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# Case study: Fight for your right in domain grabbing cases

AIJA Pre-Congress Seminar August 26, 2014 Prague

Jan Roliński, Pavel Savitsky, György Wellmann, Nis Dommergaard, Pascal Böhner

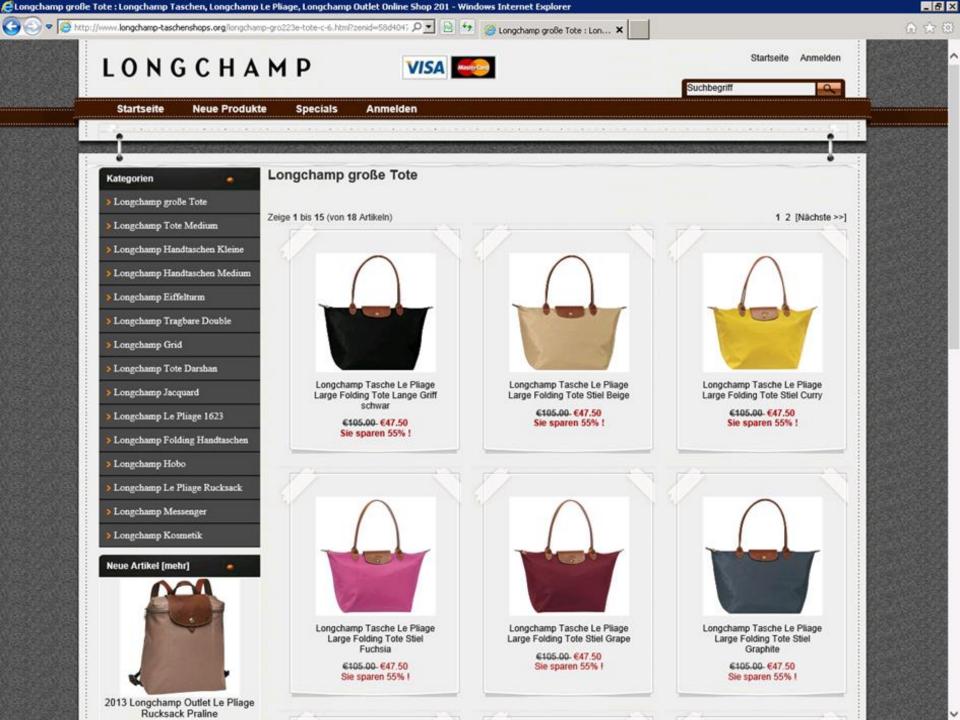
### Why talking about domains?

- Can you imagine a business without online presence?
- Each entity, branch, trademark or product (person) has its own "website" – and therefore needs its own domain name
- Domain names are at least as important as trademarks and company names, you can build up a whole business just on a domain name
- What about your firms, companies, profiles?
- New focus: Top-Level-Domains



# **Case study**







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AlJA is the only global association devoted to lawyers and in-house counsel aged 45 and under. Through a wide range of meetings, seminars, law courses and advocacy, AlJA promotes professional cooperation and friendship among young career-building legal professionals on an international stage.



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### **Case study**

- aija.org
- What about other "aija" domain names?
  - Available:

.fr	.uk	.lu	.sk	.pl
.academy	.attorney	.associates	.brussels	.camp
.club	.community	.education	.events	.institute
.lawyer	.london	.moscow	.press	.sexy

# Case study

- What about other "aija" domain names?
  - Taken:

.com	.net	.org	.info	.biz
.cn	.com.cn	.ru	.eu	.cz
.de	.dk	.nl	.se	.tk

What will happen to all these AIJA domains ???





## The dark side of domain registration

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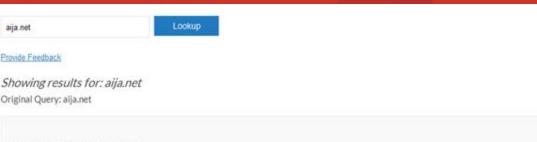
Speaker

György Wellmann

Szecskay Attorneys at Law Budapest



### "It Only Happens to Others." No, it does not!



#### Contact Information

#### Registrant Contact

Name: Domain Hostmaster, Customer ID 60520655806409

Organization: Whois Privacy Services Pty Ltd Mailing Address: PO Box 923, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 AU

