



Global Domain Activity Report

Q3 2025



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 Q3 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

In Q3 2025, we identified 25.7+ million new domain registrations, down from 26.0+ million in Q2 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 3.2+ million domains tagged as IoCs during the quarter, down from 3.9+ million, 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 Q3 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 September 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 July and 30 September 2025.

Q3 2025 Findings

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Newly Registered Domains by TLD Type

The new domain registrations decreased from 26.0+ million in Q2 to 25.7+ million in Q3. The number of NRDs sporting gTLDs, however, increased by 1.9% while those sporting ccTLDs decreased by 13.3%.

As in previous quarters, the number of gTLD registrations was significantly higher than the ccTLD registrations in Q3. The number of gTLD registrations was, in fact, 4.6 times higher. Overall, the average daily registration volume also fell from 286,387 in Q2 to 279,908 in Q3.

TLD Type	July	August	September	Q3 2025 Total	Q2 2025 Total
gTLD	6,703,171	7,160,224	7,280,572	21,143,967	20,746,964
ccTLD	1,680,114	1,421,622	1,505,868	4,607,604	5,314,239
TOTAL	8,383,285	8,581,846	8,786,440	25,751,571	26,061,203



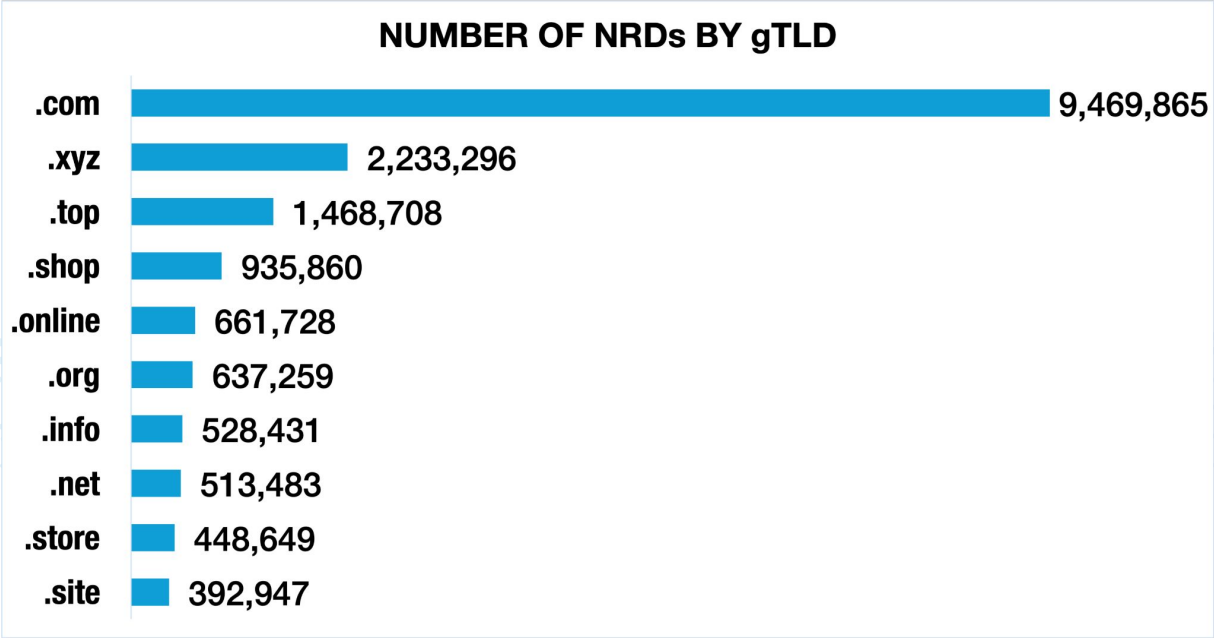
New Domain Activity: gTLD Trends

The volume of NRDs under the .com gTLD in Q3 2025 remained significantly higher compared with other extensions at 10.4+ 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 .xyz, .top, .shop, .online, .org, .net, .info, and .store.

