

WHO WILL RUN THE PH DOMAIN?

Open Letter to Secretary Virgilio Peña
Commission on Information and Communications Technology

Dear Secretary Peña:

Please refer to the table summarizing the performance of the GOV.ph, EDU.ph and DotPH Registries from Sept-Dec 2004. The data was compiled by an independent US firm and indicates the amount of time each Registry's DNS & Web servers FAILED to function properly.

The people running the .GOV.ph or EDU.ph registries were both on your Domain Advisory Board which drafted the Guidelines, and supposedly had significant input in formulating these. **Yet their inability to run their own systems efficiently is shocking.**

DOWN TIME (IN SERVER HOURS)			
	GOV.ph	EDU.ph	DotPH
December	407	314	3
November	595	119	0
October	1008	6	8
September	235	141	1

*details available at www.domainwatch.ph

To give you an idea of how unacceptable this is, you only need look at DotPH's webhosting service guarantees. We guarantee 99.5% uptimes. Anything more than 3.6 hours of outages per month, we start issuing refunds. Whereas GOV.ph and EDU.ph have some servers which are down for hundreds of hours a month!

The question - if you succeed in gaining control of the DotPH Registry - is **who will run the PH Domain?**

Running a Registry is, first and foremost, a technical function. Yet **Government's decision to seek control of the DotPH Registry was reached without studying any data or considering the technical implications.**

If DNS servers are down, email bounces and websites fail to resolve. Online databases will be inaccessible. If the Registry service is abysmal, people will not use PH domains. No ISP or Webhosting company will want to sell PH domains, because they will be deluged by complaints.

Transferring DotPH's operations to a mom-and-pop operation will simply kill the PH Domain and strand thousands of existing nameholders.

You've stated that the Guidelines were created to improve the efficiency of the PH Domain. Yet the technical people who drafted your Guidelines run inefficient Registries. A natural catastrophe in Metro Manila could, for example, simply wipe the entire EDU.ph off the face of the earth.

If you lack the necessary expertise, perhaps you should have chosen more capable technical advisors. The public was given only one day to comment on the technical capabilities of your choices, which even include members of a group that had tried to take over the PH Registry and failed. (Their complaints were all dismissed by the DTI).

After 18 months of crafting Guidelines to improve the efficiency of the PH Domain, the efficiency of the one Registry (GOV.ph) currently under your control leaves much to be desired.

After 18 months you remain unable to identify any problems with DotPH that justify the need for Guidelines, let alone Government taking control.

We hope that in the next 18 months, your decisions as CICT Chairman will be based more on Technology, and less on Politics.

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