Switch

Report 2025

of the registry for the ccTLDs .ch and .li

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Despite advances in AI technology, domain names are still a key addressing resource and the associated infrastructure is still very much needed. Switch's job therefore remains the same: to guarantee secure, reliable DNS function.

Urs Eppenberger
Head of Registry, Switch

Switch

Editorial

Urs Eppenberger, Head of Registry

Do we still need domain names? This is a question myself and other experts in the domain name industry are asked time and again, and our responses always contain the same key phrases: it's clear, logical, self-evident, there are no clear alternatives, it's rooted deep in the infrastructure, with a widely established basis.

While these responses have always been sufficient in the past, new AI tools are turning our entire IT value chain on its head. The potential they have shown, the rapid pace of development and the avalanche-like pace of AI adoption in the IT sector are prompting managers everywhere to wonder where exactly this journey is headed.

I wouldn’t want to open this annual report with any sort of prediction. Someone might be tempted to look back at it a year from now. But we’re not talking about the global picture here – just domain names, which I do feel comfortable exploring.

Domain names are addressing resources, they point to IP addresses – and thus to all online services. Simply put, domain names are the glue that holds the whole thing together. They are unlikely to be replaced any time soon. The AI tools may be able to rewrite software, but they rely on existing code, instructions and libraries. That's not how a new, globally networked infrastructure can be created.

The domain name infrastructure has benefited from highly efficient organisation for decades. Plus, it’s free for anyone to use, it couldn't be any cheaper. Operation and development are financed by domain names or other value chains. When it comes to cost, the focus has always been on maximising efficiency. Replacement would require enormous investment and general support from numerous stakeholders. This is currently unlikely.

My answer therefore remains the same: yes, domain names still have their place. AI tools will not change this. Domain names remain a key addressing resource and the associated infrastructure is still very much needed. Switch’s job therefore remains the same: to guarantee secure, reliable DNS function.

1.
Activity report – operations

Switch

Combating cybercrime

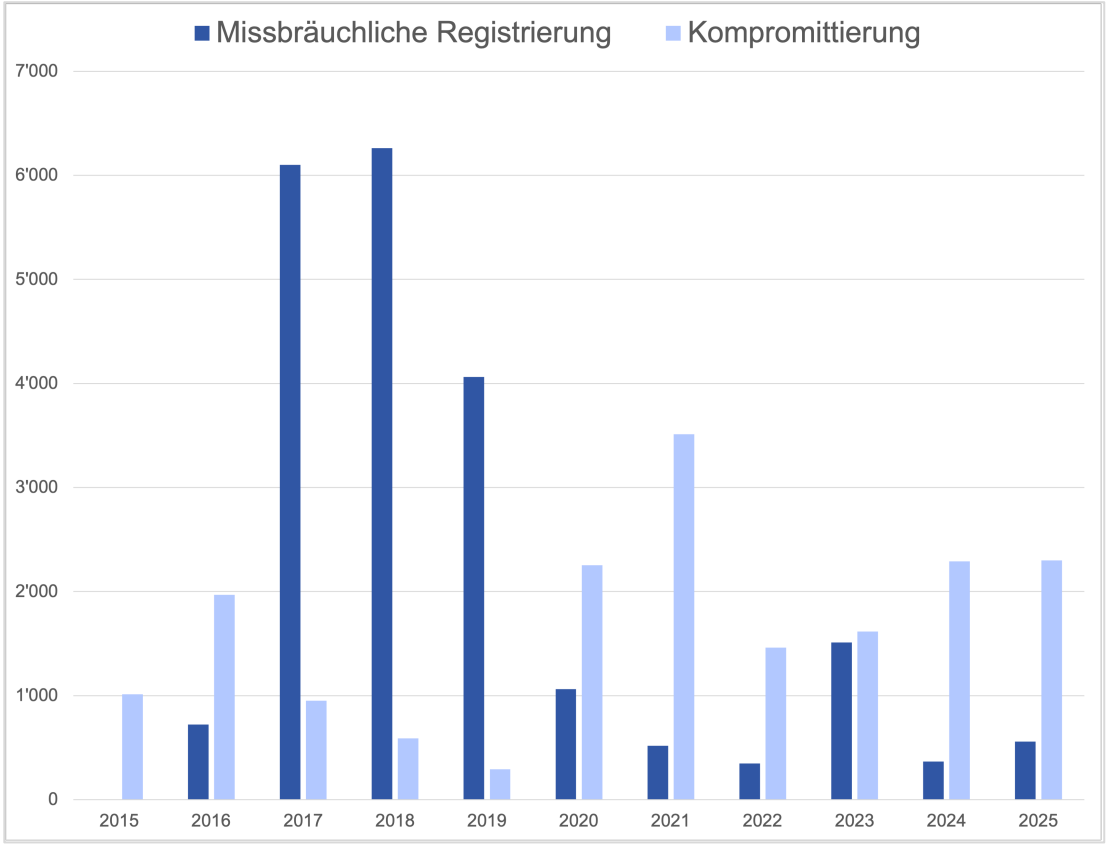
Compromised websites

The number of compromised websites that were abused for phishing and malware was unchanged. The majority of these websites were detected by our web crawler developed specifically for the .ch zone.

Improper registration

The number of domain names reported as suspected improper registrations increased slightly. Much of this increase is attributable to reports from our own sources.

Website: https://www.saferinternet.ch



Measures in the event of suspected abuse

Requests from recognised authorities – OID Art. 15.1

In 2025, accredited authorities sent a total of 46 requests under OID Art. 15.1 for immediate blocking (technical/administrative) of domain names related to phishing. There were no requests related to malware.

Requests	Consequences	2025
Not answered	Domain name deleted	29
Answered	Domain name reactivated	17
Total		**46**

Administrative assistance – OID Art. 16.3

At the request of an intervening Swiss authority acting within its jurisdiction, 276 requests were submitted for Swiss correspondence addresses under OID Art. 16.3.

Requests	Consequences	2025
Not answered	Domain name deleted	204
Answered	Domain name reactivated	72
Total		**276**

List of recognised anti-cybercrime services

Security awareness – iBarry and SISA

In collaboration with SISA, Switch continues to help raise awareness among the Swiss population. Through information campaigns on key topics such as device security, safe browsing and online risks, iBarry.ch provides guidance and support for anyone feeling uncertain or with questions about internet security.

https://checkawebsite.ibarry.ch

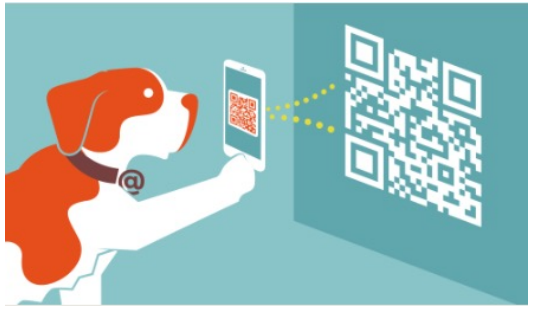
https://ibarry.ch

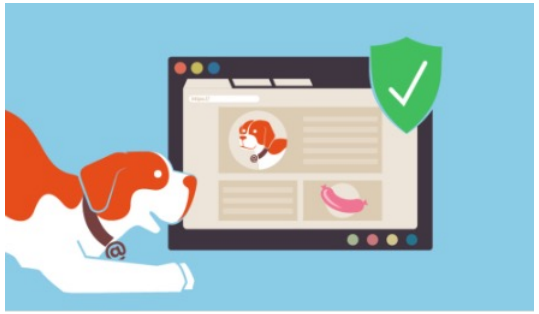
To optimise the range of services available to SMEs and the Swiss public and to improve the positioning of the iBarry platform, SISA took part in this year's 'SME Cybersecurity 2025' study.

https://cyberstudie.ch

A new iBarry newsletter provides the community with the latest information.

→ Sign up here





This year, the Swiss Internet Security Alliance (SISA) has once again set itself the goal of connecting key players in Swiss Internet security and keeping the Swiss population safe.

New members and partners in 2025

educa

SES

netpathie

FH Berner Fachhochschule

ASA | SVV
Schweizerischer Versicherungsverband
Association Suisse d'Assurances
Associazione Svizzera d'Assicurazioni
Swiss Insurance Association

Swiss Security Awareness Day

On 11 September 2025, Switch hosted its eighth Swiss Security Awareness Day. This year, iBarry.ch was once again a partner at the conference, which is growing each year. Around 120 attendees were able to network with other experts during various networking breaks in between the exciting presentations and hands-on workshops.

Once again, the purpose of this year's programme was to increase awareness of security-related issues within the Switch community, while also sharing ideas and encouraging communication and interaction.

The presentations are available online.

Next year's event will be named **Human-Centred Security Day** and will take place on **22 October 2026**.

