SPAMHAUS

# Spamhaus Domain Reputation Update

## October 2025 – March 2026

Spamhaus, the independent leader in IP and domain reputation, reviews the domain name ecosphere. From the number of newly registered domains to the domain abuse our researchers are observing, this update highlights trends and provides insights into the poor reputation of domains, and champions providers where positive improvements are seen.

**Welcome to the Spamhaus Domain Reputation Update.**

Enter

# Contents

# The Spotlight

## ICANN proposes required checks on “associated domains”

**A new policy against DNS abuse**

In January 2026, ICANN gNSO announced a new initiative, “DNS Abuse Mitigation: PDP 1 on Associated Domain Checks”, under which registrars would be required to identify and review “associated domains” as part of their response to DNS abuse. This means that when a single domain is identified as malicious, registrars must investigate and check other domains associated with the same registrant, account, infrastructure, or behaviour.

**What’s the objective here?**

A theme we see in every Domain Reputation Update is the use of bulk registered, disposable domains, enabling threat actors to burn through domains as individual ones are detected and taken down.

By requiring registrars to check related domains, ICANN’s objective is to disrupt this disposable lifecycle, by limiting the ability to quickly pivot and restore their infrastructure.

Spotlight continued

Spotlight cont.

**Breaking the chain**

This initiative represents another step towards a proactive approach to tackling domain abuse at scale, instead of reacting to single domain takedowns. If implemented effectively, it has the potential to significantly weaken campaigns that rely on large domain portfolios spread across multiple top-level domains (TLDs).

In this report, there is clear evidence of threat actors actively rotating between TLDs, high churn in domains, and abuse concentrated at specific registries. For three consecutive reports, .bond, operated by Shortdot SA, continues to display patterns of high churn, with new domain registrations (1.13 million) almost equal to its total zone count (1.15 million).

By requiring registrars that currently enable this behaviour, to check all associated domains, this policy would help address the following practices by:

- Limiting the ability to move between TLDs and avoid detection
- Disrupting campaigns utilizing a large number of domains
- Making it harder for threat actors to use bulk registrations to deploy abuse

Spotlight continued

## Spotlight cont.

**This is a good thing!**

Spamhaus fully supports these policy developments. While most leading registrars already perform checks on associated domains when responding to abuse, introducing these changes will help raise the bar across the industry.

However, this will not be without challenges. Defining what qualifies as an “associated domain” will not be straightforward. An associated domain could be one of many things: it may belong to the same registrant or account, be paid for with the same credit card, or be hosted on the same infrastructure. Some checks will be more difficult to complete than others. For example, a bulk registrar operating under a reseller model. In this scenario, the registrar is responsible but does not have a direct customer relationship meaning it has access to very little information.

Additionally, registrars will need to be able to demonstrate that appropriate checks have been completed in a way that meets ICANN compliance requirements.

Nevertheless, we welcome this policy and its proactive and effective approach to mitigating DNS abuse.

New domains | Number of new...

# New domains

## New domains overview

Over the past six months, approximately 46.9 million new domains were registered, a +7.6% increase compared with the previous six months. The monthly average increased to 7.8 million domains, but growth was less significant than between April - September 2025 (+11.48%).

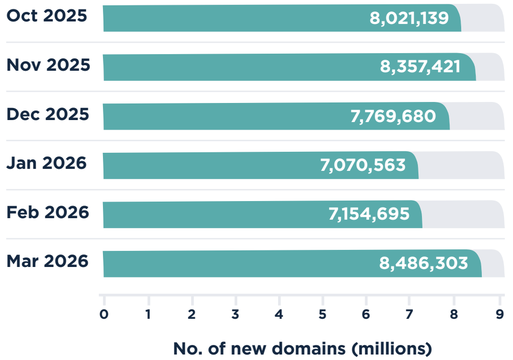
There was a seasonal dip between December–February, followed by a strong rebound in March, recording the highest monthly volume of domains, with over 8.4 million new domains registered.

It is important to note that a new domain is not a bad domain per se. However, a considerable amount of abuse is associated with new domain names.

One reason is that if a bad actor buys a new domain and uses it immediately, there is minimal chance of security systems & professionals having prior knowledge of this domain's existence. Unfortunately, its existence is only discovered once the malicious campaign starts. Furthermore, by using new domains, bad actors prevent registries and registrars from doing pre-emptive takedowns.

New domains | Number of new...

## Number of new domains per month




**Six Month Total**
46,859,801
▲ 7.63% ▲

**Monthly Average**
7,809,967
▲ 533,328 ▲

### What is a new domain?

Spamhaus classifies a "new domain" as one that has been newly registered or newly observed and lists them for a 24-hour period in its Zero Reputation Domain (ZRD) dataset. Newly created domains are rarely used for legitimate purposes within 24 hours of registration, meanwhile cybercriminals register and burn hundreds of domains daily. When these new domains are seen in the wild it is a strong indicator of potential malicious behavior.

The research team compiles this list from various data sources including Passive DNS, SMTP data and zone files shared by registries. The new domain data, therefore, is not the exact number of new domains, but the number of new domains Spamhaus has visibility of.

New domains... TLD types...

## New domains by top-level domain (TLD)

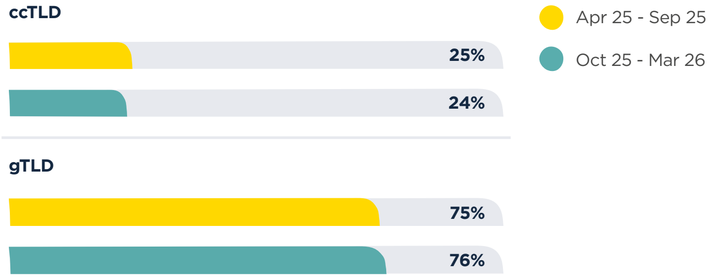
Over the last six months, gTLDs remain dominant (76%), with ccTLDs accounting for 24% of new TLD registrations. However, this reporting period growth appears less concentrated, shifting from a few dominant TLDs to a more fragmented landscape.

