

# DNS-EC Newsletter

October 2017

DNS  
Entrepreneurship  
Center



Your future starts today ●

ISSUE NO.3 | 2017



## DNS-EC Youth Outreach & Capacity Building Program

As part of the DNS-EC Outreach and Capacity Building Program the center conducted two capacity building workshops and participated in an outreach event. The events took place at Zewail City and Ain Shams University.

### Ain Shams University Workshop

For the second year the DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC) conducts a “DNS Operations & DNSSEC” summer workshop at the Facul-



ty of Computer and Information Sciences, at Ain Shams University in Cairo. The workshop was

conducted last July and attended by 26 students from the faculty.

Our Leading Instructor was Mohamed Salah, dot Masr Director. The students learned during the training about how the Internet functions, the bodies that help the Internet function, Networking Concepts and DNS concepts, then they configured a primary DNS server and a secondary DNS server. All 26 students were handed certificates of participation carrying the logo of the DNS-EC and the Information Technology and Research Consulting Center at Ain Shams University.

### Zewail City Training Program

Building on the Internet introductory seminar which the DNS-EC conducted last February at the University of Science & Technology at Zewail City, the center conducted a three-day Domain Names workshop at Zewail City from

26 - 28th April . The workshop was attended by 15 students and the leading instructor was Hamza Aboulfath, founder and CEO of the Moroccan ICANN registrar Genius. The Workshop started with an introduction about ICANN and the DNS by Baher Esmat, ICANN VP Middle East Engagement Stakeholder followed by an introduction about the domain name industry with a highlight on the region by Hadia ElMiniawi, Director of the DNS-EC. On the second day Hamza shared with the students his experiences, how he started his business and how it evolved, after which he talked with the students about the hosting business, the ICANN Registrar accreditation process and how they could scale up their businesses.

On the last day Hamza discussed with the students how to become an entrepreneur and what it takes to become one. Then Hamza asked the class to suggest ideas for startups, after which they formed four groups. Each group worked on an idea and then Hamza discussed with them the feasibility of their business ideas and its implementation.



## Regional Events

### ME DNS Forum

The DNS-EC participated in the 4th edition of the Middle East DNS forum that took place in Egypt from 22 to 23rd of May, 2017 and was hosted by the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA). The center shared its experiences and activities with the audience, and participated in a session about women in Tech that shed the light on the women working in the technology field. In addition the center participated in the media round table that took place before the forum.

<https://cairo2017.mednsf.org/en/ises>.

### Internet Society's 25th anniversary

Celebrating the In-

ternet's society 25th anniversary the DNS-EC participated in the intercommunity Inter-active node session that took place on 19th September, 2017 in Cairo, the theme of the node discussion was digital divide.

<https://www.internetsociety.org/intercommunity/2017/nodes/cairo>

### Zewail City Career Fair

As part of the DNS-EC's awareness program, the center participated in the second annual career fair that took place at Zewail city on 29th April, 2017. The career fair was a good opportunity to introduce the center to the students and inform them about ICANN and the fellowship programs. In addition the center prepared a sign-up sheet for students who are interested in DNS related courses.

## DNS Entrepreneurship Center & IBM Domain Names Hackathon

In Partnership with IBM the DNS Entrepreneurship Center conducted a four-day Domain Names Hackathon. This was the first Hackathon that the center conducts, and the first hackathon in which IBM skills academy in Egypt uses its analytics tools and services to analyze real domain names data. The idea of the Hackathon was based on making the students use IBM analytic tools and services to analyze new gTLD zone files and reach information that they regard useful. Prior to the Hackathon none of the students had any idea about the DNS. As participants needed to have some knowledge about IBM analytics solutions and services, they were all selected by IBM.



However, participants were mostly engineering or computer science students. The first day started with an introduction about the DNS-EC, how the Internet works and the role of the DNS: by Hadia El Miniawi, Director of the DNS-EC, followed by an introduction by Ori-



ette Nayel, IBM University Relations Leader about IBM's academic program for university students. Then Mohamed Salah, director of dot Masr explained to the participants a zone file. On the second day Hadia started with an introduction about the domain name industry and highlighted some industry reports and market studies. Ahmed Abdel-Baky and Mariam El Tantawi, IBM Analytics and Watson technical experts followed by explaining IBM tools and services and how to use IBM solutions with the available data. The students were asked to

look at the list of the new gTLDs available on ICANN's web site and choose the zone file or files that they would like to use as their sample data; In addition some new gTLD zone files were already available for them to use. The students formed four groups A,

B, C and D and with the help of DNS-EC and IBM implementation team participants started to build up their ideas and implement their projects. The fourth day was dedicated to the presentations of the projects. DNS-EC and IBM invited Mr. Baher Esmat, VP Middle East Engagement Stakeholder at the ICANN, Dr. Nashwa Abdel Baki, Professor at the Nile University, Dr. Marianne Azer member of the Egyptian Parliament and Professor at the Nile University, Mr. Gamal Selim, Chief Executive Officer at Link Data-center, and Associate



Professor Dr. Mohamed Taha from Benha University to form the judging panel.