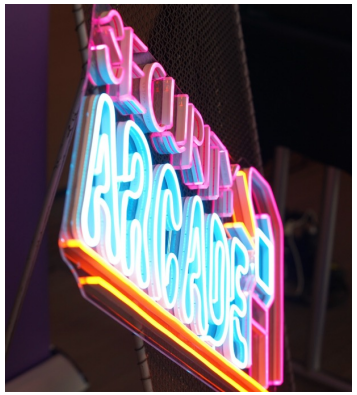
Security Adventures

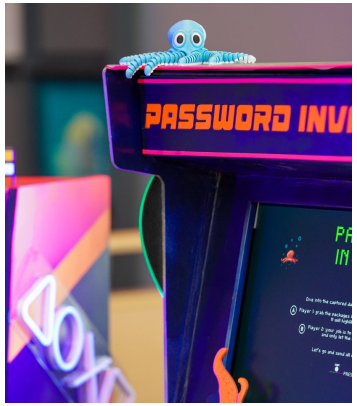
Switch Security Adventures

‘Hack the Hacker – the escape room’ was the first of four Switch security adventures, followed by ‘Track the Hacker – the outdoor quest’ and ‘Piece of Cake – the role play’. The adventures remain extremely popular.

In 2025, Switch developed another security adventure which it launched on Swiss Security Awareness Day:
‘Security Arcade – the puzzle stations’.

Website: Security Adventures





Security awareness – Podcast

Podcast: Security Awareness Insider

In this podcast (in German), Katja Dörlemann (Switch) and Marcus Beyer (Swisscom) talk about raising employees' awareness of security issues, new and creative methods, tools and training approaches, provide insight into the security awareness programmes of companies and organisations, and much more.

In December 2025, the first **video episode** of the podcast was released.

Since the podcast first launched, it has been downloaded almost 33,100 times, with an average of 450 downloads per episode.

You can find it on any podcast platform, or here: https://www.securityawarenessinsider.ch

Registry operations

Registration system interruption – October 2025

On 20 October 2025, the registration system experienced an interruption for 53 minutes. Between 10:50 and 11:43, the EPP interface was unavailable to registrars. The outage was resolved by switching to the standby system in Lausanne. The hourly zone update at 11:00 was not carried out.

The fault occurred during maintenance work on the power supply at the data centre in Zurich. Although there was no power cut, two central filers failed.

No data was lost during the outage and the DNS was not interrupted. The registrars were notified immediately.

Registration system interruption – December 2025

On 25 December 2025, the registration system experienced an interruption for 49 minutes. Between 20:59 and 21:48, the EPP interface was unavailable to registrars. Service was restored at 21:48 following a manual switchover of the central registration database and EPP from Zurich to Lausanne.

The hourly zone updates at 21:00 and 22:00 were carried out, but without updated data, i.e. using the data from 20:00. The zone update at 23:00 was then up to date again.

The cause of the interruption was a power outage in the Zurich data centre.

The DNS was available the whole time and no data was lost.

EU TLD ISAC

EU TLD ISAC has been formally constituted

Switch played an active role in the development of the EU TLD ISAC for two years, with Michael Hausding sitting on the Steering Committee and Patrick Leu taking part in the first working group.

At the end of this start-up phase, the EU TLD ISAC was formally constituted:

https://www.tld-isac.eu/l/european-tld-isac-announces-new-structure-and-leadership

Michael Hausding is no longer a member of the Steering Committee, but Switch employees will continue to be represented in two Special Interest Groups (SIGs):

- Information security

- Threat analysis

Switch also operates a MISP server for the TLD ISAC.

The CISO-SIG (information security) amended the threat analysis for registries created in 2024.

Because many of the European registries had their ISO 27001 transition audit in 2025, the main focus of the CISO-SIG was on sharing best practices for implementing the standard.

Domain pulse 2025

Domain Pulse was held in Dresden on 11 and 12 February 2025.

With the central theme of ‘digital future’, there were numerous presentations and panels exploring topics such as measures to combat disinformation, the impact of technology hypes, cybersecurity, Internet governance and WSIS+20. Other focal points were NIS-2 and AI.

Panel with Richard Wein (Managing Director of nic.at), Andreas Musielak (Executive Board of DENIC), Urs Eppenberger (Head of Registry at Switch), Robert Schischka (Managing Director of nic.at) and Thomas Keller (Executive Board of DENIC).

DNS resilience programme

52.7%

As of 1 January 2026, 52.7% of all active .ch domain names have been signed.

DNS resilience programme

Resilience for .ch domain names

Switch's DNS resilience programme promotes the introduction and dissemination of open security standards for .ch and .li domain names. These standards play a key role in increasing resilience to cyber threats. The programme, which is based on financial incentives, runs from 2022 to 2026.

The main objective is to promote the signing of domain names with DNSSEC. Domain names that are not signed or are signed incorrectly are subject to a surcharge during the programme's term.

The DNSSEC Advisory Board also decides which security standards to promote. This board is made up of representatives from Ofcom, the registrars and Switch.

In 2025, the programme was expanded to include the DANE (DNS-based Authentication of Named Entities) security standard. This means: The reimbursement of the additional revenue in 2025 is based not only on DNSSEC, but also on the successful implementation of DANE for SMTP.

The plan for 2026 is to promote IPv6 on name servers of .ch and .li domain names.

Quality control measurements

The verification of the implementation of the security standards is carried out in collaboration with external service provider OpenIntel. For all .ch and .li domain names with name servers, a daily check is carried out to determine whether the criteria defined by the programme are met. The results are reported to Switch. Registrars with incorrect configurations receive error reports to fix the issues.

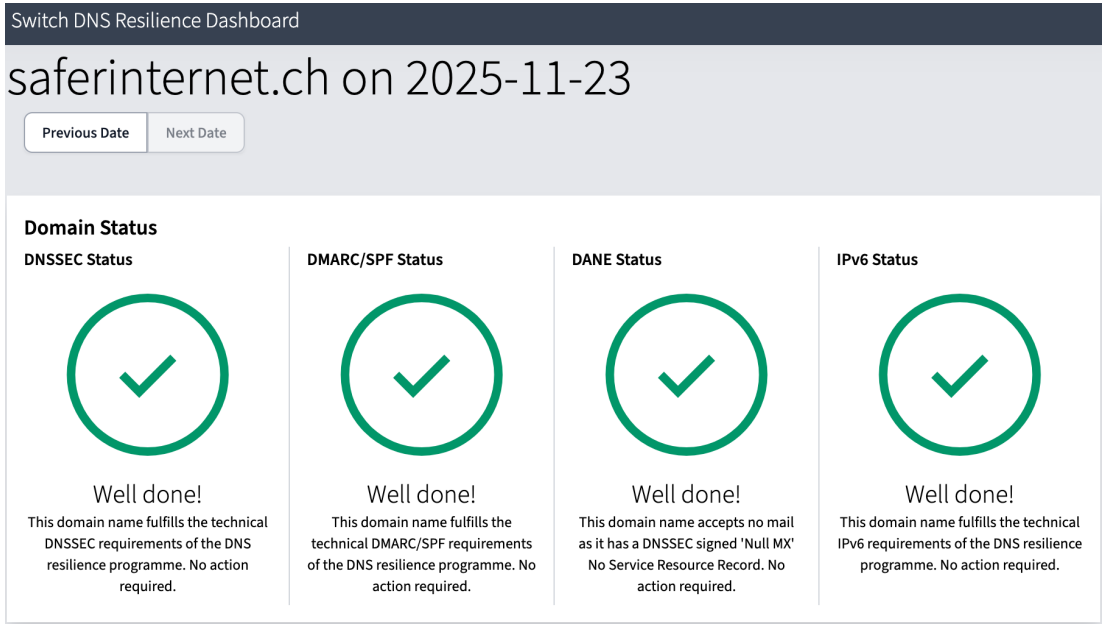
DNS resilience programme

In its fourth year, we continued to focus on the development of the resilience programme in addition to its operation.

Developments 2025

- DANE criterion: increase from 21.1% to 24.7%.
- Continuous DANE measurements and dispatch of the corresponding error reports.
- Reimbursements for 2024 to eligible registrars in the form of credit entries (end of February 2025).
- Implementation of measurements of IPv6 on name servers – this criterion will be relevant in 2026.
- Since October 2025, IPv6 error reports have been sent to registrars. This gives them the opportunity to prepare for 2026.
- Extension of the dashboard provided by the external service provider OpenIntel: additional display for IPv6 measurements. See the screenshot below for domain name saferinternet.ch.
- Continuously providing information to the registrars, answering their questions, providing support.

Figures on the resilience programme can be found on page 35.



DNS – Anycast locations and zone generation

Anycast locations

Thanks to our Anycast hosting partners, the DNS zone is distributed across more than 100 locations worldwide, which are continuously updated in line with current circumstances. New hubs were opened in Gais and Zurich in Switzerland at the end of 2025. Outside Switzerland, for example, the newest northernmost node has been activated in Tromsø (Norway).