Among gTLDs, .bond (#6) increased by +375%. Meanwhile, .info (#5) grew by +79%, likely influenced by a sales promotion, and .app (#17) increased +46%, reflecting continued growth in app-based services. Other significant increases included .cyou (+35%) and .sbs (+24%), both well known as low-cost, high-volume gTLDs. In contrast, .top (#3) and .cfd (#19) saw new registrations drop by -27% and -15%, respectively.

There were two new entries in the Top 20 ccTLDs this period, .com.cn (second-level domain for China, #14), and .io (British Indian Ocean Territory, #18). .io is operated by the Internet Computer Bureau and is widely used as a gTLD in the technology start up sector.

TLD types...

### New domain TLD types - six month comparison




### Top-level domains – a quick explanation

There are a couple of different top-level domains (TLDs) including:

- **Generic TLDs (gTLDs)** - these are under ICANN jurisdiction. Some gTLDs are open i.e. can be used by anyone e.g., .com, some have strict policies regulating who and how they can be used e.g., .bank, and some are closed e.g., .honda.
- **Country code TLDs (ccTLDs)** - typically these relate to a country or region. Registries define the policies relating to these TLDs; some allow registrations from anywhere, some require local presence, and some license their namespace wholesale to others.

## New domains...

After a brief appearance, .es (Spain) dropped out of the Top 20 ccTLDs used in new domain registrations, joined by .us (United States). Meanwhile, .ai (Anguilla) continued its upward trend inline with the explosion of AI, climbing a further two positions to #10, joined by .fr (+27%), .in (+19%), and .pl (+20%).

.bond (#6) continues to display abnormal registration patterns, consistent with the Domain Reputation Update April - September 2025. It remains the #1 gTLD for percentage of newly observed domains against total zone size; new domain registrations (1.13 million) are almost equal to its total zone count (1.15 million).

A threshold of approximately 10–20% new domains is generally considered unusually high. In fact, three quarters of the top 20 exceed this threshold. This behavior suggests a large volume of domain churn, with domains being registered and cancelled quickly.

Registries including Afilias, Radix and Shortdot S.A all show this high-churn pattern, while larger operators such as Identity Digital and GoDaddy do not appear in the Top 20, despite managing more TLDs.

Top 20 TLDs... | Top 20 ccTLDs...

## Top 20 TLDs used in new domains

| Rank | New domain TLD | TLD type | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .com | gTLD | 14,306,314 | | 13,317,985 | ▲ 7% |
| 2 | .xyz | gTLD | 2,669,919 | | 2,568,825 | ▲ 4% |
| 3 | .top | gTLD | 2,038,137 | | 2,793,617 | ▼ -27% |
| 4 | .shop | gTLD | 1,650,665 | | 1,479,708 | ▲ 12% |
| 5 | .info | gTLD | 1,624,577 | | 906,640 | ▲ 79% |
| 6 | .bond | gTLD | 1,130,779 | | - | New entry |
| 7 | .online | gTLD | 1,116,916 | | 1,044,785 | ▲ 7% |
| 8 | .cn | ccTLD | 1,109,303 | | 1,042,402 | ▲ 6% |
| 9 | .org | gTLD | 1,069,625 | | 958,255 | ▲ 12% |
| 10 | .de | ccTLD | 801,018 | | 861,901 | ▼ -7% |
| 11 | .net | gTLD | 782,812 | | 720,128 | ▲ 9% |
| 12 | .sbs | gTLD | 744,244 | | 600,420 | ▲ 24% |
| 13 | .store | gTLD | 732,635 | | 761,187 | ▼ -4% |
| 14 | .cc | ccTLD | 658,778 | | 678,006 | ▼ -3% |
| 15 | .ru | ccTLD | 639,722 | | 590,687 | ▲ 8% |
| 16 | .site | gTLD | 639,273 | | 631,962 | ▲ 1% |
| 17 | .com.br | ccTLD | 591,556 | | 580,617 | ▲ 2% |
| 18 | .vip | gTLD | 545,417 | | 467,086 | ▲ 17% |
| 19 | .co.uk | ccTLD | 535,646 | | 462,636 | ▲ 16% |
| 20 | .fr | ccTLD | 386,242 | | - | New entry |

0 3 6 9 12 15

Top 20 TLDs... | Top 20 ccTLDs...

## Top 20 ccTLDs used in new domains

| Rank | New domain TLD | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
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| 1 | .cn | 1,109,303 | | 1,042,402 | ▲ 6% |
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| 4 | .ru | 639,722 | | 590,687 | ▲ 8% |
| 5 | .com.br | 591,556 | | 580,617 | ▲ 2% |
| 6 | .co.uk | 535,646 | | 462,636 | ▲ 16% |
| 7 | .fr | 386,242 | | 304,669 | ▲ 27% |
| 8 | .in | 380,747 | | 320,552 | ▲ 19% |
| 9 | .nl | 300,745 | | 317,392 | ▼ -5% |
| 10 | .ai | 290,901 | | 249,217 | ▲ 17% |
| 11 | .co | 288,868 | | 419,534 | ▼ -31% |
| 12 | .eu | 254,624 | | 231,682 | ▲ 10% |
| 13 | .ca | 252,201 | | 235,901 | ▲ 7% |
| 14 | .com.cn | 223,187 | | - | New entry |
| 15 | .com.au | 204,664 | | 207,923 | ▼ -2% |
| 16 | .pl | 192,863 | | 161,109 | ▲ 20% |
| 17 | .it | 174,205 | | 188,980 | ▼ -8% |
| 18 | .io | 164,062 | | - | New entry |
| 19 | .me | 162,677 | | 160,983 | ▲ 1% |
| 20 | .my | 157,551 | | 304,812 | ▼ -48% |

