

All About Afnic
Press kit

March 2019

afnic

Key facts

- ✓ *Founded in December 1997.*
- ✓ *More than 3.3 million .fr domain names.*
- ✓ *100 members of the Association.*
- ✓ *80 employees.*
- ✓ *Revenue: Euros 16.2 million (2017)*
- ✓ *Head Office based in Montigny-le-Bretonneux in the department of Les Yvelines near Paris.*

Afnic (the French acronym for "Association Française pour le Nommage Internet en Coopération" i.e. the French Network Information Centre), is a non-profit association. For 20 years, Afnic has been the registry for the management of Internet addresses under the .fr Top Level Domain.

Afnic also manages the French overseas TLDs for .re (Reunion Island), .pm (St. Pierre and Miquelon), .tf (French Southern and Antarctic Territories), .wf (Wallis and Futuna), and .yt (Mayotte). We are also the back-end registry for 14 companies as well as local and regional authorities that have chosen to have their own TLD including .paris, .bzh, .alsace, .corsica, .mma, .ovh, .leclerc and .snCF.

We actively support the digital transformation of small and mid-size businesses in France with our system *Réussir-en.fr* (reussir-en.fr) and offer a free online presence support package ranging from diagnostic tools to on-site training throughout France.

As an association, we federate a community of more than one hundred members with varied profiles but all of whom are stakeholders on the web: registrars, companies, federations, users, institutions, etc. Our role is part of a broader assignment involving the common good, which consists in helping to make the Internet more secure, stable and open to innovation each day, in which the French Internet community plays a leading role.

In addition, we pay 90% of the profits from the management of the .fr TLD to our Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity (www.fondation-afnic.fr) which each year finances some thirty projects designed to reduce the digital divide throughout France.

Fields of expertise:

Internet – Domain names – DNS – Governance – Accountability – New Top Level Domains – Network – IP – IPv4/IPv6 – Internet of Things - DNSSEC



Afnic strategic priorities 2017 - 2019

For the 2017-2019 period, one of Afnic's priorities is to help make France a European leader in online presence. As part of that aim, the association wishes to help develop the online presence of one million small and medium enterprises, which are not yet present on the Internet.

Its strategy today is based on 5 key factors:

The simplicity of the .fr



Registering and configuring a domain name remains complex procedures for many sectors of the public. To facilitate the operations for registrars and domain name holders, Afnic will continue to simplify its procedures. The first steps in that process were initiated in 2016, such as simplifying holder change operations.

Afnic will work on clarifying and simplifying the milestones that mark the life of a domain name, and as an indirect result, the experience of its holder, including the creation, renewal, transfer or validity period of a domain name... All these concepts will be analyzed in depth and reviewed to make their use by holders as simple and intuitive as possible.

Online presence



Because of the size of the potential catch – 1 million French SMEs still had no website in 2016 – Afnic will continue to diversify its range of offers and advice about online presence.

The strategy was initiated in 2014 with the launch of the Réussir-en.fr platform which provides support and services for those who launch an online business, be they SOHOs / SMEs or other companies.

The purpose of Réussir-en.fr is to show companies that having a personalized website and domain name is:

- ✓ - a simple, fast, and inexpensive process ;
- ✓ - an opportunity whatever your business activity in terms of reputation and business development ;
- ✓ - a pledge of credibility and reliability for customers, prospects and partners alike ;
- ✓ - an even more effective lever when coupled with social networks.

Afnic will supplement its support services for entrepreneurs by offering a maturity study of their online presence and even more workshops in their region, in particular through partnerships with key industry players.

Attractiveness

As managers of the .fr TLD, Afnic wishes to make the .fr even more attractive, simpler and competitive, in particular through the continuous improvement of its efficiency in the management of the .fr extension, and the development of associated services that meet the specific needs of certain users, such as securing sensitive name domains (fr.Lock).

As an efficient and cost-effective technical registry operator, Afnic will continue its policy of providing its experience for partners that share its aspirations.

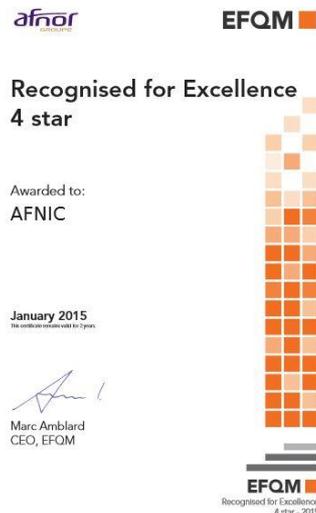
Digital solidarity



Most of the profits from the management of the .fr TLD are donated by Afnic to the [Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity](#), the purpose of which is to support the development of an inclusive Internet, provide training and awareness-raising on the uses of the Internet, by supporting local as well as seminal digital solidarity initiatives, and research projects on the theme of digital solidarity.

In recent years the Afnic Foundation has received some 1 million euros in annual allocations, and has financed more than 120 projects.