Zone generation

The .ch and .li zones now use dynamic time-to-live (TTL) values. Newly registered or modified delegations are temporarily assigned shorter TTL values. This makes it possible to switch back to a functional state faster in the event of an error when changing a delegation.

Web crawler

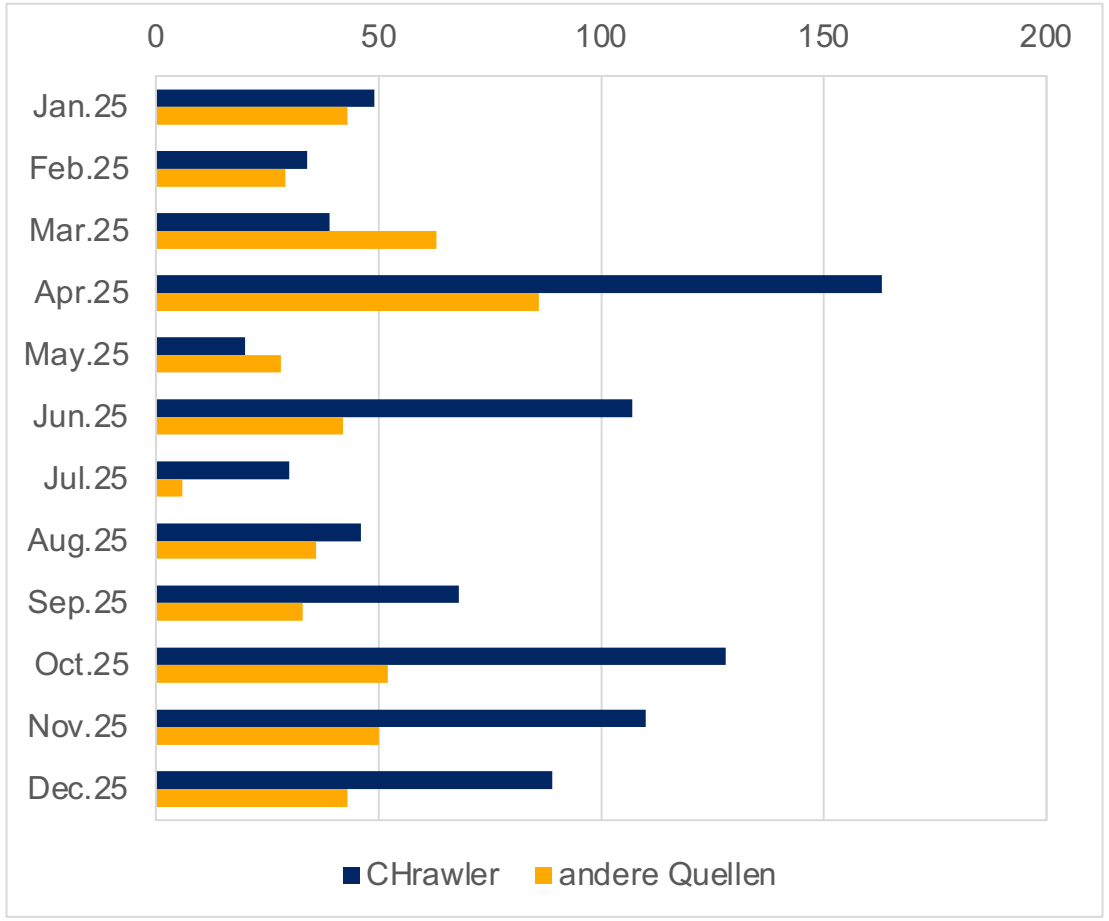
We use our web crawler (CHrawler), which went live in early 2024, to regularly and systematically examine publicly available resources in the .ch and .li zones in order to detect compromised or malicious domain names at an early stage and thus reduce the risk for Internet users.

In its two years of operation, around two-thirds of reported malware domains were discovered by our web crawler.

This allows Switch to make a substantial, proactive contribution to further enhancing the security of the .ch and .li zones, rather than simply reacting to threats.

We are also collecting important insights into what campaigns and threats are currently active on the Swiss web. See also ‘Top threats to the Swiss web’ on page 20.

.ch malware domains processed in 2025



Top threats to the Swiss web

According to data collected by Quad9, the following campaigns were active in 2025 and posed a threat to Swiss Internet users:

SocGolish campaigns (fake updates)

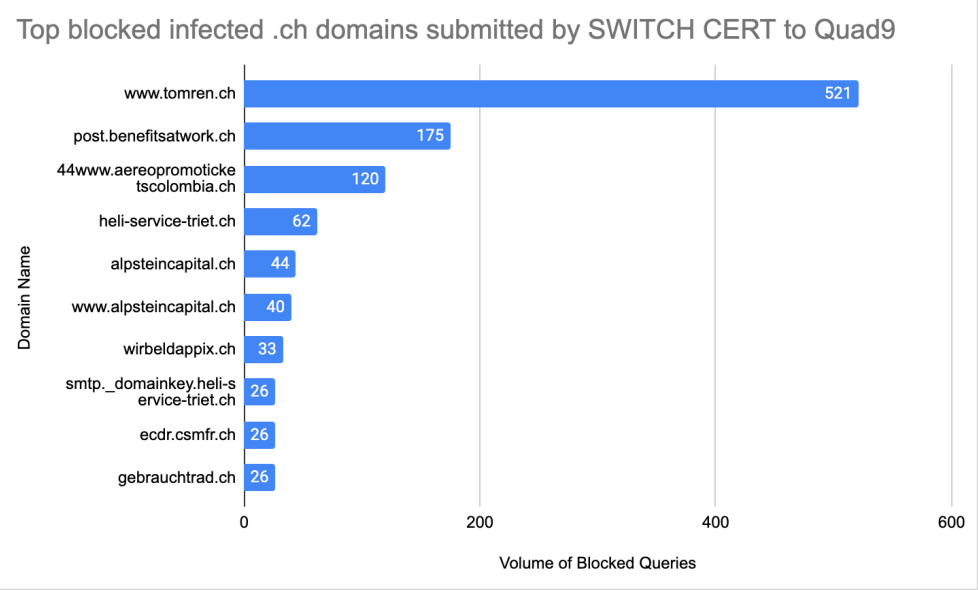
A huge number of requests have been blocked for domain blacksaltys.com, a well-known indicator of SocGholish malware. Its framework is based on social engineering, encouraging users to install malware under the pretext of critical browser or software updates.

Omnatuor Malvertising Network

In 2025, over 3 million requests to the Omnatuor (Vane Viper) network were blocked. This sophisticated infrastructure compromises WordPress websites to embed malicious JavaScript code. It uses persistent browser redirects and misleading notifications to distribute high-risk payloads such as spyware and credential stealers.

Conti Ransomware

The highest number of blocked Swiss DNS queries recorded by Quad9 were for domains associated with the Conti Ransomware Group. Although the main organisation was formally disbanded in May 2022, its members have split into smaller, highly active cells, so the infrastructure remains an ongoing threat.



ISO 27001 audit with neighbouring registries

The DACH audit takes place three times a year – one for each of the three participating registries (DENIC, nic.at and Switch) – with rotating audit management. Best practices are exchanged following each audit.

DENIC audit

At the end of March 2025, DENIC and its subsidiary, DENIC Services, underwent a three-day audit in Frankfurt headed by Switch.

Switch audit

In early July 2025, the audit group met at Switch in Zurich. Switch was audited under the direction of nic.at's CISO, with the support of ISOs from Germany and Austria.

nic.at audit

Under DENIC's leadership, an internal audit in accordance with ISO 27001:2022 took place at Austrian registry nic.at in Salzburg in October 2025.

The suggestions for improvement from the audit report are incorporated into the continuous improvement process and are reviewed by the head auditors in one of the subsequent DACH audits.

Although it was just a 'friendly' internal audit, the standards were just as strict as they would have been in a regular external audit.

After the audit, the group discussed standard requirements and the options for implementing them as efficiently as possible in accordance with technical and organisational measures.

DACH stands for Germany (D), Austria (A), Switzerland (CH).

ISMS – ISO 27001 transition audit

The transition audit took place on 10 and 11 September 2025. The purpose of this type of audit is to determine whether Switch has identified, documented and implemented all relevant changes to the standard and their impact on the registry.

Unlike the previous year, when only a few controls based on the 2022 version were checked, in 2025 the standard requirements and all relevant controls were subject to audit.

On average, six to nine interviews were conducted on each day of the audit, each involving one to three Switch employees. This involved a lot of preparatory work, coordination and instruction.

Switch passed the audit and is now certified to ISO 27001:2022.