Data source: [Newly Registered Domains](#)



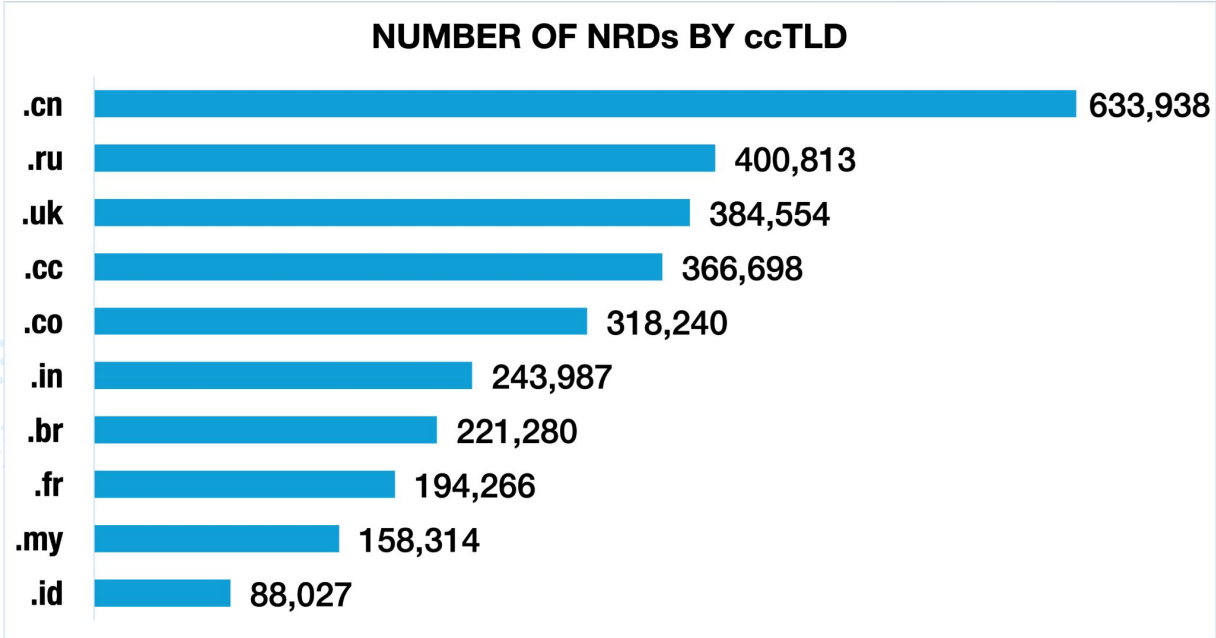


New Domain Activity: ccTLD Trends

The ccTLD extension .cn (China) continued to reign supreme from last quarter. The .ru (Russia), .uk (U.K.), .cc (Cocos [Keeling] Islands), and .co (Colombia) extensions rounded out the top 5.

The other ccTLDs with high new domain registration numbers were .in (India), .br (Brazil), .fr (France), .my (Malaysia), and .id (Indonesia).

Data source: [Newly Registered Domains](#)





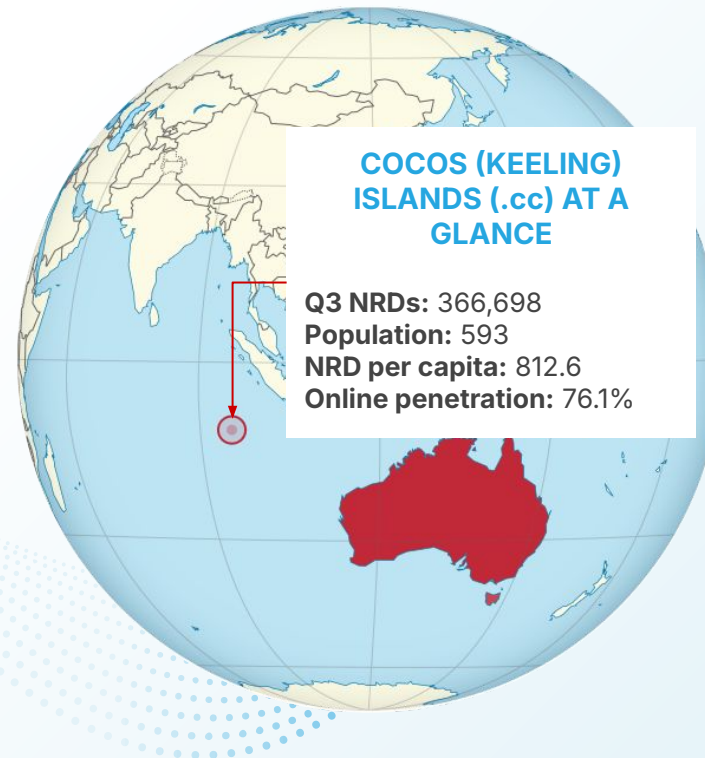
.cc Still NRD Volume-to-Population Size-Incongruent

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 an entire year 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 Q3 2025, it had 366,698 new domains, even higher than 262,468 in Q2, despite having only [593 residents](#).

