EURid Securing the .eu Environment

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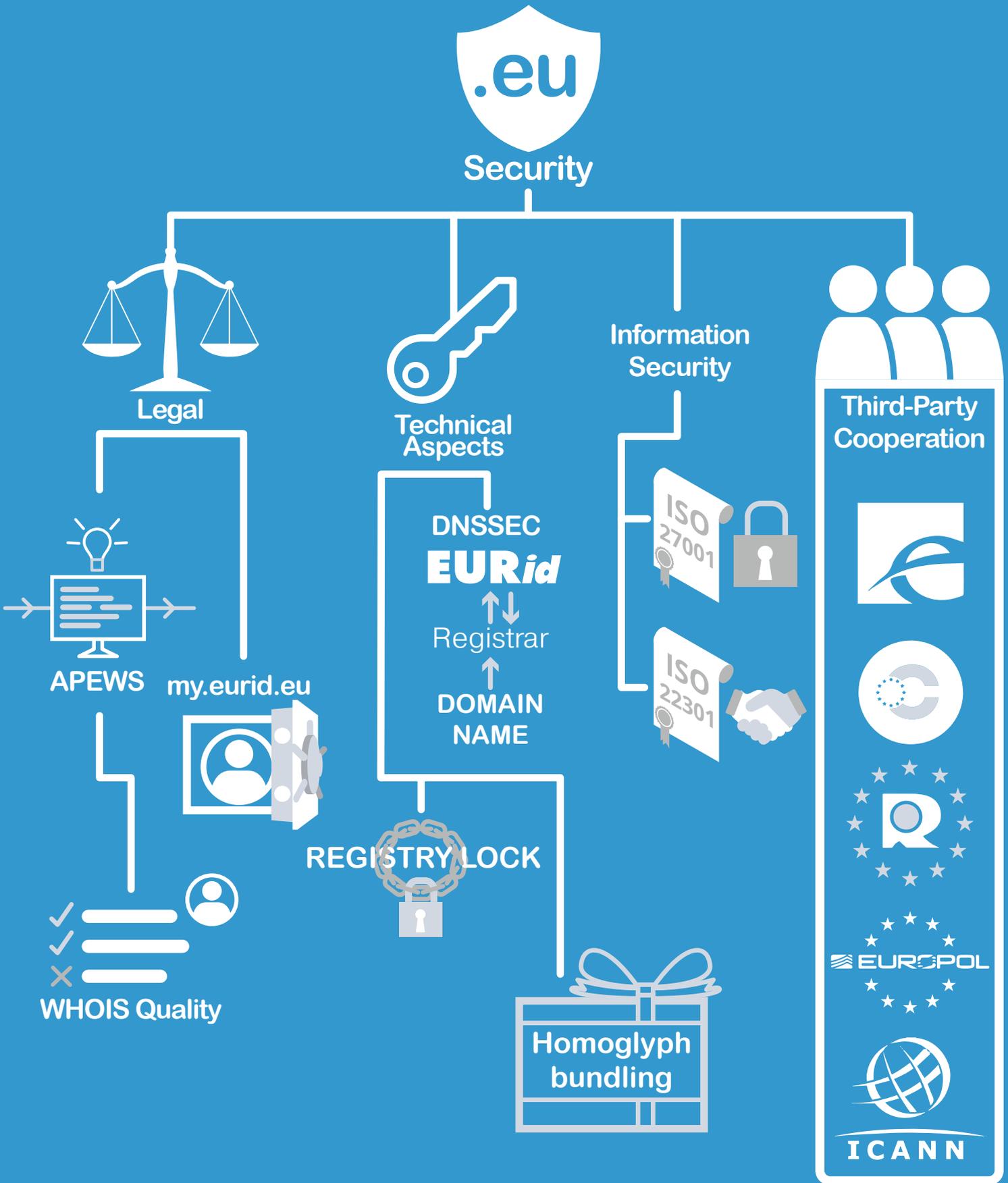
TECHNICAL ASPECTS

DNSSEC

DNSSEC is a security protocol that can help protect against certain cyberattacks, such as domain name hijacking. In recent attacks, legitimate visitors of a website were taken to an imposter site. Victims unwittingly gave away their passwords and other sensitive information.   Governments and corporate webmail systems were compromised using the same technique.