The auditor included the following comment in their report:

“Once again, a positive impression overall. Information security is one of Switch’s most important assets. The information security management system (IMS) is continuously being optimised, despite already being at such a high standard. What is particularly impressive is the deep specialist knowledge and clear awareness of information security amongst all employees interviewed.”

“What is particularly impressive is the deep specialist knowledge and clear awareness of information security amongst all employees interviewed.”

ISO 27001 audit report

2.
Activity report – news and highlights

Switch

Domain Abuse 4.0

Modern and future-oriented anti-abuse measures

Our current software solution for combating cybercrime is no longer adequate for the ever-increasing challenges in combating domain name abuse.

A new forward-looking software solution based on state-of-the-art technology is therefore being developed as part of the ‘Domain Abuse 4.0’ project. The project team is developing a fast, low-maintenance and highly scalable solution. The processes are also being revised, adapted to the new circumstances and our experts are being trained in them. With these measures, Switch continues to be a global leader in the fight against cybercrime.

The project becomes a service

In 2024, CERT and the registry worked together to implement the components of the new software solution. A live version for sending identification requests in accordance with Art. 29 and 30 of the Swiss OID has been in use since January 2025 and is being continuously improved.

In 2025, we took a significant step towards achieving our project goal. We are in the final stages of preparing to go live with the two key processes for combating malicious registrations and compromised websites. The switch to the new software solution is scheduled to take place in Q1 of 2026 and will replace a large part of the old application.

The remaining processes will then be implemented in 2026 and the project transitioned to normal service operations.

Domain Abuse 4.0

Outlook for 2026

The column on the right lists the most important processes and software features planned for launch during each quarter of 2026.

Once the project has been completed and handed over to the operations team, new processes and functionalities will continue to be rolled out.

One potential feature will be a specialist interface for the authorities, which will allow them to connect our software solution to their systems and send us enquiries automatically.

Planned milestones for 2026

Q1 2026

- Go-live for processes relating to abusive registrations and compromises (phishing and malware)

Q2 2026

- Blocking requests from authorities in accordance with Art. 15 OID
- Automatic reporting

Q3 2026

- Correspondence address requests from authorities in accordance with Art. 16 OID

Q4 2026+

- Ongoing developments

Member of Network SDS – Sovereign Digital Switzerland

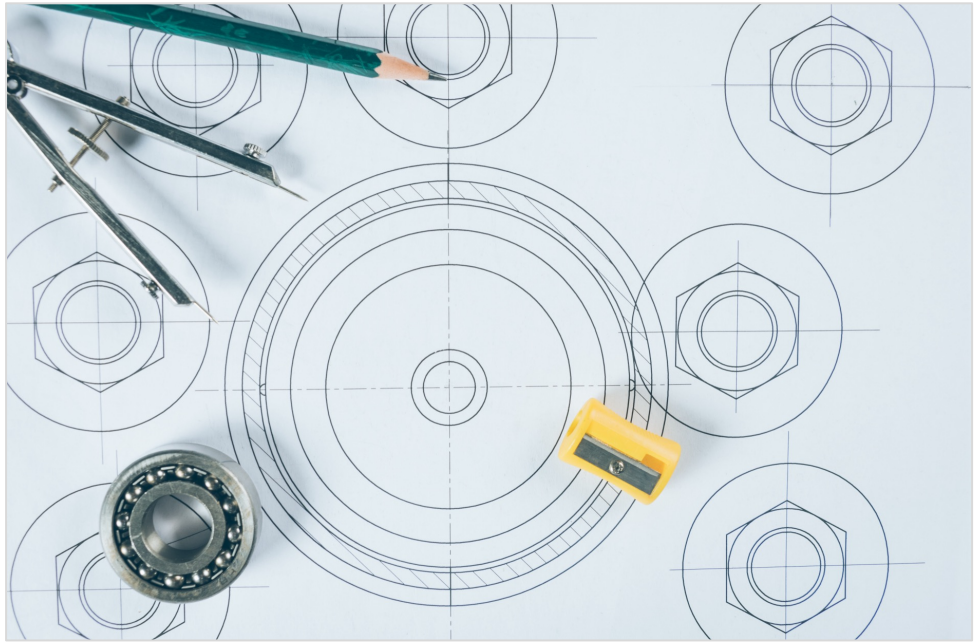
Switch has been a member of the SDS network since June 2025.

‘Network SDS – Sovereign Digital Switzerland’ brings together Swiss organisations from the public and private sectors for expert discussions about digital sovereignty.

The focus is on reducing reliance on manufacturers, implementing and developing open-source technologies, operating sovereign IT infrastructures and opening up international dialogues.

The members of the SDS network come from a range of industries, including organisations involved in public administration or with public sponsorships, associations and private-sector companies.

https://netzwerksds.ch



Business Continuity Management

Establishment of a business continuity management system in accordance with ISO 22301

Following the integration of the Data Protection Management System (DSMS) in accordance with ISO 27701 in 2023 and 2024, Switch began developing and integrating the Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) in accordance with ISO 22301 in 2025.

In 2025, a BCM process was established for crisis management. It builds on the existing incident management process, which essentially means that the same processes and resources can be used for identification and alerting. In the event of an incident, a crisis unit is responsible for coordinating the crisis management measures. This crisis management team has been set up and staffed. The first exercises are already planned for 2026.

Examples are used to illustrate how an incident can turn into a crisis, which should help the team quickly determine the right response.

The project team worked with external specialists and different organisational units to create a new version of the Business Impact Analysis (BIA) based on critical business processes. This helps to identify priorities and dependencies, which form the basis of the crisis management plan.

The development and integration of the BCMS is expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

Women in Cyber Switzerland

Despite the growth we've witnessed in the field of cyber security in recent years, a closer look reveals that women are still underrepresented in the global workforce. This is in the midst of a growing shortage of skilled workers in the cyber sector. To help companies close this gap, it is important to get more women excited about the cyber sector and ensure they have the same opportunities as their male counterparts.

Women in Cyber Switzerland is committed to increasing diversity, organising the annual Women in Cyber Day, local networking events and a mentoring programme.

Switch has been supporting the initiative since 2019 and is an active board member. This year's Women in Cyber Day took place on 26 August 2025 in Lucerne with around 120 attendees.

https://women-in-cyber.ch

NextGen Hero

Where ideas take flight

On 13 November 2025, Zurich's Hallenstadion once again played host to some of the most pioneering minds in the digital world. Brimming with inspiration and creative ideas, four young finalists competed to win the 'NextGen Hero' category at the Digital Economy Awards.

Each finalist gave a 90-second live pitch, after which the audience chose Nathalie Kern and Simon Weigold as the winners of 'NextGen Hero'.

Who are these future stars and what are their goals? We spoke to the two newly crowned heroes about their projects, dreams and the future of digital Switzerland.

The sixth annual Digital Economy Awards brought together hundreds of experts from the Swiss ICT scene to celebrate the most outstanding individuals and their innovations. The top talents received an award in six prize categories.

Presenting the 'NextGen Hero' award to Nathalie Kern and Simon Weigold at the 2025 Digital Economy Awards. Photo: Switch

3.
Activity report – statistical indicators

Switch

Domain name inventory

Development of .ch

The inventory of .ch domain names increased by around 12,000 in the last year.

	2024	2025
New registrations	279,916	310,369
Deletions	303,361	329,016
Reactivations*	29,483	30,667
Domain inventory as at 31/12	**2,568,952**	**2,580,972**

Development of .li

The number of .li domain names increased by around 700 in the last year.

	2024	2025
New registrations	9,495	10,693
Deletions	11,608	11,174
Reactivations*	1,285	1,198
Domain inventory as at 31/12	**69,779**	**70,496**

Development of the domain name inventory for .ch and .li
* Deleted domain names that were reactivated by the registrar within the 40-day transition period.

Information service

Information service figures

Switch grants anyone who can credibly demonstrate an overriding legitimate interest free access to the domain name holder's personal data contained in the RDDS database (Whois). These statistics record all requests that were made in the reporting year using the information service's forms. The number of private queries was unchanged from last year.

	Private	Authorities
Information provided	542	80
Information not provided	32	4
General requests *	2	0
Total requests	**576**	**84**

* These are requests about processes, procedures and legal bases.

Simplified access via RDAP for .ch and .li

If an authority or organisation has the appropriate permissions, it can query domain names with personal data via RDAP (Registration Data Access Protocol).
Another authority was added in 2025 and by the end of the year, 19 authorities were using the service. The cantonal police forces make up the largest proportion.