0 0.5 1 1.5

Top20 gTLD - new | Top20 gTLDs - zone

## Top 20 gTLDs used in new domains

| Rank | New domain TLD | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .com | 14,306,314 | | 13,317,985 | ▲ 7% |
| 2 | .xyz | 2,669,919 | | 2,568,825 | ▲ 4% |
| 3 | .top | 2,038,137 | | 2,793,617 | ▼ -27% |
| 4 | .shop | 1,650,665 | | 1,479,708 | ▲ 12% |
| 5 | .info | 1,624,577 | | 906,640 | ▲ 79% |
| 6 | .bond | 1,130,779 | | 237,903 | ▲ 375% |
| 7 | .online | 1,116,916 | | 1,044,785 | ▲ 7% |
| 8 | .org | 1,069,625 | | 958,255 | ▲ 12% |
| 9 | .net | 782,812 | | 720,128 | ▲ 9% |
| 10 | .sbs | 744,244 | | 600,420 | ▲ 24% |
| 11 | .store | 732,635 | | 761,187 | ▼ -4% |
| 12 | .site | 639,273 | | 631,962 | ▲ 1% |
| 13 | .vip | 545,417 | | 467,086 | ▲ 17% |
| 14 | .pro | 349,498 | | 336,561 | ▲ 4% |
| 15 | .click | 332,132 | | 279,080 | ▲ 19% |
| 16 | .lol | 326,607 | | - | New entry |
| 17 | .app | 313,290 | | 215,081 | ▲ 46% |
| 18 | .cyou | 256,455 | | 189,933 | ▲ 35% |
| 19 | .cfd | 229,379 | | 269,177 | ▼ -15% |
| 20 | .space | 210,868 | | - | New entry |

0 3 6 9 12 15

Top20 gTLD - new | Top20 gTLDs - zone

## Top 20 gTLDs by % of zone file that are new domains

| Rank | New domain TLD | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Zone size | % of zone newly observed | % of zone data bar |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .bond | 1,130,779 | 1,147,185 | 98.57% | |
| 2 | .lol | 326,607 | 455,492 | 71.70% | |
| 3 | .cyou | 256,455 | 455,512 | 56.30% | |
| 4 | .sbs | 744,244 | 1,414,674 | 52.61% | |
| 5 | .click | 332,132 | 732,673 | 45.33% | |
| 6 | .cfd | 229,379 | 535,716 | 42.82% | |
| 7 | .shop | 1,650,665 | 4,188,186 | 39.41% | |
| 8 | .space | 210,868 | 537,132 | 39.26% | |
| 9 | .site | 639,273 | 1,760,628 | 36.31% | |
| 10 | .store | 732,635 | 2,121,288 | 34.54% | |
| 11 | .vip | 545,417 | 1,632,292 | 33.41% | |
| 12 | .online | 1,116,916 | 3,399,618 | 32.85% | |
| 13 | .xyz | 2,669,919 | 8,205,754 | 32.54% | |
| 14 | .pro | 349,498 | 1,111,213 | 31.45% | |
| 15 | .info | 1,624,577 | 5,495,829 | 29.56% | |
| 16 | .top | 2,038,137 | 11,398,102 | 17.88% | |
| 17 | .app | 313,290 | 2,329,053 | 13.45% | |
| 18 | .org | 1,069,625 | 12,342,109 | 8.67% | |
| 19 | .com | 14,306,314 | 168,024,226 | 8.51% | |
| 20 | .net | 782,812 | 12,803,743 | 6.11% | |

0 50% 100%

Trending terms...

## Trending terms in new domains

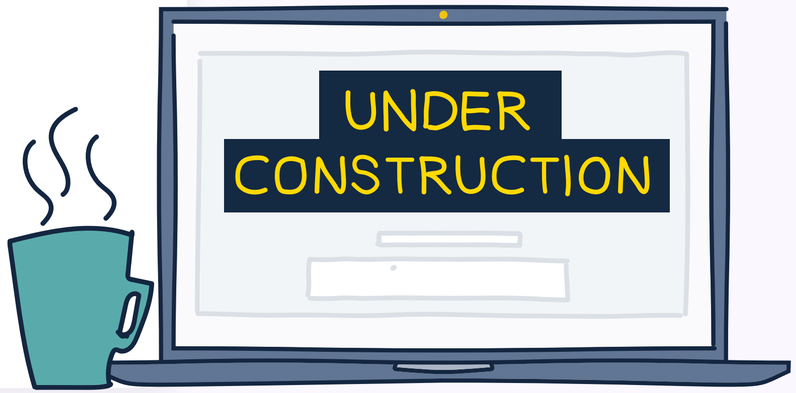
casino (+78%) is the #1 trending term for new domain registrations, indicating a strong focus on gambling-related domains, a pattern that reappears later in this report.

There were nine new entries among trending terms used in new domains, reflecting the rapidly changing keyword landscape. This report shows a transition from LLM and search-related terms (engine, search, keyword) to commercial, financial, and transactional terms, with new entries: capital (#13), store (#14), sports (#15), finance (#17), and travel (#20).

More specific business terms also continued to rise, including consult (+30%), digital (+61%), group (+21%), and solution (+21%). In contrast, several business operations terms decreased in popularity: information, keyword and program, all dropped out of the Top 20, while system (#16) dropped 14 places with a -67% decrease.