Exemplarity



Afnic and its employees make every effort to ensure their customers benefit from their [operational excellence](#). Those efforts were rewarded in 2014 when Afnic received the EFQM "recognized for excellence 4*" award for the performance of its management approach. That operational excellence approach continues today, with a new external audit scheduled for 2017.

Furthermore, a second milestone was reached in June 2016 when Afnic was awarded ISO

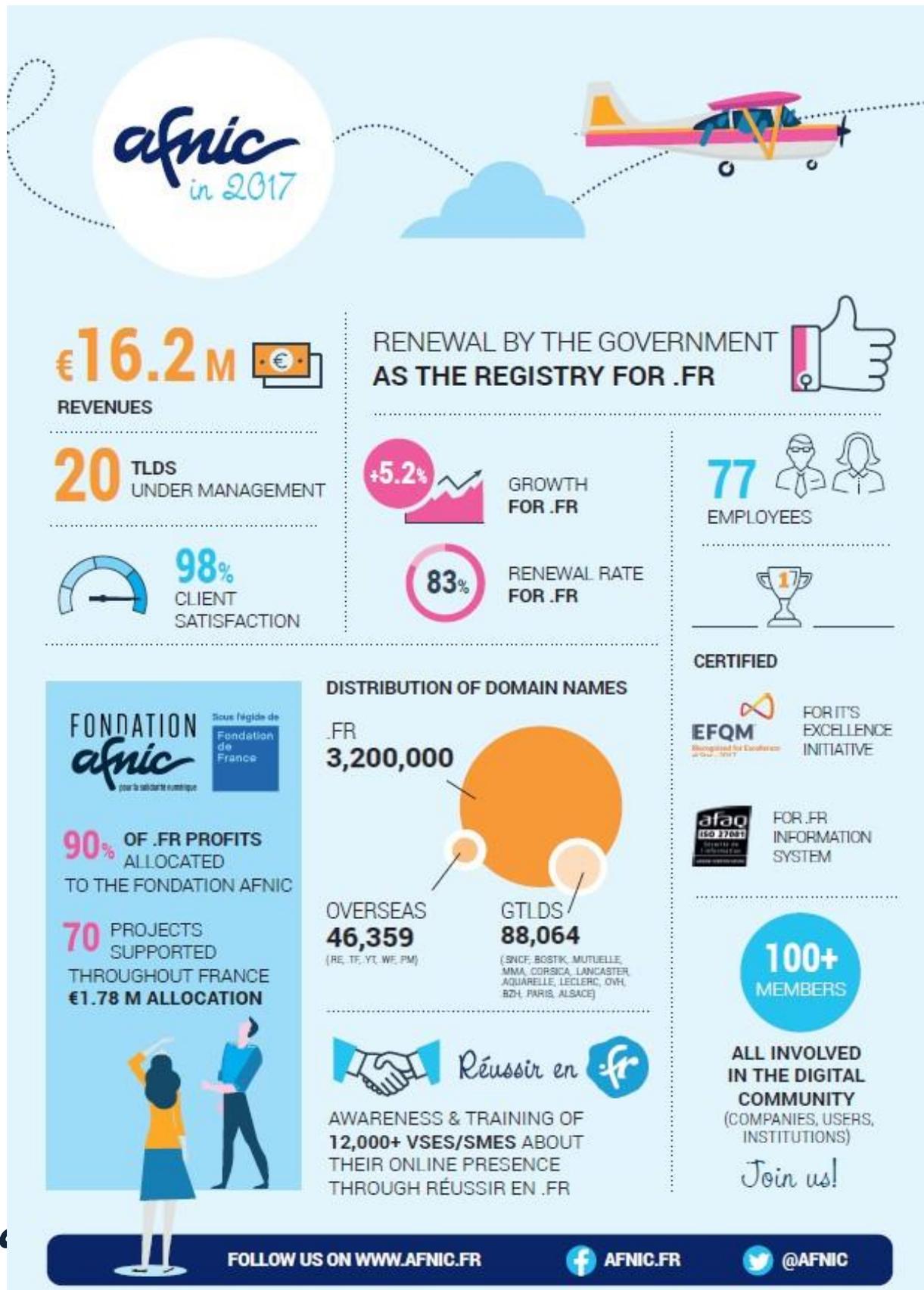
27001 certification, attesting to the quality of the security management system implemented by Afnic.

In February 2017, The Recognised for Excellence label was renewed, confirming Afnic's engagement for improvement.

Finally, Afnic is continuing its efforts to ensure the sustainable development of its activities, as shown by the carbon audits it regularly publishes and which attest to an effective reduction in the association's emissions of greenhouse gases of more than 2% per year. We shall maintain our objective of a global reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 20% over 10 years, so that the *.fr* TLD is green as well as supportive.



Afnic key figures



Afnic key dates

1986: The French National Institute for Research in Computer Sciences and Automation (INRIA) was appointed to manage top level domain names for the *.fr* geographical area (ISO 3166 ccTLD) by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA).

1996: A naming policy defined the rules for allocating *.fr* domain names. It was developed by the INRIA. The policy already took intellectual property issues into account.