	Requests
Information provided	4,535
Information not provided	292
Total requests	**4,827**

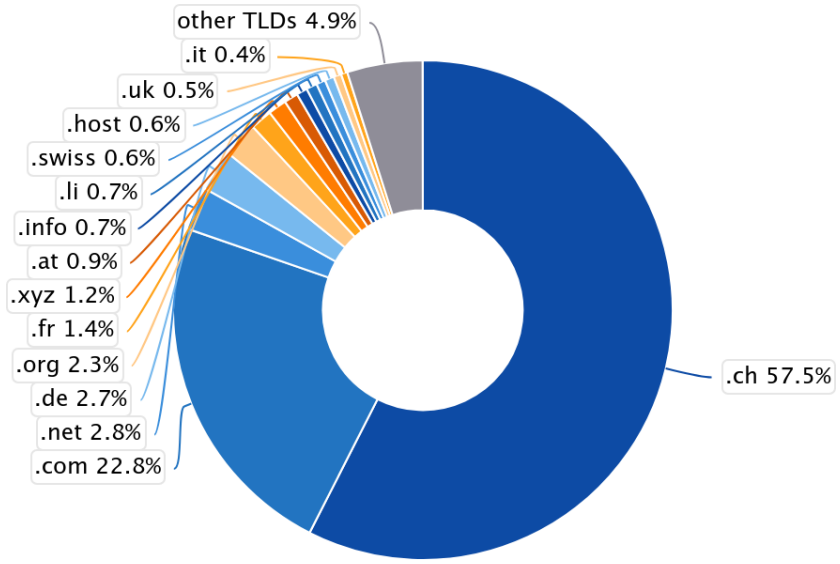
Market share of .ch and .li with Swiss domain name holders

The market share of the TLD (top-level domain) **.ch** among holders in Switzerland remained nearly unchanged from October 2024 to October 2025.

There was little change in the market share for the generic TLDs **.com/.net/.org**, or for **.li** domain names.

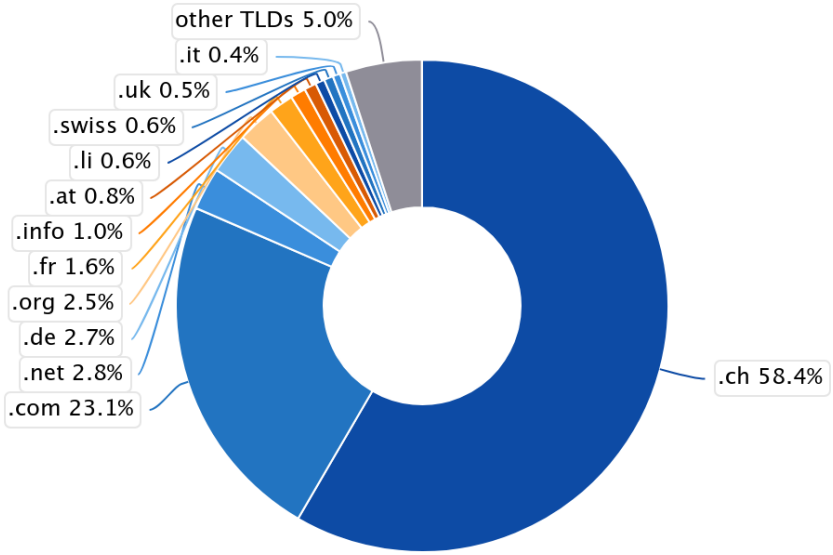
October 2024

Market share of different TLDs among domain name holders in Switzerland. Source: CENTR



October 2025

Market share of different TLDs among domain name holders in Switzerland. Source: CENTR



DNS resilience programme – development in figures

DNSSEC

1 January 2026: 52.7% (1 January 2025: 50.4%).
Proportion of domain names with DNSSEC in relation to the total number of active .ch domain names.

DMARC and SPF

1 January 2026: 24.4% correctly configured (1 January 2025: 20.1%). Figures for .ch and .li domain names, correct configuration of both DMARC and SPF. Based on third-party statistics.

DANE for SMTP

1 January 2026: 24.7% correctly configured (1 January 2025: 21.1%). Figures for .ch and .li domain names. Based on third-party statistics.

IPv6 for name servers

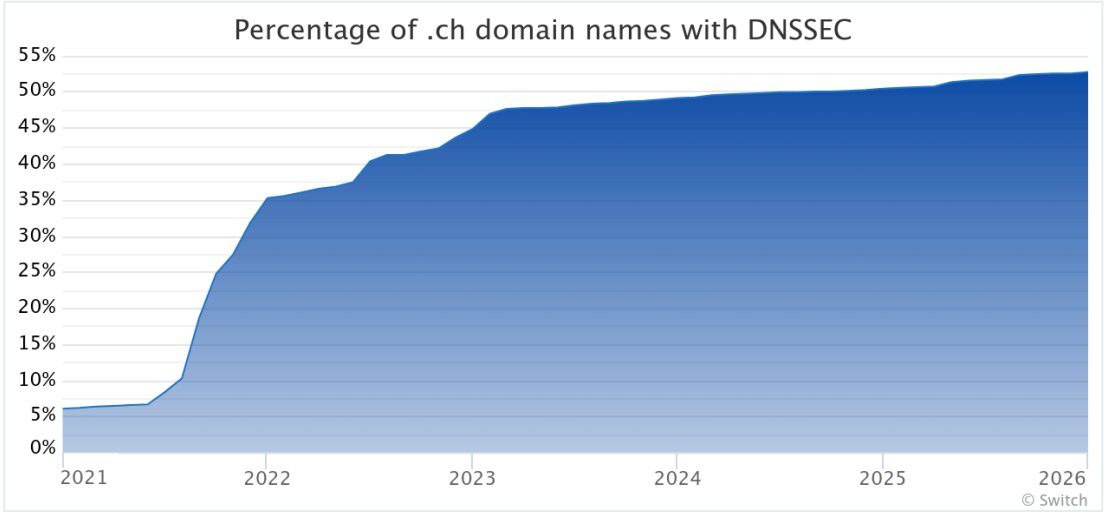
1 January 2026: 38.4% correctly configured. Figures for IPv6 on name servers of .ch and .li domain names. Based on third-party statistics.

DNSSEC statistics from Switch Third-party statistics from OpenIntel

Refund calculation for 2025

- Additional revenue from price differentiation: CHF 1,539,973
- Less fixed compensation for Switch and external monitoring service provider OpenIntel: CHF – 444,907
- Total refund CHF 1,095,066

The refund will be made at the end of February 2026.

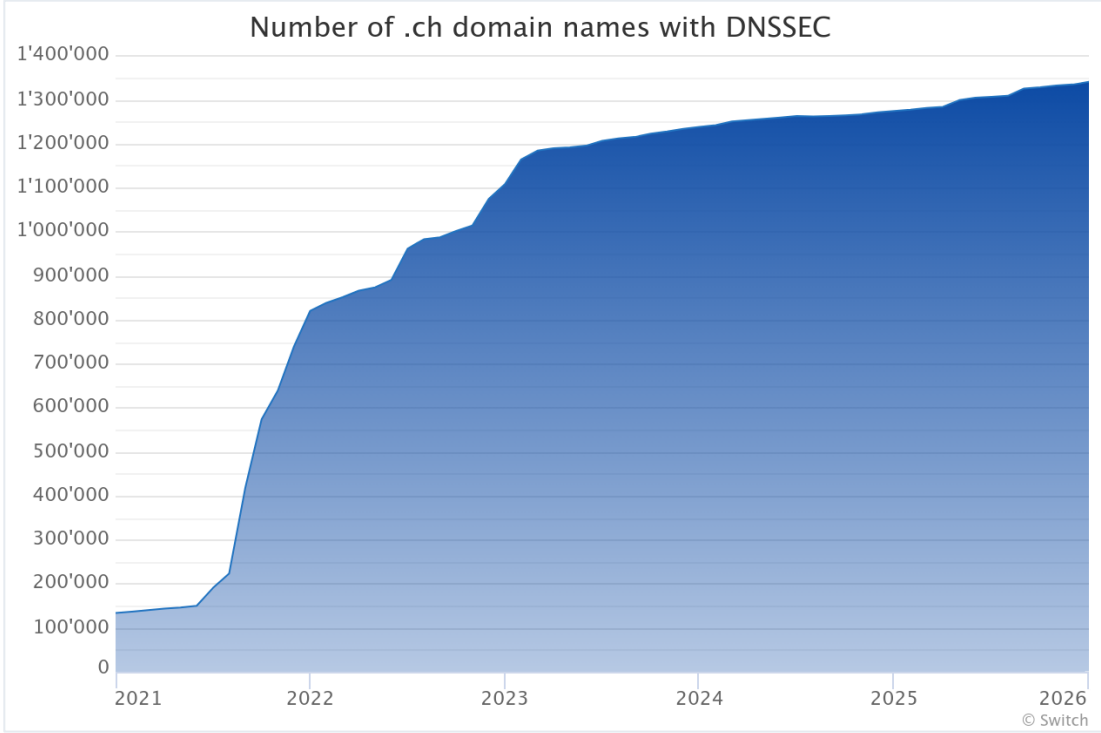


DNSSEC developments
Number of signed domain names

As of the end of 2025, more than 1.33 million .ch domain names have been signed with DNSSEC.