Team A was the winning team; the team had three participants from the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University, Taghreed Hassan, Ahmed Koshak and Omar Mokhtar.

Team A used the .wine zone file as their sample data. The students were able to look at the registration date of the domain names and the expiry date of the domain names and send notifications to the administrators about the expiry date, they also showed the panel of judges the geographic locations of the name servers registered un-

**“The first Hackathon in which IBM skills academy in Egypt uses its analytics tools and services to analyze real domain names data”**

der the .wine zone file and the type of businesses of the websites associated with the zone file.

Team B was formed of four students Mohamed S. Masoud, Amgd Ibrahim, Hossam Abdelmoaty and Hassan Aboeleil. They started their presentation by mentioning that they began

their project with a research about the domain names industry referring to reports like Verisign’s domain names industry brief.

The team said that they found enough statistics about the new generic top level do-



mains - which was the scope of their work, however they did not find explanations for the information that they got. Team B mentioned that the registrations under the new gTLD .xyz jumped from about 2.9 million to about 6.2 million registrations in just four days during the period from 2016-05-3 to 2016-06-03. Then the team noticed a huge drop in the number of registrations, the new gTLD .xyz lost about 4.1 million registrations in just 5 months during the period from 2017-03-27 to 2017-09-17. That led the team to their project idea, they wanted to know an explanation for the sudden rise and sudden drop in the number of registrations.

They said during their presentation “We wanted to know the factors that control the reg-



The team used the zone files .xyz and .loan as their sample data files. Team B got the same information that Team A got and built a Chatbot to facilitate the use of the solution, however they did not show the panel of judges any results. The team could not reach their initial target which is trying to know the factors that affect the registrations, however they had a good idea

istrations, are they just technology related factors, economic factors, political factors or some other factors that we have no idea about.” The team said that the purpose of their project was to give a broad look at the DNS industry and to help in deciding when and where to invest in the DNS industry and that is why they call it “Bird’s Eye.”

and they came in second place.

Team C was formed of three participants Hager Essam, Menna Tallah Bahaa-eldin and Nermine Khaled. Their idea was to display a map that shows the geographic distribution of the name servers associated with a TLD and to display a graph that shows the business categories of the websites associated with the Top Level

domain. The team displayed a zone file in a tree form (Hierarchical structure) and showed the judging panel a map with the geographic distribution of the name servers under the zone file .xyz.

Team C had also another idea which was to use IBM Bluemix document conversion service to convert the Africa DNS market study to plain text and then to use



IBM NLU to analyze the text and obtain the information that they were looking for.

Team D consisted of four participants Yomna Nagy, Nada Tarek, Hager Sameh and Shahenda Mohamed, their idea was to obtain the websites associated with a zone file, find the geographic location and the business category to which the website belongs to and finally display the results on charts. However the team was not able to show the panel of judges any results.

While the panel of judges were reaching their decision the participants attended a career advising session by Mohamed Abdallah, Executive board member



at Job monster Group.

All four teams were supported by the hackathon's implementation team; dot Masr experts, Abdal Monem Galila and Abdelhamid Mohamed from DNS-EC and Ahmed Abdel Baki and Mariam El Tan-

tawi from IBM. In addition Mostafa Ahmed a year four Engineering student and an IBM intern helped in mentoring the students.

### Quotes from the Hackathon's participants



Shahenda Mohamed is an engineering student that came specially from Sohag to attend the Hackathon, Shahenda said:

"I had a wonderful time, I met great people, these four days are the most awesome days of my holiday, I learned a lot of things, new skills, new people and a good sum of information, thanks for all of you and I hope to see you again"

Team B wrote: "It was a great experience. None of us knew about the DNS industry and almost all of us had never used the IBM Cognitive solutions before, it was a challenge to take a brief about the DNS industry and try to improve the industry using IBM solutions in just 3 days!"





Domain Name System Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC)  
Smart Village, B4 km 28 Cairo/  
Alex Desert Road, Egypt  
Phone: +202 3534 4392  
Fax: +202 3537 4000  
info@dns-ec.eg - dns-ec.eg



[dns.entrepreneurship.center](https://www.facebook.com/dns.entrepreneurship.center)



[DNS Entrepreneurship Center](https://www.youtube.com/DNS_Entrepreneurship_Center)



[DNS Entrepreneurship Center](https://plus.google.com/DNS_Entrepreneurship_Center)



[@DNS\\_EC](https://twitter.com/DNS_EC)