**Methodology for trending terms**

We use a text vectorizer to find the most common strings in new domain names and break the counts down by date, which highlights trends in domain name themes. For example, we saw a spike in domain names containing “ukraine” following the Russian invasion.



Top 20 Trending... | Trending terms

## Top 20 trending terms in new domains

| Rank | Oct 25 - Mar 26 trending terms | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | casino | 261,665 | | 146,952 | ▲ 78% |
| 2 | service | 247,767 | | 242,579 | ▲ 2% |
| 3 | solution | 225,337 | | 186,579 | ▲ 21% |
| 4 | studio | 220,257 | | 171,933 | ▲ 28% |
| 5 | digital | 212,375 | | 132,304 | ▲ 61% |
| 6 | group | 179,656 | | 148,320 | ▲ 21% |
| 7 | market | 166,909 | | 282,827 | ▼ -41% |
| 8 | online | 146,844 | | 124,168 | ▲ 18% |
| 9 | consult | 146,838 | | 112,657 | ▲ 30% |
| 10 | design | 127,629 | | - | New entry |
| 11 | global | 125,599 | | - | New entry |
| 12 | health | 122,082 | | 106,109 | ▲ 15% |
| 13 | capital | 102,306 | | - | New entry |
| 14 | store | 93,969 | | - | New entry |
| 15 | sports | 85,463 | | - | New entry |
| 16 | system | 82,188 | | 247,038 | ▼ -67% |
| 17 | finance | 81,556 | | - | New entry |
| 18 | partner | 81,341 | | - | New entry |
| 19 | collect | 54,585 | | - | New entry |
| 20 | travel | 50,719 | | - | New entry |




Top 20 Trending... | Trending terms

## Trending terms

Malicious/suspici... | Listings

# Malicious/suspicious domains

## Domain overview

Over the past six months, 2.15 million malicious or suspicious domains were detected, averaging approximately 358,000 per month. This represents a -33.7% decrease compared to the previous six month period (April - September 2025).

Activity started off low between October and November, with a consistent month-on-month increase, before returning to levels seen in the April - September 2025 Domain Reputation Update, with 650,443 detections in March.

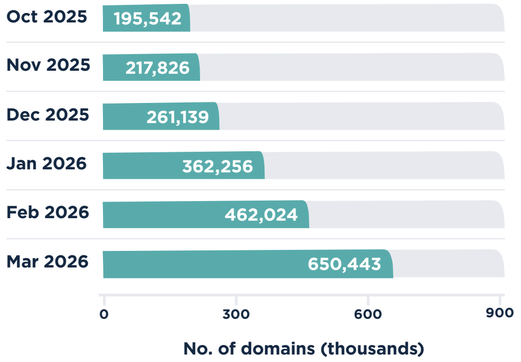
Over this period, the distribution between ccTLD and gTLD domains has shifted marginally, with ccTLDs accounting for 24.5% of detections and gTLDs for 75.5%.

.cfd climbed 14 places to #5 in the Top 20 TLDs and 12 places to #3 in the Top 20 gTLDs, while .com and .top retained their positions at #1 and #2, respectively, in both rankings.

Meanwhile, there were only two new entries in the Top 20 TLDs: .asia (#10) and .online (#18). As a result, .mobi and .my have dropped out of this Top 20.

Malicious/suspi... | Listings

## Number of Domain listings per month




**Six Month Total**
2,149,230
▼ -33.65% ▼

**Monthly Average**
358,205
▼ -1,090,121 ▼

### What triggers a domain to be listed as malicious/suspicious by Spamhaus?

Our systems evaluate hundreds of signals relating to a domain and its associated behaviors. Domains get evaluated on the areas listed below, using various automated techniques augmented with human research:

- Authentication and encryption
- Domain ownership
- Signals from large-scale internet traffic
- A domain's hosting environment
- Associations with spam, phishing, malware, ransomware, and other fraudulent activities.

The reputation engine scores a domain; if it meets predefined thresholds and conditions, it is noted in the relevant datasets. This is a continuous process: domains are evaluated and re-evaluated as relevant traffic is observed.

Trending terms...

## TLDs listed in our domain data

The TLDs typically responsible for the largest number of listings experienced significant decreases between October 2025 - March 2026, including .vip (−59%), .cc (−56%), .top (−53%), and .com (−38%). At the same time, growth of abuse in gTLDs is concentrated in fewer TLDs, notably .cfd (+279%), with more moderate increases for .info (+33%) and .xyz (+20%), alongside new entries .online (#14), .biz (#17), and .site (#19).

A portion of the increase in .cfd domains detected may be linked to Spamhaus' improved ingestion of smishing (SMS phishing) data from large US telcos, with approximately 21,000 domains categorised as phishing. There is also a large volume of Chinese casino and gambling-related domains within this TLD.

.cfd also stands out as a high-risk TLD, with approximately 17.5% of its zone file listed. A threshold of 5% listed is considered a red flag, meaning anything above 10% is clearly indicative of a problematic TLD.

European ccTLDs take the spotlight this reporting period with significant increases for .uk (United Kingdom, +187%), .eu (European Union, +132%), and .de (Germany, +117%). Much of the .eu domain activity appears to be spam-related, while the rise in .de listings is largely due to phishing campaigns. Meanwhile, .uk domains include a large number of numeric-only domain names, likely linked to Chinese domain squatters, as well as casino-related domains.

Seven new ccTLDs entered the Top 20 this reporting period: .br (Brazil, #5), .ua (Ukraine, #7), .cz (Czech Republic, #9), .ng (Nigeria, #14), .io (British Indian Ocean Territory, #18), .tr (Turkey, #19) and .nl (The Netherlands, #20). The appearance of .io as a new entry is consistent with its growth in new domain registrations.