This corresponds to 52.7% of all .ch domain names with name servers, compared to 45% at the end of 2022 and 35% at the end of 2021. The strong growth in 2021 and 2022 was mainly driven by registrars signing all their clients' domain names as part of the DNS resilience programme. However, this growth slowed in the following years.

The larger Swiss registrars have now signed as many of their domain names as possible. If the domain names have 'external' name servers, the registrars have no influence on the signature. For large registrars abroad, the .ch TLD is only a very small part of their business and the effort of signing is not worth it for them. As a result, minimal growth is expected in the future.

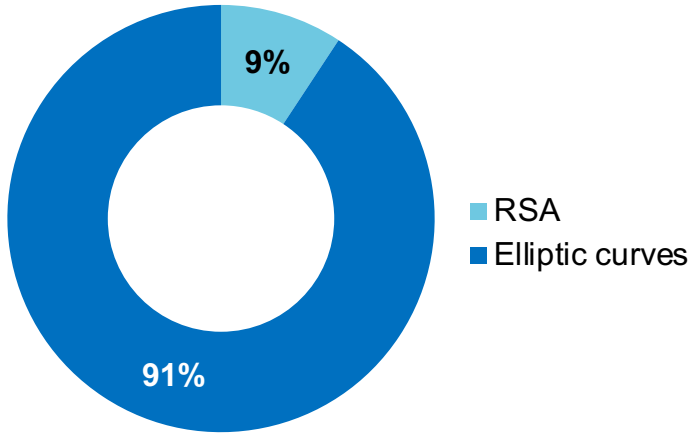


1,339,987 .ch domain names signed with DNSSEC as of 1 January 2026

DNSSEC developments
Distribution of DS algorithms

The distribution of DS algorithms was almost unchanged from last year. More than 90% of all .ch domain names still use the currently recommended algorithm 13 (ECDSAP256SHA256).

There was also another slight increase in signing using Edwards curves (EdDSA algorithms 15 and 16). These are not supported or are only partially supported by older operating systems and are therefore recommended only to a limited extent.



DNSSEC signatures used

DNSSEC algorithm	Number	Percentage
8 – RSASHA256	122,053	9.11%
10 – RSASHA512	99	0.01%
13 – ECDSAP256SHA256	2,580,972	90.67%
14 – ECDSAP384SHA384	159	0.01%
15 – Ed25519	2,496	0.19%
16 – Ed448	179	0.01%

DNSSEC validation in Switzerland

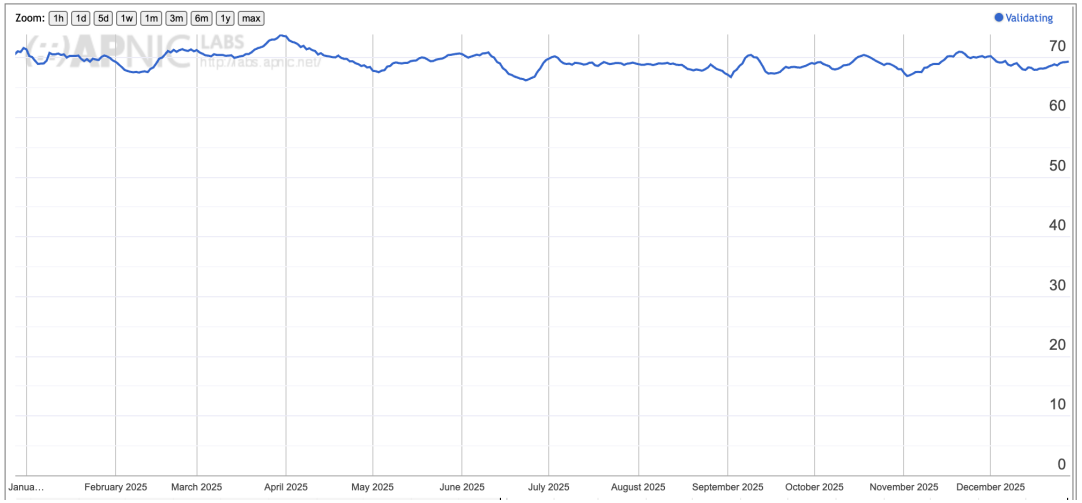
DNSSEC validation

In order to protect users from DNS spoofing, not only must the domain names be signed, but these signatures must also be validated by the DNS resolver.

According to APNIC measurements, the validation rate of DNSSEC on resolvers of Swiss ISPs remained constant at around 70% in the past year.

Website: https://stats.labs.apnic.net/dnssec/CH

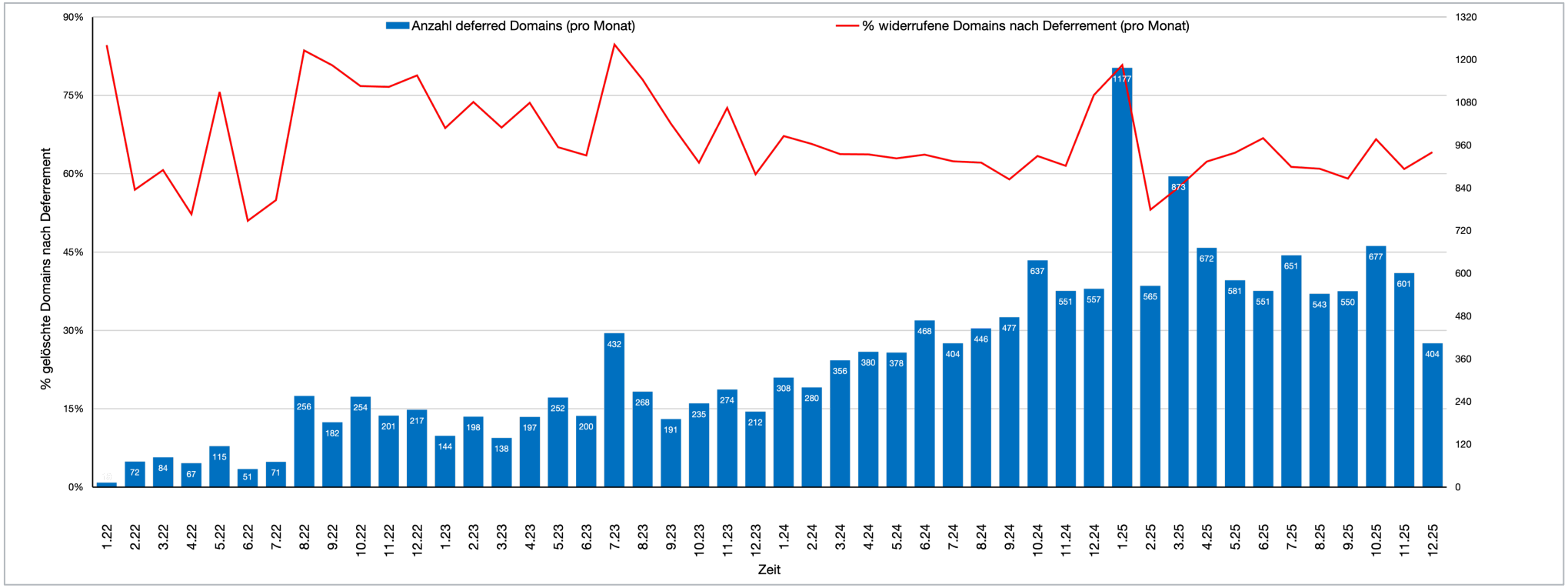
DNSSEC validation on Swiss resolvers



Deferred Delegation

A look back at Deferred Delegation

The number of deferred registrations remained stable throughout 2025. Similarly, by iteratively adjusting the criteria, we were able to also maintain a stable proportion of domain names released following positive identification of the holder.



Dispute resolution

Ofcom has tasked Switch with providing an affordable dispute resolution service (DRS). Switch has been using the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) dispute resolution service for this. WIPO operates an ICANN-accredited dispute resolution service for a number of other registries.

In 2025, the experts made decisions on 10 .ch domain names. The expert decision is the final step in the process. A somewhat smaller number of cases are closed, for example, during arbitration or because proceedings are abandoned.