In addition, .cc was number 4, accounting for an 8.0% share of the total number of new domain registrations sporting ccTLDs. That gave the country an NRD per capita of 812.6 considering an online penetration rate of [76.1%](#).

Data source: [Newly Registered Domains](#)



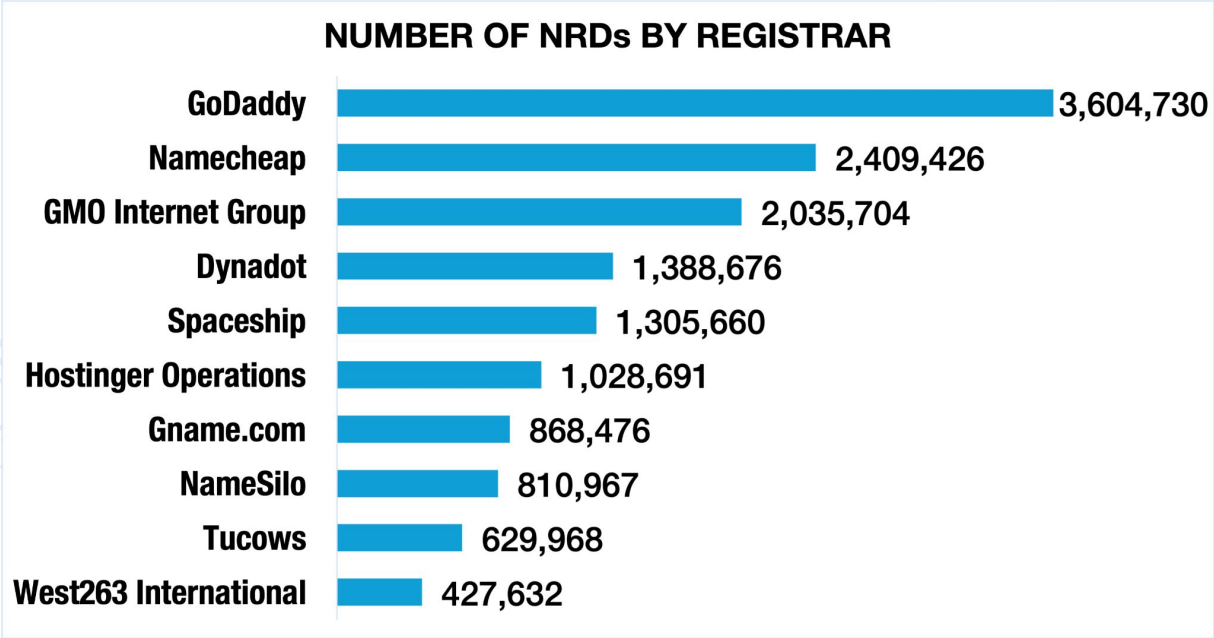


New Domain Activity: Most Popular Registrars

As in previous quarters, GoDaddy continued to be the most popular registrar in Q3 with a 14.0% share of the total number of NRDs. Namecheap, GMO Internet Group, Dynadot, Spaceship, Hostinger Operations, Gname.com, NameSilo, Tucows, and West263 International rounded out the top 10.

In sum, these 10 registrars accounted for 56.3% of the total Q3 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 2.1+ billion MX records.

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

The top 10 MX domains accounted for 64.6% of the top 100.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)

TOP 10 MX DOMAINS

google.com	541,834,661
amazonaws.com	345,453,782
googlemail.com	98,331,502
inbound-mx.org	62,770,315
inbound-mx.net	62,770,260
h-email.net	58,517,795
registrar-servers.com	56,832,252
outlook.com	54,094,329
appiancloud.com	52,749,997
secureserver.net	50,559,976



