

PRESS RELEASE/NEWS

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CAC PILOT ON ELECTRONIC UDRP SERVICE APPROVED BY ICANN

The Czech Arbitration Court (CAC) has launched its Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) service in January 2009 by running a **Pilot initiative** designed to streamline the process and to save complainants and respondents both time and money. **After successful completion of the Pilot, the CAC's electronic UDRP Service was finally approved by ICANN Board on 21 May 2009. The new UDRP Service is available at www.adr.eu.**

The UDRP features an expedited procedure that is mandatory upon all registrants of generic Top Level Domains including .com, .org, .net, .biz, .info and .mobi. It is designed to settle disputes arising from the abusive registration of domain names.

The foundation of CAC's UDRP service is a unique electronic platform that revolutionises the process of filing a complaint. This platform incorporated the results of two test projects using trial data that have been running across five continents during December 2008 and also a formal Pilot Programme, open to all interested parties who could file complaints using the new electronic UDRP Service from January – March 2009. The results of the Pilot were presented to ICANN for consideration and ICANN Board approved the new Service on **21 May 2009**.

The new Service features:

1. Full electronic UDRP, or e-Filing, with users authenticating their documents with a unique **Chess Card**; and
2. Electronic filing of documents supported by hard-copy signature (partial electronic filing).

Zbynek Loebel, head of the UDRP Implementation Team for the CAC which is a non-profit organisation based in Prague, said, “We believe that e-filing will significantly reduce the administrative burden connected with filing a complaint or response during a UDRP proceeding and cut costs without compromising security. We are grateful to ICANN for being open to our aim and approve our new services”.

Tereza Bartoskova, CAC’s senior case administrator, said, “More than 120 persons from the whole world have applied for and received our Chess Card in anticipation of the approval of our Pilot by ICANN Board. These persons can now start filing their UDRP Complaints with the CAC only electronically, without the use of paper documents. Those interested in our new services and the Chess Cards should visit our website at www.adr.eu”.

An additional innovative feature of the CAC’s UDRP service is the option for Class Complaints with the filing of a single complaint on behalf of multiple complainants. Vit Horacek, CAC’s Board member responsible for the UDRP implementation said, “We believe that the option of a Class Complaint could be very attractive to trade mark owners who wish to tackle serial cybersquatters who focus on a business sector”.

Ends

Further Notes:

1. *About the Czech Arbitration Court:* The CAC is a non-profit organisation based in Prague, attached to the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic and Agricultural Chamber of the Czech Republic. Established in 1949, CAC manages domestic and international commercial disputes related to IP and technology matters. In 2007, CAC administered over 2,000 arbitration proceedings. Since 2005, the CAC has administered almost 1,000 .eu ADR cases for EURid, the registry operator for .eu and the European Commission. Proceedings are managed in 21 of the 22 official EU languages (the exception being Maltese) using an innovative on-line platform.
2. *About the Electronic filing of documents supported by hard-copy signature:* A filing Party – either a Complainant or Respondent - who has filed a submission using CAC’s on-line platform, will be sent a hard-copy Signature Page listing all their documents. The Filing Party confirms on this Signature Page that documents locked in the on-line case file are correct then prints the number of copies of the Signature Page prescribed by the UDRP

Rules, signs and returns it to CAC's Service Center. Finally, the Service Center prints the whole submission and delivers it to the CAC.

3. *About Electronic UDRP:* Complainants and Respondents can submit filings using a simple and secure electronic platform without the use of paper. In order to verify the authenticity of documents, users will be issued with a unique CHESS CARD.
4. *About Class Complaints:* A single person representing multiple Complainants may file a single (Class) Complaint against a single domain name holder in respect of multiple disputed domain names. This new procedural option is governed by Section 4 (a) of the CAC's UDRP Supplemental Rules, which requires the following conditions to be met:
 - The Class Complaint is based on legal arguments applicable equally, or substantially in the same manner, to all the disputed domain names;
 - the person representing the different Complainants joined in the Class Complaint must provide evidence that it he is authorised to act on behalf of each of the Complainants.
5. *Picture editors:* An image of the CHESS CARD is provided below:

