

Digital Economy in AFRICA

Infrastructure & DNS Market

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Digital Economy in AFRICA : Infrastructure & DNS Market

- ▶ Speaking about digital economy is speaking among others about the use of digital technologies and the business use of internet which are hampered by a number a factors including:
 - ▶ The access to a sustainable and affordable connectivity to millions of unconnected people
 - ▶ The ease with which domain names can be registered and the availability of local hosting content which is presumed in what we call the DNS Market

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- ▶ **Lagging in Internet access**
 - Africa: 28.9% average, rest of world 54.2%
 - 1% to 60% penetration by country
- ▶ **High cost of internet access**
 - For only 500 MB of monthly data the average African pays 15% of income versus 1% for the average European
- ▶ **Local Access**
 - Some FTTx, and Wi-Fi, but the majority use mobile access which is very expensive in most parts of Africa

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▶ IXPs

- **39 active IXPs** located in **35 cities** in **29 countries** (**3 in north Africa : Egypt, Tunisia and morocco**)

The continued deployment of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) is identified priority in the African region in order to bring down access costs and stimulate the further development of a local ecosystem

▶ IP Resources

- 2% of IPv4 and 1% of IPv6 out of the total global usage

The need to transition to IPv6 to ensure long term and sustainable Internet expansion and the emerging new applications and e-services

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- ▶ The region the Africa's top-level domain name system address space consists of 54 top-level country code top-level domains, with the market having a total annual value of USD 52 million.
- ▶ Over 4.5 million African domains (ccTLD & gTLD)
- ▶ African DNS Market very small @ 4 domains / 1000 people, compare with >100 elsewhere
- ▶ Average cost of ccTLD is \$84 compared to \$10 for a .COM domain
- ▶ 75% of 400 million indexed pages are in 7 African countries

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- ▶ Policy, Regulation and Governance

Separation of Policy Maker, Regulator & Registry is very important

- ▶ Registrar Market

most of the countries have only one Registrar: usually the Registry only
13 countries have a fully competitive Registrar market

- ▶ But the market is growing fast in some places

4 countries from the North Africa are the top 10 African Domain Name Systems (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Egypt)

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Key Success Factors

- ▶ Internet access issues must be addressed
Cost, Availability & Performance
- ▶ Countries without local hosting need to build IXPs, data centres and fibre networks
- ▶ Government to offer range of services online
- ▶ Policies and investment to support e-commerce
- ▶ Ensure freedom of expression online as it encourages content creation and acts as an industry driver
- ▶ Low (but not zero) fees for registering a domain
- ▶ Liberalization Registrar Market
- ▶ Automatic procedures for registration fulfilment and payment

Thank You !