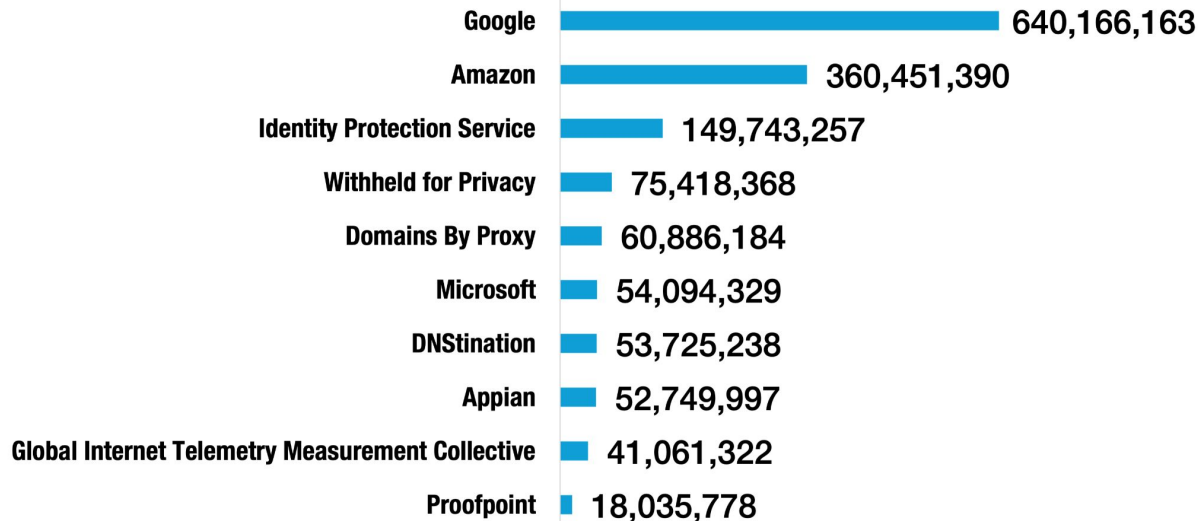
DNS Activity: Top Mail Server Providers

A bulk WHOIS lookup for the top 100 MX domains revealed that Google regained the registrant organization top spot. The company accounted for 29.9% of the total MX domain resolution volume.

It's also worth noting that 26.0% 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 1.8+ billion MX domain records to determine the top 100 MX FQDNs.

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

The top 10 MX FQDNs accounted for 54.5% of the top 100. And the topnotcher was inbound-smtp[.]us-east-1[.]amazonaws[.]com.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)

TOP 10 MX FQDNs

inbound-smtp.us-east-1.amazonaws.com	266,439,620
aspmx.l.google.com	114,822,501
alt1.aspmx.l.google.com	113,907,014
alt2.aspmx.l.google.com	113,086,088
inbound-smtp.us-west-2.amazonaws.com	78,573,991
alt3.aspmx.l.google.com	77,979,621
alt4.aspmx.l.google.com	77,775,957
mx203.inbound-mx.org	62,770,287
mx203.inbound-mx.net	62,770,260
mail.h-email.net	58,517,795