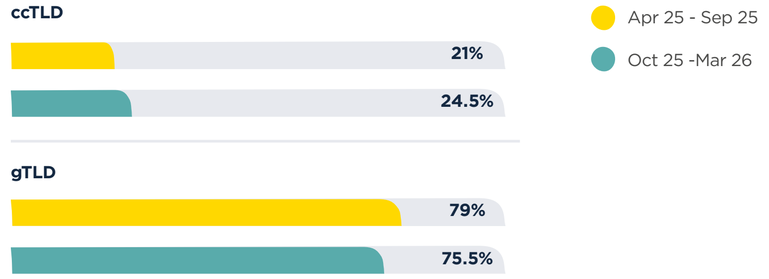
**Interpreting the data**

Registries with a greater number of active domains have greater exposure to abuse. For example, between October 2025 and March 2026, .cyou had more than 455,000 domains in its zone, of which 4% were listed.

Meanwhile, .qpon had just over 67,000 domains in its zone, with 12% listed in our domain dataset. Both are in the Top 20 of our listings. Still, one had a much higher percentage of active domains listed than the other.

TLD type - six...

### TLD type - six month comparison



Top 20 TLDs... | Top 20 ccTLDs...

## Top 20 TLDs

| Rank | Domain TLD | Type of TLD | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .com | gTLD | 506,482 | | 813,514 | ▽ -38% |
| 2 | .top | gTLD | 270,121 | | 577,797 | ▽ -53% |
| 3 | .cn | ccTLD | 252,852 | | 317,707 | ▽ -20% |
| 4 | .cc | ccTLD | 94,415 | | 216,942 | ▽ -56% |
| 5 | .cfd | gTLD | 93,940 | | 24,760 | △ 279% |
| 6 | .bond | gTLD | 59,271 | | 68,171 | ▽ -13% |
| 7 | .ru | ccTLD | 54,612 | | 32,492 | △ 68% |
| 8 | .shop | gTLD | 52,350 | | 54,565 | ▽ -4% |
| 9 | .vip | gTLD | 51,280 | | 126,458 | ▽ -59% |
| 10 | .asia | gTLD | 48,766 | | - | New entry |
| 11 | .xyz | gTLD | 47,547 | | 39,660 | △ 20% |
| 12 | .icu | gTLD | 46,350 | | 60,407 | ▽ -23% |
| 13 | .net | gTLD | 43,593 | | 47,754 | ▽ -9% |
| 14 | .sbs | gTLD | 42,115 | | 41,029 | △ 3% |
| 15 | .info | gTLD | 37,786 | | 28,353 | △ 33% |
| 16 | .org | gTLD | 31,057 | | 29,166 | △ 6% |
| 17 | .click | gTLD | 24,004 | | 21,687 | △ 11% |
| 18 | .online | gTLD | 23,528 | | - | New entry |
| 19 | .cyou | gTLD | 18,291 | | 52,009 | ▽ -65% |
| 20 | .pro | gTLD | 17,005 | | 79,617 | ▽ -79% |

0 200 400 600

Top 20 TLDs... | Top 20 ccTLDs...

## Top 20 ccTLDs

| Rank | Domain TLD | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .cn | 252,852 | | 317,707 | ▽ -20% |
| 2 | .cc | 94,415 | | 216,942 | ▽ -56% |
| 3 | .ru | 54,612 | | 32,492 | △ 68% |
| 4 | .my | 14,669 | | 36,443 | ▽ -60% |
| 5 | .br | 11,599 | | - | New entry |
| 6 | .de | 9,678 | | 4,459 | △ 117% |
| 7 | .ua | 6,803 | | - | New entry |
| 8 | .uk | 6,687 | | 2,334 | △ 187% |
| 9 | .cz | 6,394 | | - | New entry |
| 10 | .eu | 6,080 | | 2,619 | △ 132% |
| 11 | .co | 5,662 | | 15,247 | ▽ -63% |
| 12 | .me | 4,278 | | 7,862 | ▽ -46% |
| 13 | .id | 3,652 | | 1,602 | △ 128% |
| 14 | .ng | 3,159 | | - | New entry |
| 15 | .us | 2,981 | | 4,009 | ▽ -26% |
| 16 | .pl | 2,645 | | 2,961 | ▽ -11% |
| 17 | .in | 2,406 | | 1,676 | △ 44% |
| 18 | .io | 2,194 | | - | New entry |
| 19 | .tr | 2,157 | | - | New entry |
| 20 | .nl | 1,952 | | - | New entry |

0 100 200 300

Top 20 gTLDs... | Top 20 gTLD...

## Top 20 gTLD

| Rank | Domain TLD | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .com | 506,482 | | 813,514 | ▽ -38% |
| 2 | .top | 270,121 | | 577,797 | ▽ -53% |
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| 4 | .bond | 59,271 | | 68,171 | ▽ -13% |
| 5 | .shop | 52,350 | | 54,565 | ▽ -4% |
| 6 | .vip | 51,280 | | 126,458 | ▽ -59% |
| 7 | .xyz | 47,547 | | 39,660 | △ 20% |
| 8 | .icu | 46,350 | | 60,407 | ▽ -23% |
| 9 | .net | 43,593 | | 47,754 | ▽ -9% |
| 10 | .sbs | 42,115 | | 41,029 | △ 3% |
| 11 | .info | 37,786 | | 28,353 | △ 33% |
| 12 | .org | 31,057 | | 29,166 | △ 6% |
| 13 | .click | 24,004 | | 21,687 | △ 11% |
| 14 | .online | 23,528 | | - | New entry |
| 15 | .cyou | 18,291 | | 52,009 | ▽ -65% |
| 16 | .pro | 17,005 | | 79,617 | ▽ -79% |
| 17 | .biz | 15,078 | | - | New entry |
| 18 | .live | 13,245 | | 21,251 | ▽ -38% |
| 19 | .site | 12,530 | | - | New entry |
| 20 | .life | 12,204 | | 20,485 | ▽ -40% |

0 300 600

Top 20 gTLDs... | Top 20 gTLD...