1997: The French Network Information Centre (Afnic) was officially founded under the Law of 1 July 1901 on non-profit organizations.

2001: The *.re* zone was opened on 25 June at the request of the French government. Managed by Afnic, the *.re* zone refers to Réunion Island, a French overseas department.

2004: The "right to the name" was abolished. Since 11 May 2004, applicants no longer have to provide an official document to corroborate their right to the name they wish to register (e.g. company registration certificate, registered trademark, etc.).

2006: The *.fr* was opened to individuals on 20 June. All individuals are now able to directly register an *.fr* domain name, provided they are adults and can prove they have an address in France. This used to be reserved for associations, companies and government agencies.

2007: The first French Domain Name Industry Report was published on 28 November. This document is drafted every year and compiles all the data on market analysis and trends.

2008: In January, Afnic celebrated the registration of its one millionth *.fr* domain name.

2009: The City of Paris decided to rely on the Afnic/CORE Franco-Swiss group for its assistance in creating the *.paris* extension. This new top level extension will enable companies, institutions and individuals to combine their online presence with the image and notoriety of the French capital.

2010: The *.fr* domain names became available to French citizens residing overseas, without having to prove they have an address in France.

2011: In April, Afnic celebrated the registration of its two millionth *.fr* domain name.

2 September 2011: the *.fr* TLD celebrated its 25th anniversary

6 December 2011: the *.fr* TLD and the other extensions managed by Afnic open to Europe: *.re* (Reunion), *.pm* (St. Pierre and Miquelon), *.tf* (French Southern and Antarctic Territories), *.wf* (Wallis and Futuna) and *.yt* (Mayotte).

28 June 2012: In an Order, Ms Fleur Pellerin, Junior Minister for the Digital Economy, appointed Afnic as the registry for the *.fr* TLD for a new five year term.

3 July 2012: Afnic opens IDNs to all



6 December 2012: 2.5 million domain names for the *.fr* TLD

18 February 2013: GS1 France and Afnic are continuing their cooperation in the Internet of Things, with a view to the global deployment of the ONS 2.0 standard.

13 May 2013: Afnic welcomes the green light for the *.bzh* and *.paris* New gTLDs

31 March 2014: The Registry's new organization focuses on customer satisfaction and the development of new services

22 April 2014: The *.frogans* and *.paris* nTLDs, for which AFNIC is the technical registry operator, have now been activated and will soon be available for registration

12 May 2014: Afnic responds to ICANN Public Consultation on the transition of IANA oversight

2 - 4 June 2014: Afnic staff welcome to Paris their European counterparts from the CENTR

26 June 2014: The *.bzh*, the geoTLD for Brittany and for which AFNIC is the technical registry operator is launched.

25 September 2014: The new *.fr* promotional campaign is on-line: www.reussir-en.fr (Succeed with *.fr*) !

6 November 2014: French Secretary of State Axelle Lemaire and Dr. Steve Crocker, Internet pioneer and ICANN President, inaugurated Afnic's new premises.

2 December 2014: The *.paris*, the new digital address for the French Capital, becomes available to the general public.

4 December 2014: The *.bzh*, the new geoTLD for all Brittany enthusiasts, becomes available for everyone.

3 February 2015: [Afnic and .SE release Zonemaster](#), new key tool improving Internet resilience.

February 2015: Afnic launches new solutions to manage and to protect domain names: [Registry Analytics](#), [Abuse Report](#), [.fr Lock](#).

17 March 2015: General opening of the registration of short *.fr* domain names, composed by only 1 or 2 letters.

7 April 2015: [Opening of the .alsace](#) geoTLD: the point is you!



23 June 2015: Afnic rewarded for its quality management approach initiated since 2008.



15 December 2015: Afnic provides activity data from the *.fr* TLD free of charge with opendata.afnic.fr.

3 March 2016: Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity launches its first call of interest.

4 April 2016: Afnic rewarded by the French Senate for the excellence of its management initiative.

13 December 2016: The *fr* passes 3 million registrations milestone!

February 2017: The Recognised for Excellence label was renewed, confirming Afnic's engagement for improvement.

4 April 2017: By decree, the French Minister of State for Industry, the Digital Sector and Innovation, has extended the appointment of Afnic as the Registry for the *.fr* TLD.

19 April 2018: Afnic put its skills, expertise and the flexibility of its solutions to the service of the *.museum* gTLD as its new backend registry.

April 2019: Afnic involves to renew its ISO27001 certification.



Information resources

Internet: www.afnic.fr

Press Room: www.afnic.fr/en/about-afnic/press-room/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/AFNIC

Facebook: www.facebook.com/afnic.fr

Youtube: www.youtube.com/AfnicVideo

French Domain Name Industry Report:

www.afnic.fr/en/ressources/publications/french-domain-name-industry-report/

Detailed data on domain names managed:

www.afnic.fr/en/ressources/statistics/detailed-data-on-domain-names/

Media Contact:

Gabrielle Apfelbaum, Press Relations Manager

Mob. : + 33 (0) 6 19 19 25 53 - presse@afnic.fr