Phone: +61.730070090

Ext: N/A

Fax: +61.730070091

Fax Ext: N/A

Email: 60520655806409-

aa6dc0@whoisprivacyservices.com.au

#### Admin Contact

Name: Domain Hostmaster, Customer ID : 60520655806409

Organization: Whois Privacy Services Pty Ltd Mailing Address: PO Box 923, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 AU

Phone: +61.730070090

Ext: N/A

Fax: +61.730070091

Fax Ext: N/A

Email: 60520655806409-

aa6dc0@whoisprivacyservices.com.au

#### Tech Contact

Name: Domain Hostmaster, Customer ID 60520655806409

Organization: Whois Privacy Services Pty Ltd Mailing Address: PO Box 923, Fortitude Valley

QLD 4005 AU Phone: +61.730070090

Phone. +61./300/00

Ext: N/A

Fax: +61.730070091 Fax: Ext: N/A

F BA LAL TRIP

Email: 60520655806409-

aa6dc0@whoisprivacyservices.com.au

#### Contact Information

Showing results for: AIJA.INFO

#### Registrant Contact

Original Query: aija.info

Name: Marcus Hornig Organization:

Mailing Address: Rollberg 34,

Wedel 22880 DE

Phone: +49.1795184320

Ext: Fax:

alja,info

Provide Feedback

Pax.

Fax Ext.

Email:marcushornig@aol.com

#### Admin Contact

Name: Marcus Hornig

Organization: Mailing Address: Rollberg 34,

Lookup

Wedel 22880 DE

Phone: +49.1795184320

Ext

Fax:

Fax Ext

Email:marcushomig@aol.com

#### Tech Contact

Name: Hostmaster EINSUNDEINS Organization: 1&1 Internet AG Mailing Address: Brauerstr. 48.

Karlsruhe 76135 DE

Phone: +49.7219600

Ext:

Fax: +49.72191374248

Fax Ext:

Email:hostmaster@1und1.de



Original Query; aija.biz

#### Contact Information

#### Registrant Contact

Name: Domain Admin Organization: PrivacyProtect.org Mailing Address: ID#10760, PO Box 16, Nobby Beach Queensland QLD 4218 Australia

Phone: Ext: Fax:

Fax Ext: Email: contact@privacyprotect.org Admin Contact

Name: Domain Admin Organization: PrivacyProtect.org Mailing Address: ID#10760, PO

Box 16 / Note - Visit PrivacyProtect.org to contact the domain owner/operator, Nobby Beach Queensland QLD 4218 Australia

Phone: +45.36946676

 Ext:
 Ext:

 Fax:
 Fax:

 Fax Ext:
 Fax Ext:

Email: contact@privacyprotect.org

.

WHOIS Server: URL:

Registrar

Registrar: PDR LTD, D/B/A PUBLICDOMAINREGISTRY.COM Status

Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited

Australia

Tech Contact

Name: Domain Admin

Box 16 / Note - Visit

Phone: +45,36946676

Organization: PrivacyProtect.org

Mailing Address: ID#10760, PO

PrivacyProtect.org to contact the

Email: contact@privacyprotect.org

domain owner/operator, Nobby

Beach Queensland QLD 4218

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#### WHOIS search

#### aija.eu: Not available for registration

If you believe you have the right to a .eu domain name that is already registered, you may dispute the registration.

For privacy reasons, the registration data of private persons is not fully disclosed. You may request this data under strict conditions by completing a <u>personal data disclosure form</u>.

If you believe the registrant data for this .eu domain name is inaccurate, you may file a complaint.

If you wish to transfer this domain name, you will require a <u>transfer authorisation code</u>. If you are unable to obtain the authorisation code from your registrar or via the <u>.eu End-user Extranet</u>, you may request an emergency authorisation code.