## Top 20 gTLDs by % of zone file

| Rank | Domain TLD | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Zone size | % of zone listed | % of zone data bar |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .cfd | 93,940 | 535,716 | 17.54% | |
| 2 | .qpon | 8,157 | 67,024 | 12.17% | |
| 3 | .icu | 46,350 | 476,188 | 9.73% | |
| 4 | .bid | 3,278 | 38,586 | 8.50% | |
| 5 | .xin | 4,931 | 62,251 | 7.92% | |
| 6 | .mom | 3,975 | 52,811 | 7.53% | |
| 7 | .wiki | 5,530 | 80,798 | 6.84% | |
| 8 | .bond | 59,271 | 1,147,185 | 5.17% | |
| 9 | .loan | 2,867 | 65,285 | 4.39% | |
| 10 | .help | 6,721 | 163,001 | 4.12% | |
| 11 | .food | 1,080 | 26,283 | 4.11% | |
| 12 | .cyou | 18,291 | 455,512 | 4.02% | |
| 13 | .pizza | 453 | 11,376 | 3.98% | |
| 14 | .forum | 2,549 | 74,232 | 3.43% | |
| 15 | .rest | 2,776 | 81,230 | 3.42% | |
| 16 | .click | 24,004 | 732,673 | 3.28% | |
| 17 | .ink | 3,609 | 111,597 | 3.23% | |
| 18 | .vip | 51,280 | 1,632,292 | 3.14% | |
| 19 | .life | 12,204 | 407,624 | 2.99% | |
| 20 | .sbs | 42,115 | 1,414,674 | 2.98% | |

0% 50% 100%

## Trending phishing terms for malicious or suspicious domains

Trending phishing terms have changed significantly once again, with a high number of new entries in the Top 20. Over the past six months, 11 new terms have entered the rankings, while previously prominent toll scam-related keywords have dropped out completely, including: tollbill, ov-pay and park-.

Whatsapp is the top new entry, debuting at #1 with 24,640 domains, suggesting increased impersonation of this messaging platform.

Although, it's casino (+122%) that shows the strongest growth among existing terms, reinforcing the popularity of gambling-related phishing infrastructure. This is further supported by new entries jojobet (#15), casibom (#17), and holiganbet (#19) — all Turkish casinos.

There is a clear rise in Turkish-language phishing activity, with terms guncel (current), giris (entrance/login) and adresi (address) featuring in the Top 20 between October 2025 - March 2026. Approximately two-thirds of these domains use the .com TLD, with the remaining third using .vip. The consistent TLD distribution across multiple Turkish terms suggests a single threat actor.

### What terms do bad actors use for domain names?

Some miscreants don't care what a domain name looks like; however, others do. When it comes to the latter, they favor one of two options:

1. Try to look like a legitimate brand with the inclusion of a well-known brand name, e.g., "amazon".
2. Use words in the domain name that read like a call to action, e.g. "update now" and "verify your account".

01

02

03

04

05

Top 20 phishing... | Phishing terms

## Top 20 phishing terms

| Rank | Term | Oct 25 - Mar 26 | Oct 25 - Mar 26 data bar | Apr 25 - Sep 25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | whatsapp | 24,640 | | - | New entry |
| 2 | casino | 6,473 | | 2,913 | ▲ 122% |
| 3 | secure | 4,130 | | 3,619 | ▲ 14% |
| 4 | login | 4,024 | | 5,113 | ▼ -21% |
| 5 | portal | 3,985 | | - | New entry |
| 6 | online | 3,977 | | 3,221 | ▲ 23% |
| 7 | guncel | 3,807 | | - | New entry |
| 8 | giris | 3,620 | | - | New entry |
| 9 | tracking | 3,410 | | - | New entry |
| 10 | oferta | 3,377 | | 3,009 | ▲ 12% |
| 11 | service | 3,286 | | 5,490 | ▼ -40% |
| 12 | support | 3,049 | | 3,470 | ▼ -12% |
| 13 | wallet | 3,023 | | 2,517 | ▲ 20% |
| 14 | verify | 2,832 | | 2,419 | ▲ 17% |
| 15 | jojobet | 2,787 | | - | New entry |
| 16 | adresi | 2,545 | | - | New entry |
| 17 | casibom | 2,519 | | - | New entry |
| 18 | signin | 2,106 | | - | New entry |
| 19 | holiganbet | 2,027 | | - | New entry |
| 20 | reward | 1,995 | | - | New entry |

0 12,500 25,000

Top 20 phishing... | Phishing terms

## Phishing terms

## Types of abuse

Over the last six months, compromised domains associated with botnet C&Cs saw a significant +665% increase, while malware and phishing also experienced increases of +238% and +140% respectively. As highlighted in the April - September 2025 report, these increases are largely driven by increased contributions from the abuse.ch community platforms.

In terms of malicious domains, those associated with botnet C&C's increased by a further +289% and malware by +206%, an ongoing impact of improved detection capabilities and industry partnerships.

### Differences between compromised and malicious domains

A **compromised domain** is where it is evident to our research team that the domain has a legitimate owner; however, a bad actor has compromised it. One example is where a content management system (CMS) is hacked, and the domain is being used to send spam resulting in the listing of the domain. Within Spamhaus these types of listings are referred to as "abused-legit".

A **malicious domain** is where a domain is registered by the person committing the internet abuse.