WIPO decision	2024	2025
Transfer to applicant	11	6
Complaint rejected	5	4
Number of decisions	**16**	**10**

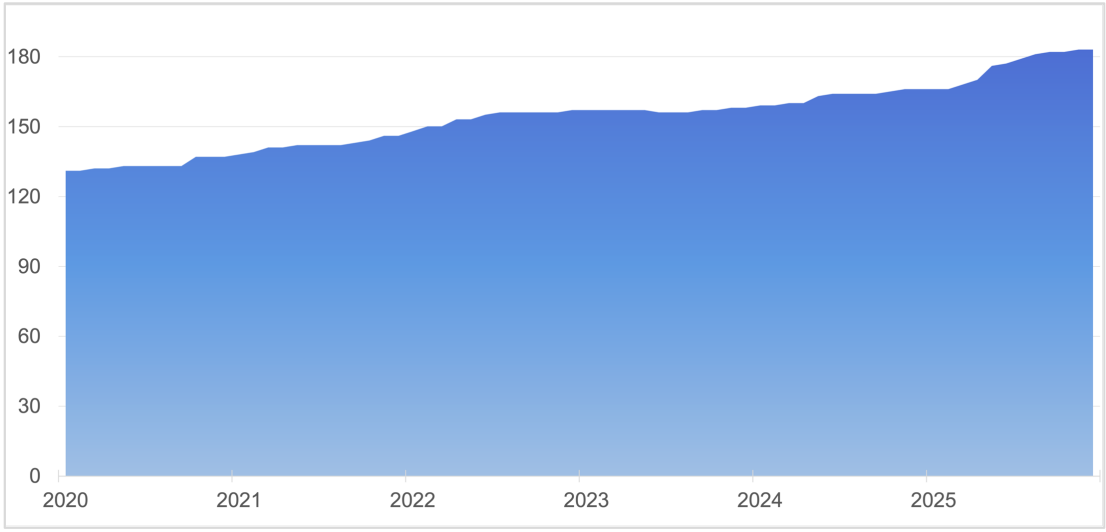
WIPO decisions (as at 11 February 2026)

	Domain names
Transfer to applicant	uyn.ch peaulux.ch manueleichmann.ch vestnershop.ch mtcontainer.ch banque-privee-edmond-de-rothschild.ch
Complaint rejected	techlink.ch svmm.ch holdenweid.ch wurzelgold.ch

The decisions have been published on the WIPO website.

Registrar developments

Year	Number of registrars	Increase compared to previous year
2020	137	6
2021	146	9
2022	157	11
2023	158	1
2024	166	8
2025	183	17



Eight registrars were added in 2024, bringing the total to 166 by the end of the year. In 2025, the number of accredited registrars rose sharply by 17 to 183.

Although a total of 25 registrars were accredited in 2024 and 2025, these registrars have a combined portfolio of just 10,000 domain names, with one of them managing over 7,000 domain names.

Performance of name servers

In terms of DNS performance measurement, Switch relies on the response time requirements for DNS queries stipulated by the ICANN Agreement: queries in the .ch zone must be answered by at least one logical name server within 500 ms (UDP) or 1,500 ms (TCP).

In 2025, this requirement was met in each instance.

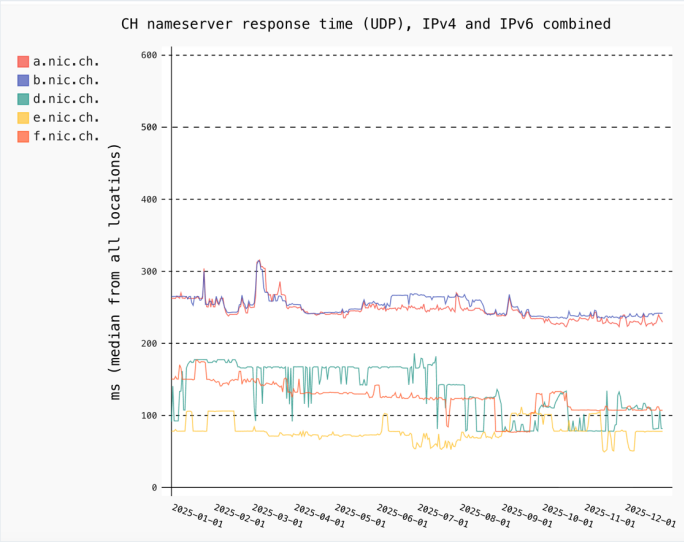
The measurements are carried out by RIPE and are publicly available.
https://atlas.ripe.net/dnsmon/group/ch

Unicast: a.nic.ch (CH), b.nic.ch (CH),

Anycast: d.nic.ch, e.nic.ch, f.nic.ch

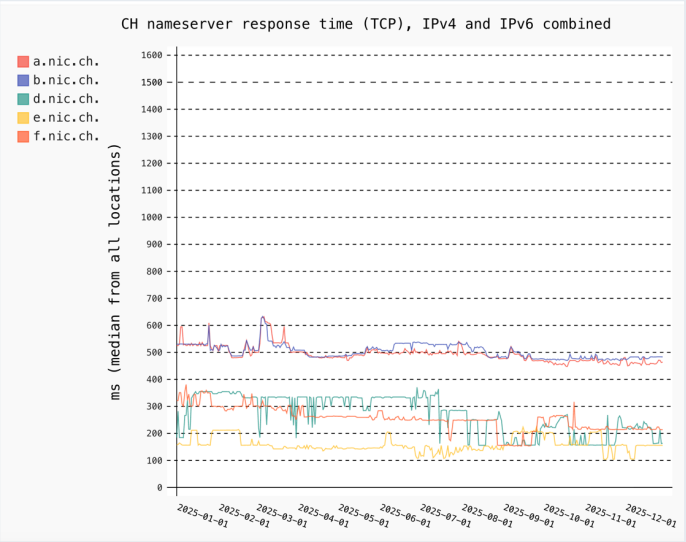
UDP response times

Combined response times for IPv4 and IPv6



TCP response times

Combined response times for IPv4 and IPv6



Cybercrime

Quantitative

In the reporting year, we captured and processed the following cases:

Number of malware and phishing cases 2025 quantitative view

	# malware cases	# phishing cases
Reports received	**1,836**	**732**
Suspicion confirmed	**1,285**	**418**
Number of blocked domain names	**624**	**306**
Reason for lifting block: - Statutory period expired - Eliminated after block - In progress on the cut-off date	 **115** **361** **3**	 **5** **19** **28**
Revoked domain names	**147**	**256**

Qualitative

The time spent on cases was:

Number of malware and phishing cases 2025 qualitative view

	Duration	
Duration of blocking according to OID Art. 15 (1), (2), (3) Max. blocking time 30 days (720 hours)	Min. time Average Max. time	**0.12 h** **109.47 h** **199.33 h**
Response time from Switch following notification	Average	**7.4 h**
Time until removal of threat after notifying the holders	Average	**89.07 h**

DNS Health Report

The DNS Health Report checks the accessibility of name servers and .ch and .li domain names. In the event of technical problems, Switch informs the operator and makes recommendations for resolving them. As such, the DNS Health Report improves the reliability of the Internet in Switzerland. What is being checked:

- Name servers: The function of the name servers is being checked for compliance with the DNS standards.
- Domain names: It checks whether DNSSEC-signed domain names can be resolved using a validating recursive resolver.

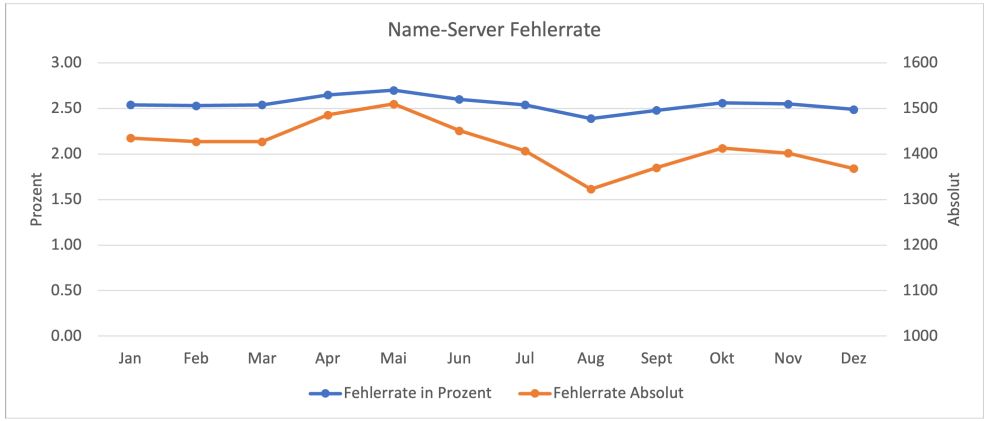
Name server report

The error rate for the name server accessibility measurement has been experiencing a slight but steady decrease since measurements began. In 2025, it stabilised at 2.5%. The most likely reason for the improvement is software updates.

