

Press release

Barcelona, 27th May 2011

The **.cat** domain now has 50,000 registrations

The task carried out by Fundació puntCAT and the excellent quality of the community has enabled us to reach this figure in just 5 years

From mid-afternoon on Thursday 19 May 2011, there are now 50,000 active **.cat** domains on the Internet. **Fundació puntCAT**, the private non-profit institution which manages the **.cat** domain, has two reasons for celebrating, since last 23 April, the domain, which has been open to all those wanting to post contents in Catalan over the Internet, celebrated its fifth anniversary. **Salvador Alegret**, president of **Fundació puntCAT**, expressed his satisfaction, saying that "a host of fifty thousand domains travelling through cyberspace under the **.cat** name is fantastic news for the Catalan language and culture. The **.cat** domain has become an essential tool to guarantee the solid presence of the Catalan reality on the Internet. It fills us with pride and optimism and we must certainly congratulate ourselves on achieving these fifty thousand domains".

.cat, an unprecedented success based on quality

The positive reception given to **.cat** from the first is undeniable. The domain has grown in a sustained and progressive manner ever since it was first set up and its limits are not known. Although **.cat** cannot compete in quantity, it does so in quality, and the figures are quite clear: the renovation of domains continues to be well above 80%, 10% more than the average of the world domains market. Above and beyond the volume that this represents, this figure is interesting in terms of the use of the domain: **.cat** is becoming more and more visible in the world day by day, and now forms part of the landscape as the most natural tool for being present on the Internet. The commitment of what was formerly the Associació puntCAT (now **Fundació puntCAT**) following the approval of the domain continues to meet with great success, endorsed by the following factors:

• **Technological leadership**

puntCAT has always sought growth based on offering a quality domain which, compared to others, offers greater added value with respect to safety, technology and service time after time, and is considered as a winning domain. This has led to the systematic implementation of the latest technologies, allowing **.cat** to be considered one of the best domains in the world. From the very first, all **.cat** domains support **IDN**, i.e., the websites contain the specific characters of our language (accents, dieresis, ç and l·l). The same occurs with **IPv6**; from the very first, the **.cat** domains have functioned with the new Internet protocol, coexisting along the old **IPv4** addresses. Another technological asset of **puntCAT** is **DNSSEC**. This technology adds an extra level of safety in electronic transactions carried out in **.cat** websites, and **.cat** is the first generic domain to have it in operation; in short, three technologies which many other domains with longer histories do not yet have or are just starting to implement.

• **Social action**

The **.cat** domain is considered to be a common asset of the Catalan-language

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community and is managed through a private non-profit foundation. **Fundació puntCAT** reinvests its profits, which come exclusively from registering domains, in consolidating the Catalan-language Information Society. Its **Obra Social** (social action) division, through [Ajuts puntCAT 2010](#), has granted aid of €90,000 to seven non-profit projects that will help break down the digital barrier in many different areas. [Ajuts puntCAT 2011](#) is now organising the 2011 grant allocation process and the foundation intends to grant this aid every year, to implement social projects that will benefit as many people as possible.

Furthermore, during these five years, **puntCAT** has implemented many informative campaigns which are currently in progress, to bring advanced use of the Internet to everyone: [Navega en català](#) explains the importance of configuring Internet browsers in Catalans and allows you to do so in just a few seconds; [Què fer amb un .cat](#) tells you how to make the most out of the Internet, while protecting your digital identity under our domain; the [Navega segur](#) game is the easiest and most amusing way to learn how to visit the Internet safely and responsibly. Another informative tool used by **Fundació puntCAT** is the publication of two electronic books, [IPv6 per a tothom](#) and [Noms de dominis](#), both of which are downloadable and can be consulted by anyone, free of charge.

Lastly, educating citizens on matters related to Internet governance is another mission of **puntCAT**, to ensure that our society has influential experts on this subject. The annual aid that **puntCAT** has been granting for the past 3 years to a student attending the [South School on Internet Governance](#) has resolved this issue.

- From here to the whole world: international recognition

The efforts of Fundació puntCAT would be irrelevant if society had not decided to use its domain: there are 50,000 people, companies and institutions which provide contents for the **.cat** websites, and doing it in a big way. In fact the **.cat** domain is among the top domains in the world, in terms of the content that each registered domain posts on the Internet, and this [indicador](#) measures the degree of value of a domain: the quantity of documents that each **.cat** site brings to the Internet. This use and the extensive usefulness of **.cat** is another successful aspect.

The use of the domain is not reduced to Catalonia itself, since a considerable increase has been detected among multinationals which have decided to use the **.cat** domain, on realising that **.cat** easily and effectively segments the Catalan-language market. For these companies, using the official language of a community through its own Internet domain is the best way to enter a market.

As **Jordi Iparraguirre**, director of **Fundació puntCAT** says, "the **.cat** domain is now a recognised management model, in a legal and technically safe environment, which poses no problems. It has also been confirmed as the best Internet tool for those who wish to take advantage of the values of **.cat** for making themselves known to the world, and for those who wish to use **.cat** as a gateway to the Catalan-language market."

Obtaining an own domain is without doubt the most interesting of the recent activities which has yet again placed Catalan culture in a prominent position worldwide. Five years later, we continue to be the only language community with our own domain on the Internet.

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The **.cat** community celebrates its 5th anniversary and 50,000 registered domains

.cat owes itself to the community it serves, whether they are owners of domains or users of websites, friends or persons who support the domain. For this reason, as a token of its thanks, **Fundació puntCAT** will celebrate its 50,000 domains by organising different activities for everyone. The 50mil.cat website will be coordinating the different celebrations, which include an institutional party and another popular event, a video competition in which everyone can promote their domain, or a draw for special hampers among the 50,000 **.cat** domain holders. The domini.cat website has been revving its engines for some weeks now, and has activated a counter to inform about the number of **.cat** domains registered. In addition, the organisation of CATporra, an exciting proposal launched from facebook in which hundreds of people try to guess the date on which domain number 50,000 was registered.

Five years ago...

[ICANN](http://icann.org) opened the door to the [possibility of accepting new generic domains for communities](#) in 2003, and a group of Catalans aimed extremely high. In the words of Joan Francesc Gras, promoter of the domain, "we are now a language community and have a fantastic opportunity to make ourselves visible on the Internet under our own designation of origin. As long as we are visible on the Internet, our future is assured". On 16 September 2005 ICANN, the international organism that regulates the Internet, gave the [go-ahead](#) for setting up a specific Internet domain for Catalan-language speakers. In a record time of five months, the **.cat** infrastructure was ready to register the first domains and on 13 February 2006 the [Sunrise](#) process commenced, an initial, restricted phase that is compulsory for all domains. Two months afterwards, coinciding with the festivity of St. George (23 April 2006), any person, regardless of their place or residence or origin, was able to register a **.cat** domain, providing they posted significant Catalan language contents on the Internet.

Fundació puntCAT is a politically independent non-profit private foundation. It was set up on 28 December 2004. It was an initiative of the civil society and is registered in the Foundations Registry of the Generalitat de Catalunya as number 2,100. The object of the Foundation is to administer the **.cat** domain and help develop the Information Society in the Catalan-speaking world.

.cat is a generic domain, like **.org** or **.com**, but, like **.aero**, **.museum** or **.edu**, it is particularly directed at one specific community: the Catalan-speaking community. The domain is open to anyone wanting to express themselves on the Internet in Catalan, regardless of where they live or what they do. This means everyone, from multinationals to private individuals, is welcome.

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