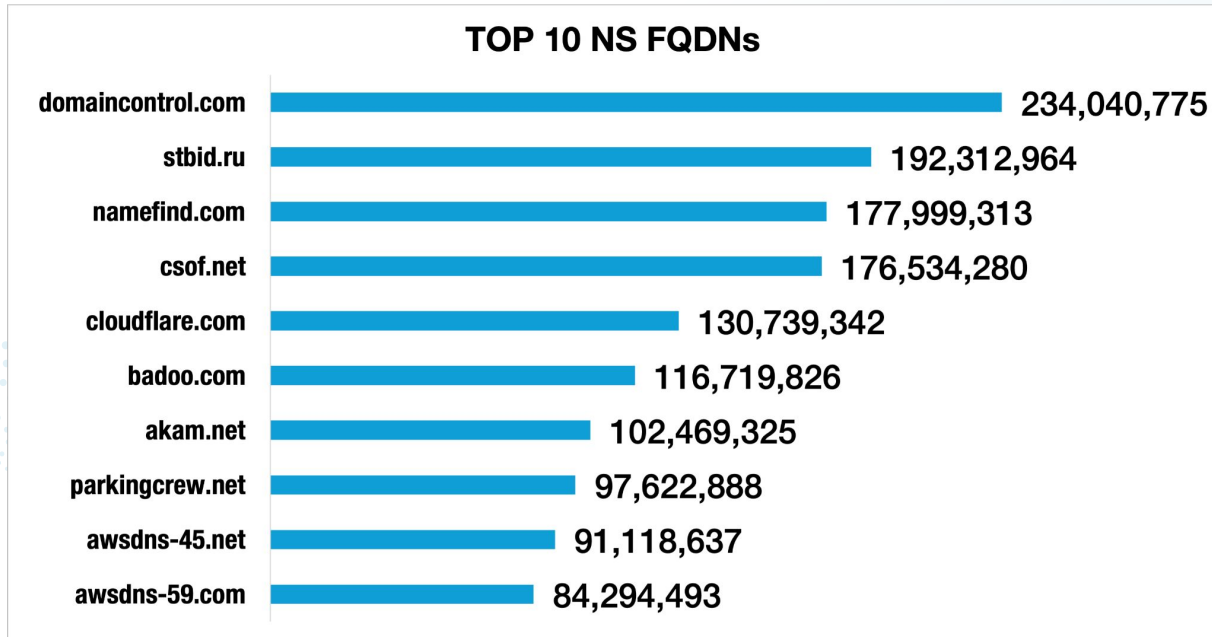
DNS Activity: Most Popular NS FQDNs

We also scrutinized 3.8+ billion NS domain records to determine the top 100 NS FQDNs.

This data was collected from a passive DNS database file for June 2025 and includes NS records from the past 365 days.

The top 10 NS FQDNs accounted for 36.9% of the top 100 and they were led by domaincontrol[.]com.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)