Domain names that are protected with DNSSEC have in-built protection mechanisms to create a chain of trust, and verify the authenticity of domain name look-ups. The domain name hijacking attacks would break the chain of trust that exists thanks to DNSSEC and as a result the victim would not be able to access the compromised webmail.

EURid has been actively promoting uptake of DNSSEC since 2010. More than 13% of .eu and .ею domains are signed with DNSSEC.

EURid
↑↓
Registrar
↑
DOMAIN.eu

IDN Security Rules

To support the 24 official languages of the EU, EURid offers internationalized domain names (IDNs) in Cyrillic and Greek scripts. EURid has voluntarily adopted two key measures to help mitigate potential security risks associated with IDNs:

•   Script matching. Each domain name has to be in the same script as the domain name ending. So, if a domain holder chooses a Cyrillic script domain name, the ending will be .ею.

•   Homoglyph bundling. Greek, Cyrillic and Latin scripts share similar and identical-looking letters, such as the letter 'a' in Latin and Cyrillic script. EURid's registration systems automatically bundle IDNs with identical-looking letters, so that a single domain name holder controls all variants of each IDN.

Homoglyph bundling

Registry-Lock

Registry lock protects .eu and .ею domains against unintended changes, deletions or transfers. Brand- and business-owners alike can have a greater level of assurance and security for their online presence.

REGISTRY LOCK

LEGAL

WHOIS QUALITY PLAN

To provide greater assurance on the quality of .eu registration data and compliance with the eligibility criteria set out in the .eu Regulations, EURid proactively cross-checks registration data with third party databases. Where inconsistencies are identified, EURid invites the domain name holder to make the required corrections, failing which the domain name is suspended. EURid also operates a fast-track procedure for domains that have been reported to the registry as a source of abuse.
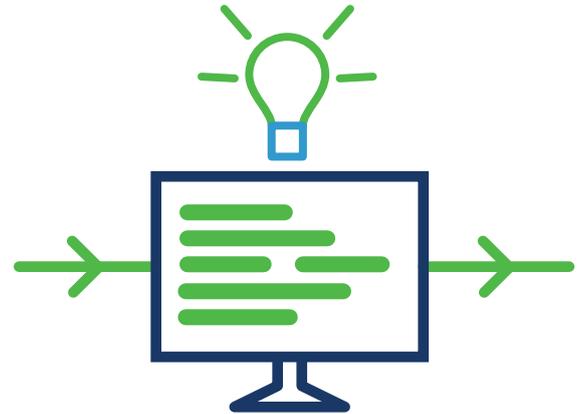
APEWS (Abuse Prevention and Early Warning System)

In collaboration with KU Leuven, iMinds (now IMEC), EURid has developed an AI / machine-learning model to predict potential abuse of a domain name. If sufficient indicators point to a correlation with known abusive campaigns, in the near future the machine-learning model will prevent the domain name from technically functioning.

MY.EURID.EU

EURid's my.eurid.eu portal empowers domain holders to:

• Verify their domain registration data as stored in the registration database
• Exercise their legal rights under GDPR to access to their personal data, and
• Generate a transfer code for their domain name in circumstances where their registrar is not cooperating with a transfer request.

INFORMATION SECURITY

EURid was one of the first European registries to voluntarily achieve certification in the internationally recognized standards, ISO/IEC 27001 Information Security Management and ISO 22301 Business Continuity Management.

The security standard includes requirements to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an information security management system within the context of the organisation. It also requires the assessment and treatment of information security risks tailored to the needs of the organisation.

EURid's compliance with the security standard is audited annually and requires EURid to continually improve its systems and processes.

COOPERATION WITH THIRD PARTIES

Since EURid was first established, it has proactively engaged with the international community to share best practices and expertise. Within the security environment, our partnerships include:

Belgian Law enforcement and Federal Public Service, including cooperation on the Avalanche cases and take-down of counterfeit websites.

CERT-EU. EURid has been working in partnership with the European Computer Emergency Response Team since 2012.

EUIPO, brand protection alerts. Holders and applicants of a European Union trademark (EUTM) are alerted as soon as a corresponding .eu domain name is registered.

Europol. Since 2016, EURid has had a formal cooperation with Europol, enabling the exchange of statistical data and trends and cooperation in the fight against cybercrime.

Internet governance organizations. EURid participates in domain industry security working groups, including CENTR and ICANN.

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