

# Secure Your Digital Identity: The Importance of Domain Security

April 30, 2025



# Speakers

- Craig Schwartz, President, fTLD Registry | .Bank & .Insurance
- Anjelica Dortch, Vice President, Operational Risk & Cybersecurity Policy, ICBA
- Andy Johnson, Chairman/Co-CEO/CFO, The Bank of Vernon (AL)
- Allen Huber, CIO, BankNorth (ND)

Your domain is the front door to your digital channels (website and email)

You must secure your domain with technology and sound business practices

# Facts

- The global cost of cybercrime is estimated at US\$9.4 trillion in 2024 – *Interisle Consulting Group*
- Revenue earned by cybercriminals is estimated at over US\$1.5 trillion in 2024 – *Academic Research*
- 878,111 maliciously registered domain names from May 2023 - April 2024 – *Cybercrime Information Center*
- 80% of domain names that look like the largest global brands are not owned by them – *CSC Domain Security Report*
- Phishing is the most frequently reported cybercrime – *FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)*
- 91% of phishing attacks come from email – *Identitytheft.org*
- Cybercrime predominantly comes from lookalike or compromised domains
- Artificial Intelligence is a game changer

# Homograph Domain Name Spoofing

www.MarshallSavings.com

www.MarshaII Savings.com

www.marshaiisavings.com

apple.com vs. apple.com

Cyrillic “a” vs. Latin “a”

# Technical Solutions

- Implement DNSSEC to protect your DNS and prevent man-in-the-middle attacks, domain hijacking, and more
- Implement Email Authentication at enforcement (i.e., DMARC (p=reject), SPF, DKIM)
- Implement Registry Lock to prevent unauthorized changes to registration data
- Use strong TLS encryption and related cipher suites
- Implement DNS redundancy
- Require two-factor authentication or Single Sign-On (SSO) for users with access to registration data

# Business Practices Matter

- Select a domain registrar that is committed to security (e.g., ISO27001, SOC2, other certifications)
- Set your domain to auto-renew
- Use a role name (e.g., Domain Admin) and role email (e.g., domainadmin@bankname.bank) for privacy and to prevent a single point-of-failure with communications
- Ensure your technology solutions are current (i.e., update just as you patch software)
- Defined user-based permissions to access domain registration data

# fTLD History

- ICBA and other leading trades created fTLD Registry Services and launched .Bank in 2015 (and .Insurance in 2016); continues to be industry governed
- Created to provide a trusted and more secure place online for banks; shielding from phishing, spoofing used to commit cybercrime
- Verification is the key to trust; no bad actors and lookalike domains; (KYB – Know Your Bank)
- Industry developed Security Requirements and adaptive compliance monitoring are the bedrock of .Bank

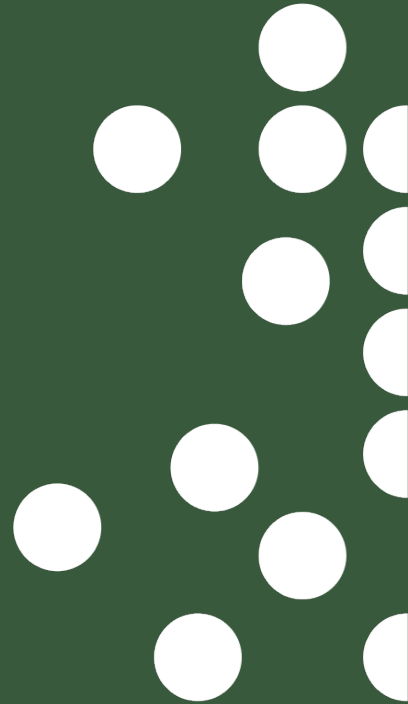


# .Bank by the Numbers

- ~1,790 banks in the U.S.\* have a .Bank domain(s) (~40% of all banks)
- 842 U.S. banks have adopted .Bank (~18% of all banks); 895 banks worldwide
- 9 state banking associations have adopted .Bank
- Average number of days from registration to launch:
  - 2023: 180
  - 2024: 117
  - 2025: 36 (too early to tell)

*\*.Bank is globally available; ~83% of activity is domestic*

# .Bankers Q&A



# Resources

- Learn about .Bank from ICBA: <https://www.ICBA.Bank>
- Learn about .Bank from fTLD: <https://register.bank/>
  - Book a Consultation: <https://register.bank/schedule-meeting/>
  - Get a .Bank Domain: <https://register.bank/get-started/>
  - Executive Summary: <https://register.bank/executive-summary/>
  - Download the Switch Kit: <https://register.bank/switch/>
  - Security Requirements: <https://register.bank/implementation-guide/#security>
- Follow .Bank on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/11030819>
- Sign up for the .Bank Newsletter: <https://register.bank/insights/>
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Thank you!