Types of abuse

# Types of abuse

## Bad reputation

| Malicious | Compromised |
|---|---|
| 1,614,198 | 24,001 |
| ▼ -39% ▼ | ▲ 55% ▲ |

A domain's reputation score has exceeded policy limits.

## Botnet C&C

| Malicious | Compromised |
|---|---|
| 11,518 | 2,877 |
| ▲ 289% ▲ | ▲ 665% ▲ |

A domain is registered for use for a botnet command and controller (C&C). (A subset of bad reputation.)

## Malware

| Malicious | Compromised |
|---|---|
| 10,268 | 154,577 |
| ▲ 206% ▲ | ▲ 238% ▲ |

A domain observed to be used in the distribution of malware. (A subset of bad reputation.)

## Phishing

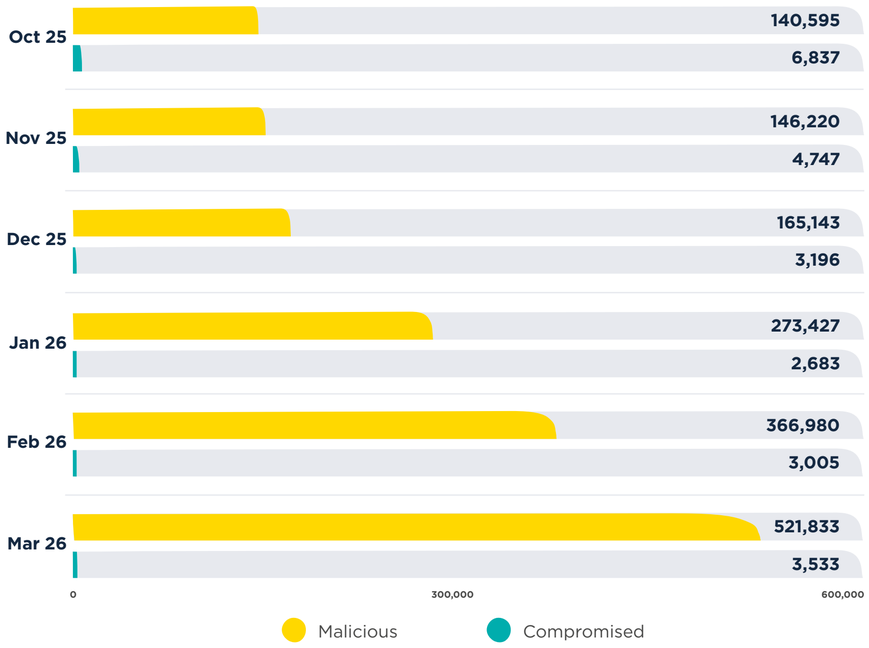
| Malicious | Compromised |
|---|---|
| 513,219 | 234,213 |
| ▼ -12% ▼ | ▲ 140% ▲ |

A domain is associated with phishing activities. (A subset of bad reputation.)

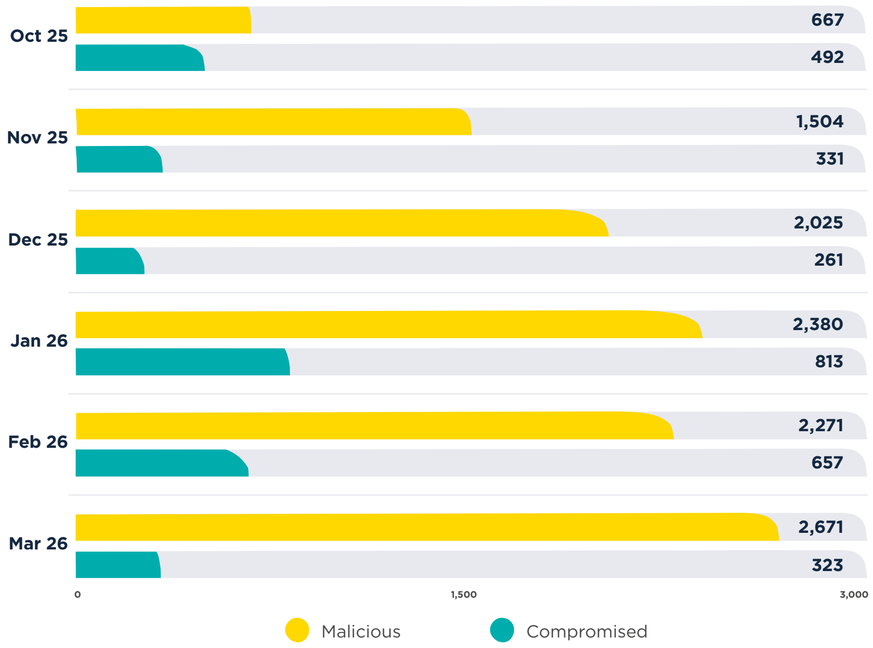
Types of abuse

# Types of abuse per month

## Bad reputation per month

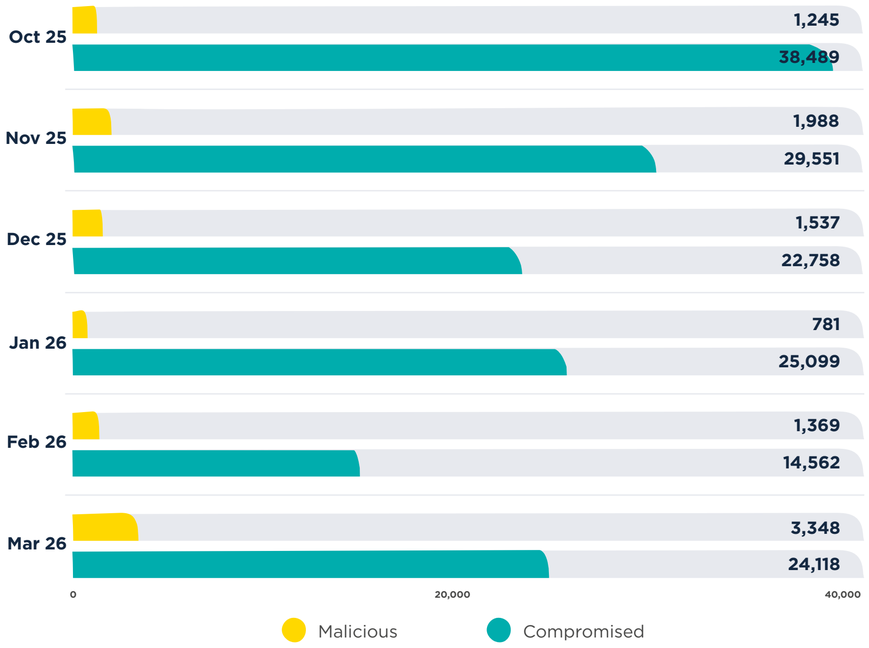



## Botnet C&C per month

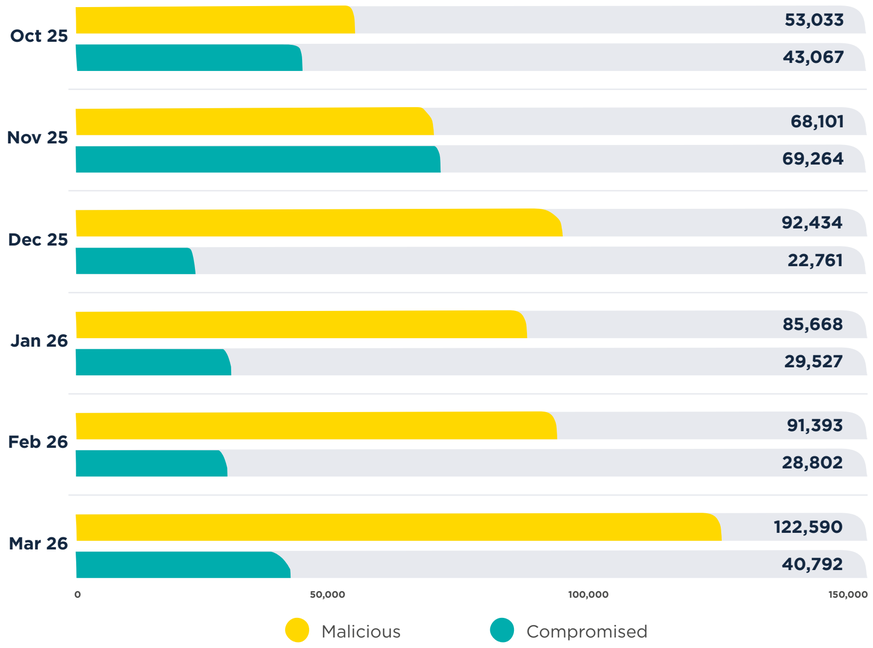


# Types of abuse per month

## Malware per month




## Phishing per month



# Recommendations

With new policy on the horizon, and recognising that change takes time, here are specific actions that registrars, registries, and defenders alike can adopt in the meantime.

**Trust your gut: look for associated domains**

If you've taken action against a malicious domain, and there's reason to believe that associated domains may exist, identify these domains, and determine if they are also malicious. These checks could be based on naming patterns, infrastructure similarities, or hosting the same content. If the associated domains look like they are - or will be - used for abusive activity, then they too should be actioned.

**Share data and collaborate**

When it comes to reports of abuse, unusual registration patterns, and reuse of infrastructure, registries and registrars need to work together, share data and collaborate - even more so in reseller models. Having a clear process for reporting and escalations can go a long way to help registries overcome the lack of direct customer relationships.

**Correlate domains using all available intelligence**

Defenders should not rely on single-domain assessments. Enrich assessments with external intelligence to build a more complete picture. Use all available signals to correlate domains and prioritise further investigations based on indicators of abuse, such as domain clustering, or unusual behavioral patterns.

**Champion new policy!**

Introducing change is never easy and will always be met with resistance and barriers. Requiring registrars to check associated domains will mean new processes, additional resources, and investment. However, measures like this are necessary to improve the visibility of abusive activity. Ultimately, all stakeholders need to prioritise strengthening abuse detection and mitigation.

**Follow us on socials!**

As a final recommendation, keep an eye on our blog and social media (LinkedIn, Mastodon, X) to stay in touch with everything we observe.

# Additional info

## About Spamhaus

Spamhaus strengthens trust and safety for the Internet. Advocating for change through sharing reliable intelligence and expertise. As the authority on IP and domain reputation data, Spamhaus is trusted across the industry because of its strong ethics, impartiality, and quality of actionable data. This data not only protects but also provides signal and insight across networks and email worldwide.

With over two decades of experience, its researchers and threat hunters focus on exposing malicious activity to make the Internet a better place for everyone. A wide range of industries, including leading global technology companies, use Spamhaus' data. Currently, it protects over 4.5 billion mailboxes worldwide.

## Report Methodology

- Various sources, including ISPs, ESPs, Enterprise business and research specialists share data with Spamhaus. This data is analyzed by our researchers via machine learning, heuristics, and manual investigations to identify malicious behavior and poor reputation. The data in this report reflects the malicious domains that Spamhaus has observed identified and listed, it does not reflect the entirety of malicious and bad reputation domains on the internet.
- Malicious campaigns are regularly targeted to specific geographies, ISPs or organizations. This in turn can skew figures.
- Due to ongoing issues outside of our control to do with WHOIS and RDAP data, some of our data is incomplete. This is a direct result of GDPR.
- Where we are missing zone file data we welcome registries to contact us and share this data.