#### Domain

ne sija

Status REGISTERED (<u>(\(\)\)hat this means</u>)

 Registered
 June 7, 2006

 Explry Date
 June 30, 2015

 Last update
 January 30, 2012, 12:11 pm

#### Registrant

Language Dutch

Email info@pmolk.com

#### Technical

ome R.L.M. Broekman

Organisation BIDGem Internet Services

Language D

Oranjesingel 76
Address 6511 NZ Nijmegen

Netherlands +31 243605040

Phone +31.243605040 Fax +31.243605030

Email info@blixem.nl

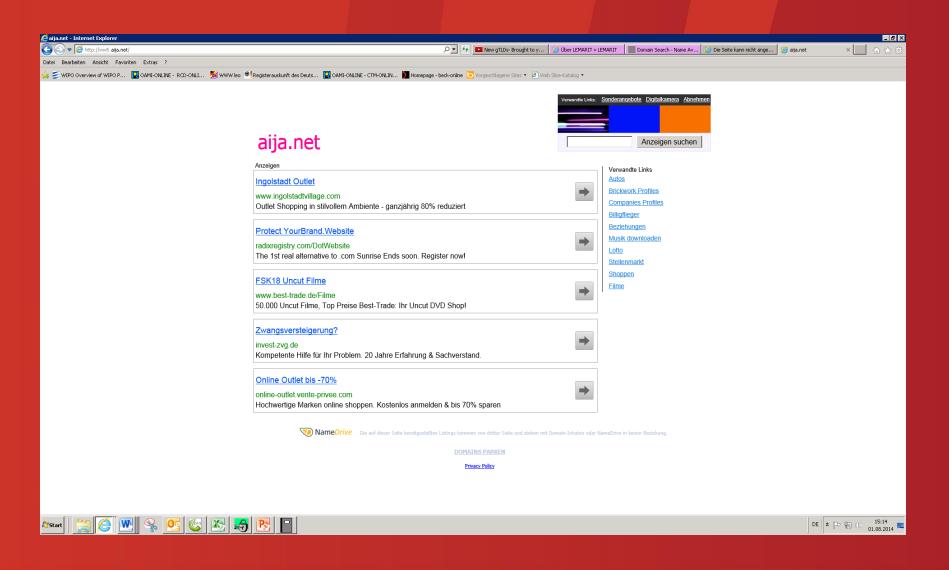
#### Registrar

Organisation BIDGem Internet Services
Website www.blikem.nl

#### Name servers

- dns4.blixem.nl
- dns5.blkem.nl







### What can typically go wrong?

- Plans of bad guys
- Criticism sites such as
  - bridgestone-firestone.net;
  - wal-martsucks.com;
  - airfrancesucks.com.
- Parking page with links to landing pages and pay per click advertisements (such as aija.net at the moment)
- Passive holding (such as aija.biz at the moment)
- Operation of an exclusive web site/shop
- Competitor gets an unfair competitive advantage due to misdirected inquiries and messages



# Why should bad guys register? - evidence of bad faith registration

- Domain name was registered after the trademark was registered
- Registration of multiple domain names which are similar to the trademark
- Willful Blindness registration through automated processes
- Evidence of offers to sell the domain name
- Presence of automatically generated advertisement links
- Use of privacy or proxy registration services



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### **The UDRP System**

Speakers

Nis Dommergaard, Bech-Bruun, Aarhus

Jan Roliński, WKB Wierciński, Kwiecińsky, Baehr, Warsaw



- Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP)
- A domain name dispute resolution service offered by WIPO
- Covers gTLD's and +65 ccTLD's
- An alternative to litigation (fast, cheap and efficient)



- Give the possibility to have a domain name
  - Cancelled
  - Transferred
- The domain is non-transferable during the proceedings
- Proceedings are initiated by sending a complaint to WIPO
- Cases are decided by 1 or 3 panelist



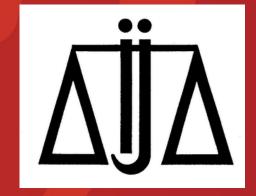
- Conditions for winning a UDRP case
- 1. The domain name must be identical or confusingly similar to the complainant's trademark.
- 2. No legitimate interest in the domain name
- 3. The domain name must be registered and used in bad faith



- What happens if the complainant is successful?
- The domain name is either transferred or cancelled
- The registrant may bring the decision before the ordinary courts
- Our recommendation?

1. Identical or confusingly similar to AIJA's trademark













2. Right or legitimate interest?





#### 3. Registered and used in bad faith?

### aija.com registry whois

Domain Name: AIJA.COM

Registrar: XIAMEN CHINASOURCE INTERNET SERVICE CO., LTD.