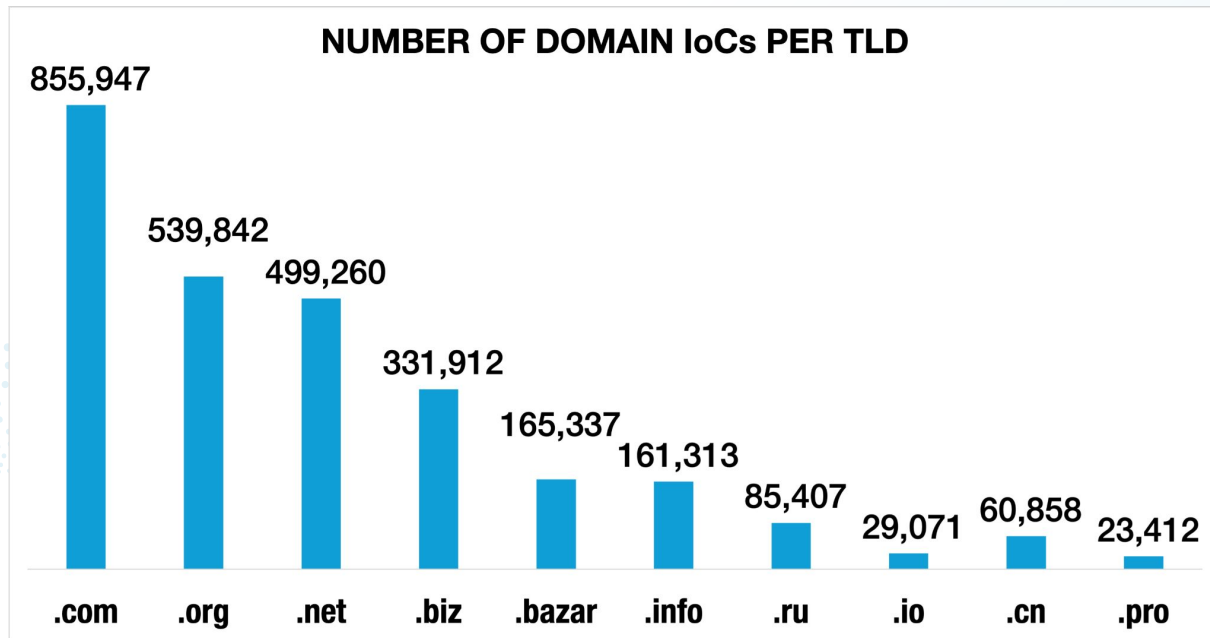


Decoding the Malicious Domain TLD Usage Trends

Finally, we analyzed 3.9+ million domains tagged as IoCs for various cyber threats in Q2 2025.

A bigger proportion of the top domain IoC TLDs was made up of gTLDs. In particular, .com was the most prevalent gTLD extension as usual. The most popular ccTLD extension, meanwhile, was .ru, as in Q1 2025.

Data source: [Threat Intelligence Data Feeds](#)





Analyzing the Malicious gTLD Domains

The domains tagged as IoCs in Q2 used several gTLD extensions. The gTLDs .com, .org, .net, .biz, .bazar, .info, and .pro, in fact, made it to the top 10 TLD list of malicious domains. As usual, their popularity in terms of general usage patterns likely influenced their employment in malicious campaigns.

Take .com, for instance. It consistently topped the list of most used gTLD extensions for NRDs and domain IoCs alike. Others also made it to the top lists for both, namely, .org, .net, and .info. Interestingly, however, while .biz, .bazar, and .pro were on the IoC list, they were not on the NRD list.

Data source: [Threat Intelligence Data Feeds](#)

Description	.com	.org	.net	.biz	.bazar	.info	.pro
New malicious domains listed in Q2	855,947	539,842	499,260	331,912	165,337	161,313	23,412
New domains added in Q2	10,131,364	654,200	617,424	Not on the list	Not on the list	495,095	Not on the list



Analyzing the Malicious ccTLD Domains

While the most used ccTLDs among the domains tagged as IoCs in Q2 2025 remained the same as in the previous quarter, none of them appeared in the top list for NRDs. The extension .ru remained in the top spot, followed by .cn and .io. Interestingly, though, only .cn was on the top NRD list.

Data source: [Threat Intelligence Data Feeds](#)

Description	.ru	.cn	.io
New malicious domains listed in Q2	85,407	60,858	29,071
New domains added in Q2	Not on the list	595,890	Not on the list

Q2 2025 Wrap-Up

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Wrap-Up

The Q2 2025 Global Domain Activity Report provides critical insights into domain registration patterns, DNS MX and NS activity trends, and the TLD usage of malicious domains.

Analyzing these patterns can reveal the preferences and behaviors of legitimate and malicious entities alike, enabling organizations to make data-driven decisions and security teams to stay ahead of ever-evolving threats.

Our market-leading domain, IP, DNS, and cyber threat intelligence sources enable us to provide these deep insights. We're actively seeking partnerships within the cybersecurity community to share this intelligence and collaborate on developing innovative solutions to combat cyber threats.

[Get in touch with us](#) to access the data behind this report and discuss collaboration opportunities.



About WhoisXML API

WhoisXML API empowers all types of cybersecurity enterprises, including MSSPs, SOC's, Fortune 1000 organizations, government agencies, and SMBs with digital footprints. We relentlessly collect, process, and deliver the most comprehensive and readily available domain, IP, and DNS intelligence there is on the market.

To explore how our data can fortify your digital capabilities, [visit our website](#) or [contact our sales team](#).



50 billion+

domains and subdomains

23.8 billion+

WHOIS records

116 billion+

DNS records

15+

years of data crawling



WhoisXMLAPI

The Who Behind Domain, IP & Cyber Threat Intelligence

For more information about WhoisXML API and our DNS, IP, and WHOIS intelligence products, please [contact our sales team](#).