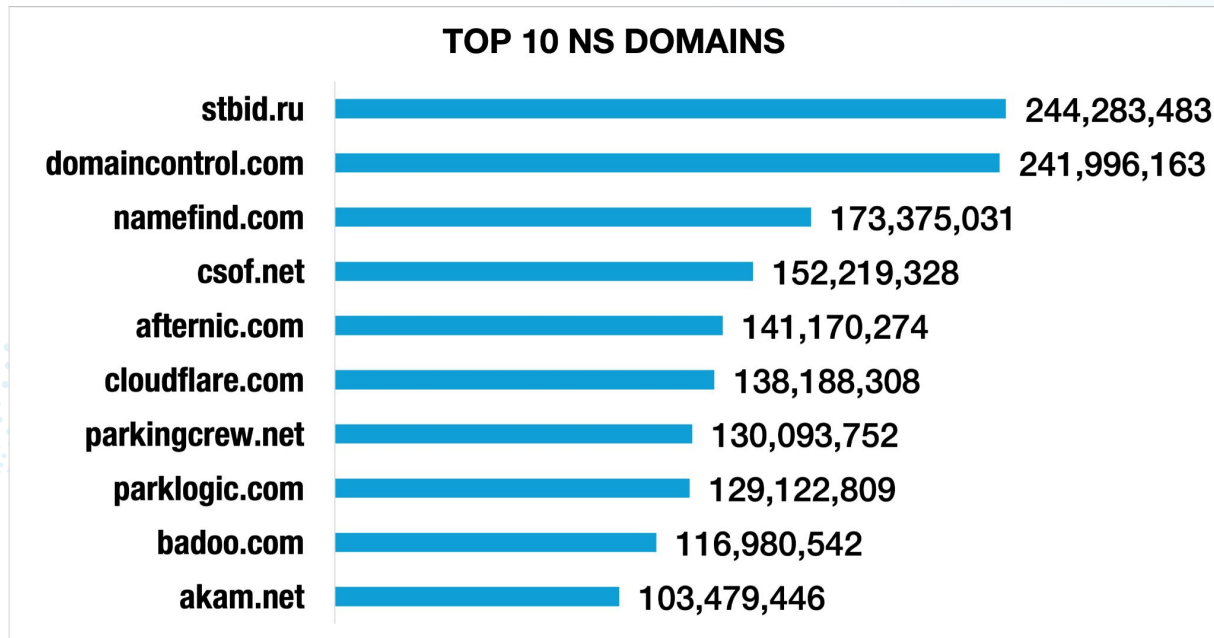
DNS Activity: Most Popular Name Servers

Next, we dove into the top 100 NS domains, which represented the exact NS values that appeared in 4.2+ billion NS records.

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

The top 10 NS domains accounted for 37.0% of the top 100.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)



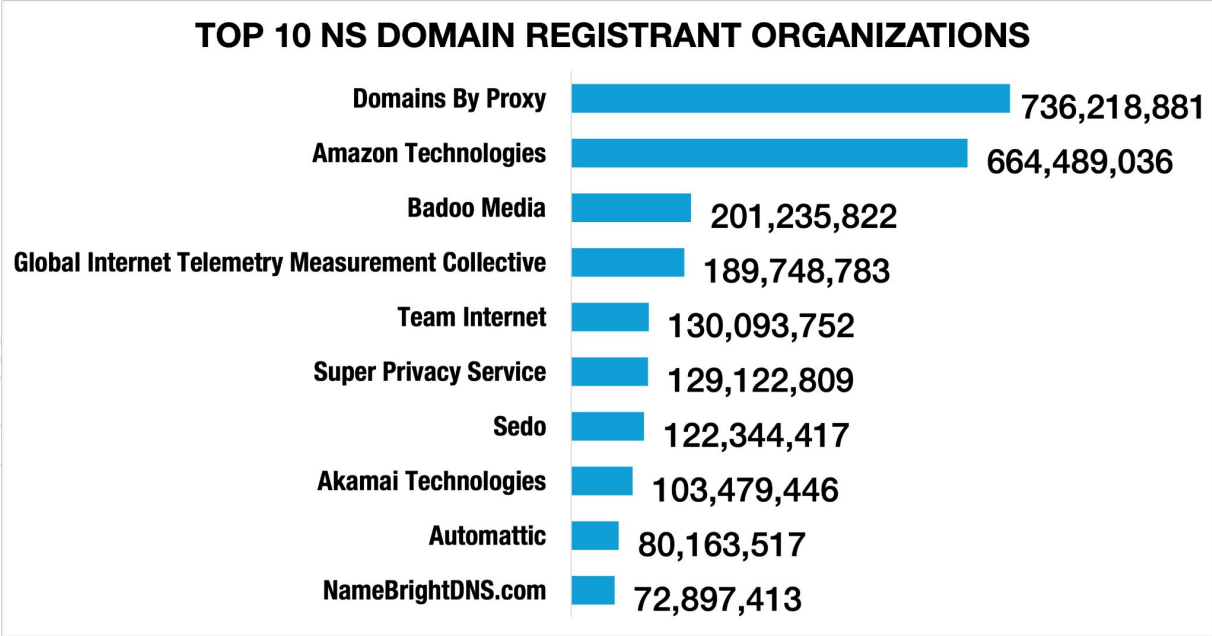


DNS Activity: Top Name Server Providers

A bulk WHOIS lookup for the top 100 NS domains showed that Domains By Proxy was the top registrant organization. The company accounted for 17.3% of the total NS domain resolution volume.

Note, however, that 36.0% 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 2.8+ billion NS domain records to determine the top 100 NS FQDNs.

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

The top 10 NS FQDNs accounted for 27.3% of the top 100 and they were led by ns1[.]namefind[.]com.