Whois Server: whois.cnolnic.com Referral URL: http://www.zzy.cn

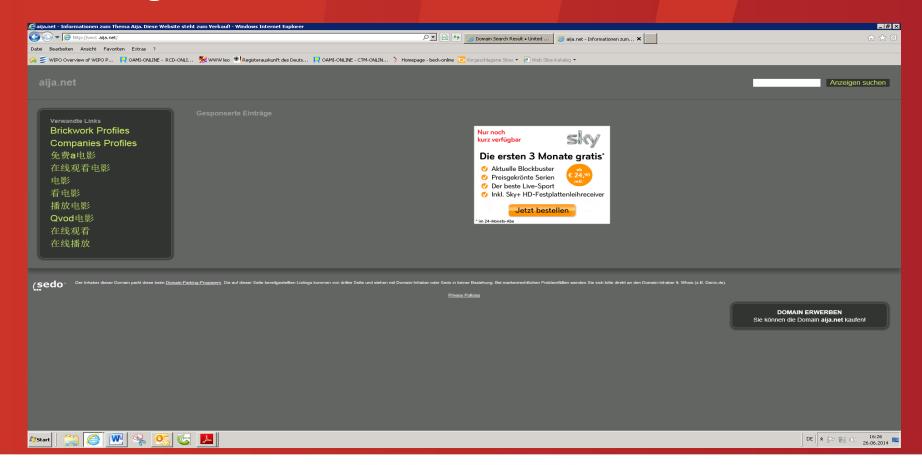
Name Server: NS1.CNOLNIC.COM Name Server: NS2.CNOLNIC.COM

Status: clientTransferProhibited

Updated Date: 16-jul-2014 Creation Date: 27-nov-1997 Expiration Date: 26-nov-2017



Registered <u>and</u> used in bad faith?







#### **Grim Business with ccTLDs**

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Speaker

Pavel Savitsky

Attorneys at Law Borenius (Russia)
St. Petersburg



### A nightmare or a lawyer's lucky ticket?

- Dispute resolution variations:
  - Modified UDRP: UK (.UK), Netherlands (.NL), Spain (.SP), Italy (.IT) ...
  - Independently developed policies: EU (.EU), France (.FR), Poland (.PL)
  - No ADR or mediation: Germany (.DE), Russia (.RU), USA (.US) ...
- How would it work in Russia (.RU, .PΦ the Russia's IDN):
  - No ADR, only voluntary consent for alternative dispute resolution
  - Established court practice for typical scenarios
  - Specific legal tools to take down domains
  - Crafty ways to preserve domains

# AIJA.RU, AIJA.РФ, АИЖА.РФ, АЙИЖА.АФ...

- No UDRP and no ADR for .RU or .PΦ domain name cases:
  - <u>Solution</u>: Litigation. Russian courts love trademark owners. More expensive than ADR but still much cheaper and quicker (3-6 months per one instance) than litigation in some other jurisdictions.
- Domain name owner's details often are missing from WHOIS data.
   Solution: Send advocate request or sue the registrar.
- Natural persons residing in rural areas have to be sued where they reside.
   Solution: File a company name or a trademark infringement suit or sue the registrar, such cases will be heard by commercial courts.
- Courts do not recognize website print-outs and only accept documents in Russian.
  - **Solution:** notarize the print-outs and obtain notarized translations.



### What can happen

- Local office, partner or ex-partner AIJA-RUSSIA.RU
- Hate or free speech web-site HATE-AIJA.RU
- No website, a "my pet" website, or a site for business not covered by AIJA's TMs

**Solution:** Trademark infringement lawsuit. Good-faith use often may also be trademark infringement.

 AIJA has no trademark, or the domain is clearly NOT covered by the TM

<u>Solution</u>: Company name or commercial designation infringement, or an unfair competition claim.

• Typosquatting, spelling variations, reverse translations: AJIA.RU, AIDZJA.RU, AIYA.RU, AИЯ.РФ, МАМЮ.РФ, MAMY.RU, IAYL.RU ...

