



Statement

13.04.2009

wikileaks.de placed in Transit

The wikileaks.de domain has not been accessible via the Internet since Thursday, 09 April 2009, as it has been transferred to the administration of the German registry, DENIC eG.

Various scenarios have since been circulating in the Internet as to how the inaccessibility of the domain might have come about

<http://netzpolitik.org/2009/wikileaksde-gesperrt/>

We are pleased to be able to issue a statement to clarify the situation.

The wikileaks.de domain was registered with us by the domain holder, Theodor Reppe. Mr. Reppe also made use of our nameservers for this domain.

As a result of Mr. Reppe behaving in a manner that contravened the terms of the contract, notice of termination of his contract was issued as long ago as the start of December 2008, with the contract due to end on 30 March 2009, once the period of notice expired.

No objection was submitted in respect of the termination, and no legal action is pending against the termination.

The letter containing the notice of termination also set out what happens with domains that are not transferred by the date of termination.

„Domains that have not been transferred by 31 March 2009 will be returned to the issuing agency by us, or cancelled accordingly.“

The procedure provided for at DENIC eG for cases like this is known as Transit.

During the evening of Thursday, 09 April 2009, we transferred the domain to the administration of DENIC eG (i.e. it was placed in Transit). At the same point in time, we deactivated our nameservers for this domain.

Placing the domain in Transit was neither a consequence of the house search carried out at the home of the domain holder on 24 March 2009, nor a reaction to an order issued by the German authorities, nor any form of arbitrary censorship on our part. Rather, the inaccessibility of the domain is the result of the domain holder's failure to find a new provider in time. The various dates mentioned above also show that there is no connection between the notice of termination of the contract, the return of the domain (placing it in Transit) and the events of the past week

We have not so far received any enquiries from the domain holder as to why the domain was placed in Transit. Given that his attention was drawn to the consequences in the letter containing the notice of termination, we also cannot accept that he is unaware of the situation

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