

# THE HISTORY OF .CA

## THE LIFE STORY OF THE DOMAIN THAT COULD.

### THE METEORIC RISE OF THE .CA REGISTRY

In a little over two decades, Canada's domain name registry has developed from a small academic service run by volunteers into a mature, national organization managing a critical resource on behalf of all Canadians. In the process, it has emerged as a world leader in the Internet domain space.

- The .CA registry was created in 1987 by volunteers at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver.
- The first .CA domain name, upei.ca, was registered in January 1988.
- Since then, .CA domain name usage has grown by over 20% per year.

- The registry was officially transferred to the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) on December 1, 2000.
- In April 2008, CIRA registered its one millionth .CA domain.

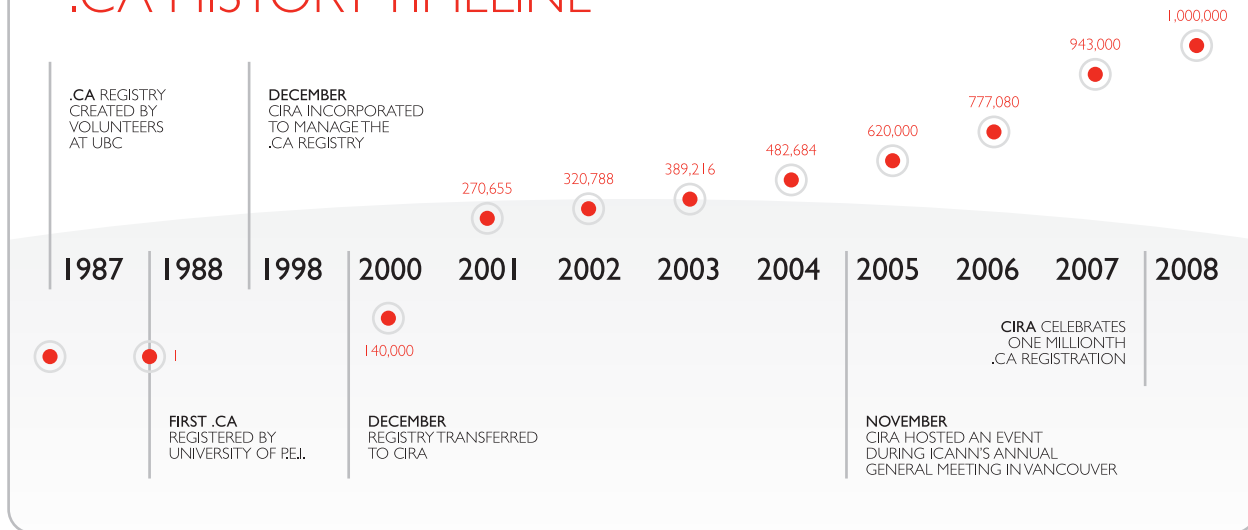
### 1987–2000: THE VOLUNTEER YEARS

When the .CA registry began, the Canadian Internet community was small. Individuals could not register domain names, and most .CA domains were used by government and academic communities. John Demco—with the help of like-minded volunteers—managed Canada's registry on his own time. During the next 13 years, volunteers registered more than 100,000 domain names.



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## .CA HISTORY TIMELINE



By 1997, Internet activity had increased dramatically. At its annual Internet conference that year, the Canadian Internet community decided to reform the .CA registry, to liberalize registration procedures and improve turnaround times. The conference created the Canadian Domain Names Consultative Committee, which recommended that a not-for-profit, private-sector corporation be established to run the .CA registry. The Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) was incorporated in December 1998. Over the next two years, CIRA laid the foundation for taking over the registry—hiring permanent staff, developing policies and procedures, and building the system to house the growing registry.

### 2000–2009: CIRA TAKES CHARGE

By November 8, 2000, when CIRA's new rules for the .CA registry took effect, UBC had registered over 60,000 .CA domain names. During the "sunrise" period—between November 8 and December 1, when UBC officially handed over the registry—80,000 new .CA domain names were registered using the CIRA rules. By December 1, 2000, there were over 140,000 active .CA domain name registrations.

CIRA officially opened its offices in Ottawa, Ontario, on May 2, 2001. By April 2008, CIRA celebrated the one millionth .CA domain.

Since its incorporation, CIRA has taken on policy and governance issues that affect the Internet in Canada and around the world. For instance, one of its core policies reserves the names of municipalities for municipal use. This policy is helping Canadian cities to develop online services and resources for their citizens.

As an active participant in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), CIRA is building Canada's reputation and expanding its role in the governance of the Internet.

In June 2003, CIRA hosted an ICANN Public Meeting in Montreal and in 2005 hosted an event during ICANN's Annual General Meeting in Vancouver.

In June 2009, CIRA President and Chief Executive Officer Byron Holland took on an international role as Vice-Chair of the Country Code Names Supporting Organisation (ccNSO) for a 12-month period; in October, Chief Operating Officer Norm Ritchie was appointed Chair of the Incident Response Working Group of ccNSO.



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