**Solution:** Obtain professional opinions of language experts.





#### **Domain disputes concerning ccTLDs**

Speakers

Nis Dommergaard, Bech-Bruun, Aarhus

Jan Roliński, WKB Wierciński, Kwiecińsky, Baehr, Warsaw

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### Domain disputes concerning ccTLDs

- most ccTLDs not covered by UDRP
- different dispute resolution methods
- arbitration (.pl)
- litigation (.de)
- alternative dispute resolution (.eu)



.pl

- Arbitration
- "Almost mandatory" for the respondent
- No automatic transfer or cancellation
- Litigation also an option
- Infringement of third party rights



### aija.pl

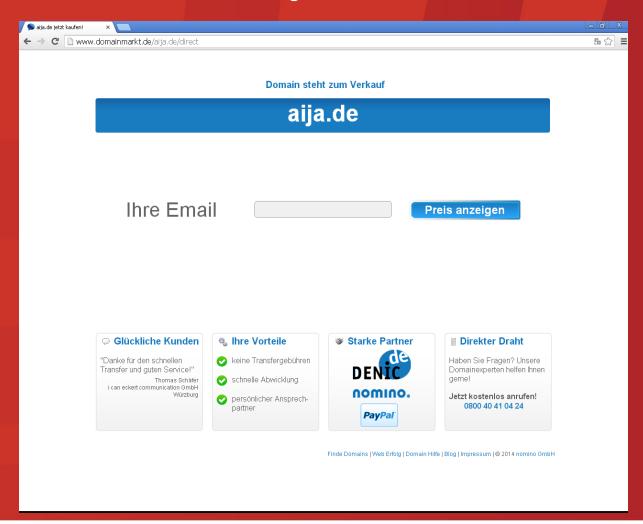
- Currently not registered
- But if it were...
- Evidence that:
  - registration infringes on AlJA's rights
  - respondent does not have a right or an interest in the domain name
  - Always helpful: respondent acts in bad faith



.de

- Litigation (common court)
- Infringement of third party rights
- "dispute" entry
- Injunction claims
- Transfer or cancellation only in exceptional cases

## aija.de





### aija.de

#### Domain Query - Results

#### Domain data

Domain aija.de Latest update 18.04.2014

#### Domain holder

The domain holder is DENIC's contractual partner and hence holds the material rights to the domain.

Domain holder: Jiri Prochazka

Organisation: Ondracek Vaclavik Skynet A.S.

Address: 4 Metallurgov street

Postal code: 622023

City: Nizhny Tagil

Country: RU

Phone: +7 3435 787 21 12
Fax: +7 3435 787 21 12
E-mail: ovskynet@gmail.com

#### Administrative contact

The administrative contact (admin-c) is the natural person appointed by the domain holder to act as his/her authorized representative and who also has the duty towards DENIC of taking binding decisions in all matters concerning the domain aija.de.

Name: Frank Mueller

Address: Kaiserswerther Str. 115

Postal code: 40880

City: Ratingen

Country: DE

E-mail: frankmuellerprivat@yahoo.de



#### .eu

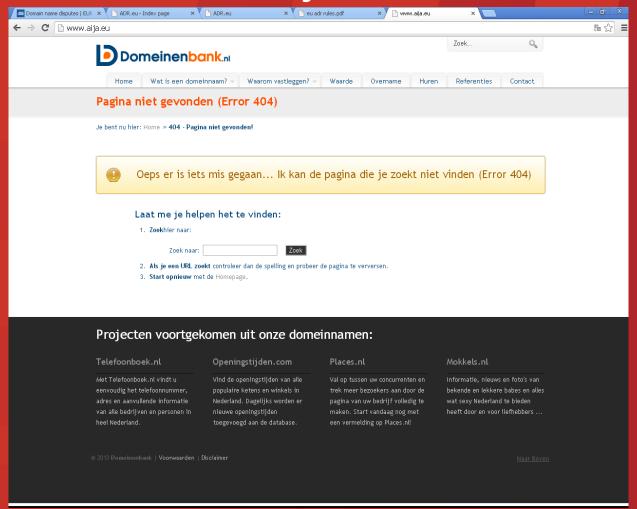
- ADR procedure very similar to UDRP
- Transfer or cancellation
- The decision can be appealed to a common court
- But only within a month of issuing the decision
- The Czech Arbitration Court
- Litigation also an option



#### .eu

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 874/2004
- Conditions for finding of speculative or abusive registration
- domain name identical or confusingly similar to a name in respect of which a right is recognised or established by national and/or Community law, and:
  - registered by its holder without rights or legitimate interest in the name; or
  - registered <u>or</u> is being used in bad faith.

### aija.eu





### aija.eu

- Currently registered by a Dutch person
- For AIJA to successfully challenge such a registration:
  - It is identical to AlJA's trademark and designation
  - Does the current holder have rights or legitimate interest in the name?
  - Did the current holder register the domain name or is using it in bad faith?

# Thank you for your attention