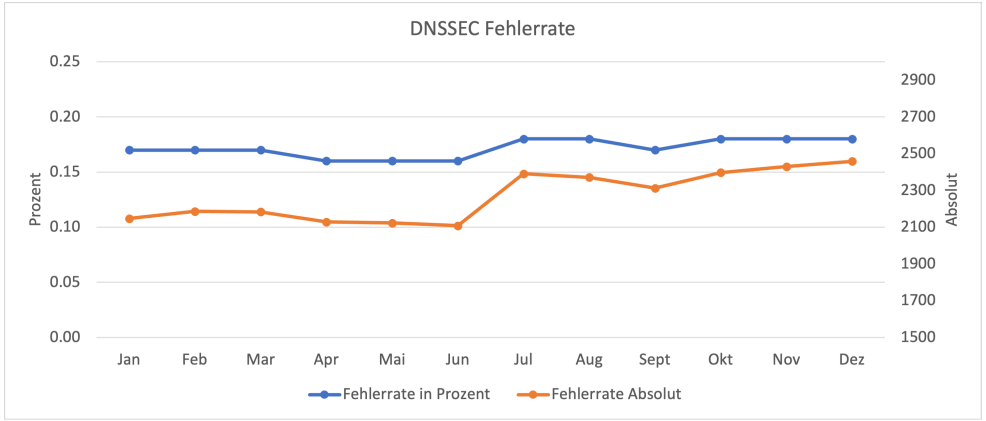
Domain name report

The error rate for the domain name accessibility measurement has increased slightly compared to previous years. However, there is no significant annual trend. Most faulty domain names are parked.

Error rate for name server accessibility measurement



Error rate for domain name accessibility measurement



4.
Activity report – economic indicators

Switch_

Economic indicators

The Switch foundation’s 2025 annual report will be approved along with the balance sheet and income statement at the Foundation Council session on 18 June 2026. Publication will take place from 19 June 2026.

No figures will be published at this point. Instead, interested parties will be referred to the comprehensive documents of Switch’s 2025 annual report.

5.
Activity report – developments

Switch_

Looking back at 2025

Resilience programme

The price differentiation for domain names correctly signed with DNSSEC was maintained in 2025. In 2025, the DANE protocol was promoted in addition to DNSSEC. The measurements and feedback to the registrars went smoothly.

For 2026, IPv6 on name servers has been defined as the criterion for the refund. In collaboration with OpenIntel, Switch's measurement infrastructure and the reporting to registrars had to be adapted in 2025. No training was offered for this, as IPv6 is already widely established and well known.

Preparation for Domain Pulse 2026

Preparations for the Domain Pulse conference actually started as far back as 2024 when we chose the venue. The programme with the line-up of speakers was published in the first half of 2025 to give them plenty of time to prepare. In the second half of 2025, the team coordinated the presentation schedule. They also finalised the two evening events and all the details for the two-day conference and chose the service providers.

ISMS ISO 27001:2022

The migration of the internal ISMS to the new ISO standard was planned for 2024, but had to be rescheduled. The necessary internal work was completed in the first half of 2025 and the transition audit required following the change in standards took place on 10 and 11 September, which we passed.

Looking back at 2025

Domain Abuse 4.0

The project is planned to run for two years and should be completed by the end of 2025. We were very satisfied with its progress in 2025. We have added new project requirements, which has extended the project by one year to the end of 2026.

The framework conditions of the contract with Ofcom clearly stipulate that data relating to the fight against cybercrime must be processed on Switch systems. In-depth discussions with potential software providers for some elements of the application made it clear that only an in-house development could fulfil this requirement. The internal development team receives help from two external specialists for the duration of the implementation.

Further details on the progress of the project can be found on page 25.

Database upgrade

The PostgreSQL database has been migrated from version 13 to version 16. The migration required meticulous preparation and external database experts. The upgrade was successful and within the projected timeframe. Now, the core of the registration application is once again up to date.

Deferred delegation and machine learning

Whether or not a domain name enters the deferred delegation process after re-registration is determined using rules that look for certain patterns and then weight the results. This can be clearly traced in each case.

Switch has experimented with new algorithms that use machine learning. The project was completed in 2025, but is not currently planned for implementation in operations.

Looking back at 2025

Holder identity verification

When the identity of a domain name holder needs to be verified, this is currently done manually by checking the submitted documents. A motion tabled by National Council member Götte requires that the owner's identity be verified for each new registration of a domain name.

In this context, Switch has reviewed the offers and prices of commercial providers for these verifications. The aim of this project was to gain clarity about the market and possible opportunities. The project is now complete, but there is currently no plan to implement this in operations.

RESTful provisioning protocol

There has been little progress with the standardisation process. Switch has been following it, but has not deployed any significant resources.

We believe that this technology would certainly be useful in helping the registry software adapt to modern data centre architectures. The benefits for registrars, on the other hand, are minimal and would require a great deal of initial effort.

We will continue to monitor developments and stay in contact with registrars. If registrars express a desire to make the change, Switch will make the new protocol available.

Planned innovations 2026

DNS resilience programme

The criteria for 2027 have not yet been defined. We assume that no protocols other than those already included in the programme will be promoted.

Replacement of the name server hardware

Switch's primary and hidden name servers run on dedicated hardware rather than in a virtual environment. This hardware will be gradually replaced over the course of 2026/27.

Domain Pulse 2026

The domain industry's largest German-language conference will take place in St. Gallen in February 2026, organised by Switch. Most of the preparatory work was actually completed in 2025. After the conference, the debriefing and feedback will be shared with the nic.at and DENIC registries to enable collaborative improvement of the conference.

Dynamic TTL

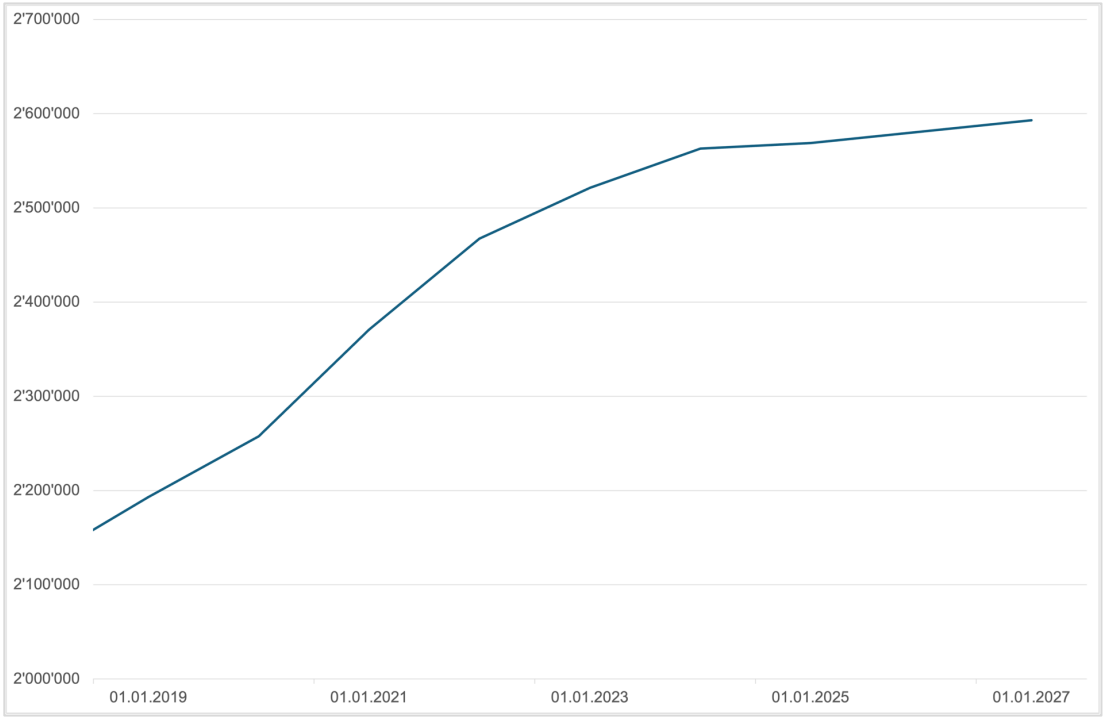
Switch is testing more frequent zone file updates and the use of dynamic TTLs for the .ch and .li zones. The aim is to allow domain operators to react faster in the event of incorrect configurations and resolve the issue. These problems can arise with DNSSEC, for example, or if a fault occurs while the customer is changing registrars. This requires two adjustments:

1. Changes in the .ch zone should have a shorter TTL and therefore remain in the cache for less time. The current value of one hour is already proving effective, and we are testing a reduction to 15 minutes. It may even be possible to further reduce this to 10 minutes.

2. Reduce the publication interval by one hour. With the current setup, it can be shortened to 30 minutes. Switch currently publishes the zone every hour, but twice a month it is published every half an hour due to key rollover changes.

Growth forecast for .ch domain names

Year	Percentage increase compared to previous year	Cause
2020	4.8	Increase in digitalisation due to the pandemic, web hosting marketing initiatives
2021	3.9	Decrease, but still increased due to the pandemic
2022	2.1	Further decrease. The surge in digitalisation lasted two years and resulted in an unexpected increase of around 100,000 domain names.
2023	1.6	Clear end to the effects of the pandemic.
2024	0.1	Stagnation
2025	0.1	Stagnation



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