Data source: [DNS Database Download](#)

TOP 10 NS FQDNs

ns1.namefind.com	86,687,521
ns2.namefind.com	86,687,510
ns-476.awsdns-59.com	82,100,252
ns-1691.awsdns-19.co.uk	81,314,867
ns-879.awsdns-45.net	81,151,287
ns-1399.awsdns-46.org	81,065,078
ns0.stbid.ru	73,895,969
ns5.stbid.ru	73,895,969
ns1.parkingcrew.net	65,046,876
ns2.parkingcrew.net	65,046,876

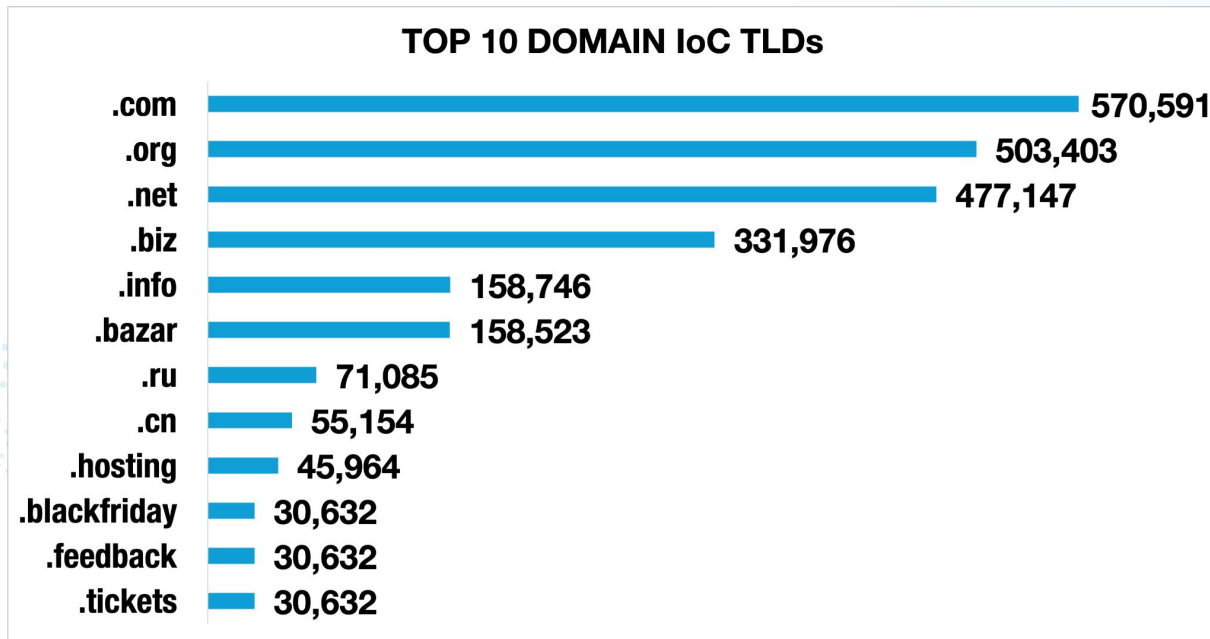


Decoding the Malicious Domain TLD Usage Trends

Finally, we analyzed 3.2+ million domains tagged as IoCs for various cyber threats in Q3 2025.

A bigger proportion of the top domain IoC TLDs was made up of gTLDs as usual. In particular, .com was the most prevalent gTLD extension again. The most popular ccTLD extension, meanwhile, was .ru as in Q1 and Q2 2025.

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





Analyzing the Malicious gTLD Domains

The domains tagged as IoCs in Q3 used several gTLD extensions. The gTLDs .com, .org, .net, .biz, .info, .bazar, .hosting, .blackfriday, .feedback, and .tickets, 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—.org, .net, and .info. Interestingly, however, while .biz, .bazar, .hosting, .blackfriday, .feedback, and .tickets were on the IoC list, they were not on the NRD list.

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

Description	.com	.org	.net	.biz	.info	.bazar	.hosting	.blackfriday	.feedback	.tickets
New malicious domains listed in Q3	855,947	539,842	499,260	331,912	165,337	161,313	29,071	23,412	21,087	20,577
New domains added in Q3	10,441,937	647,455	615,305	Not on the list	497,098	Not on the list	Not on the list	Not on the list	Not on the list	Not on the list



Analyzing the Malicious ccTLD Domains

The most used ccTLDs among the domains tagged as IoCs in Q3 2025 were .ru, .cn, and .su. The extension .ru retained its topnotcher status. The .io extension, however, was ousted by .su this quarter. Interestingly, though, only .cn was on both the top IoC and NRD lists.

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

Description	.ru	.cn	.su
New malicious domains listed in Q3	85,407	60,858	14,916
New domains added in Q3	Not on the list	635,198	Not on the list

Q3 2025 Wrap-Up

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Wrap-Up

The Q3 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

25.5 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](#).