

INTENTIONAL DNS RESOLUTION

ICANN IDS

25th September 2024



Unintentional Events We Have Observed in Web3

+10,000

TLDs collisions across all namespaces on all chains

+6,000

TLDs collisions on Handshake only

+200,000

SLDs collisions across all namespaces on all chains

+1,000

TLDs derived, similar or equal to famous brand names, organisations, ...

Unintentional Events We Have Observed in Web2 and Web3

+1,000

TLDs collisions

+200

TLDs collisions
on Handshake only

+10,000

SLDs collisions

Intentionality Across Web2 and Web3



Trust is built when systems behave as expected. The security, stability, and resilience of Web2 DNS and Web3 namespaces stem from **intentional design**.



By acting with purpose, we drive **predictable outcomes**. As Web3 namespaces evolve, our focus is on embedding quality and intentionality to strengthen trust and stability across the digital ecosystem.



About Freename AG

Freename AG **is not** Freenom

- Freename AG is a Swiss company founded in 2021
- First Blockchain namespace to accredit as ICANN Registrar
- Freename Domains is the namespace platform at freename.io
- Company with indexing, resolution, collision and abuse management patent pending technologies



Introduction to Namespace Challenges

Namespaces must behave predictably, with intentional and secure outcomes. However, certain areas require greater intentionality:



Namespace Collision



DNS Domain Abuse



**Domain Spoofing in
Web2 and Web3**

For Web3 — Consider the implications of a spoofed wallet record— highlighting the critical need for enhanced security and intentional design.



The Problem: Namespace Collision



Namespace Collision

Recent example — .internal—to reduce unintended consequences from private namespaces colliding with new delegations (Web 2).



Web3 Collisions

Rapidly emerging namespaces since ICANN's 2012 round risk collisions with subpro TLDs (e.g., .CRYPTO, .COIN) and among themselves (e.g., Handshake vs. Unstoppable .WALLET).



Challenges

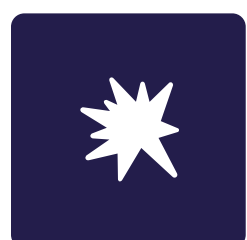
- Unregulated Web 3 domains introduce risks of trademark conflicts, domain abuse, and user confusion.
- Variations in user experience, including unsafe outcomes, highlight the need for intentional solutions.

Intentionality as a Solution



Mitigating Issues

Introducing intentional outcomes helps mitigate problems, ensuring a safer and more predictable user experience. This also benefits site operators by preventing audience diversion.



Make it simpler

Ensure low or no user complexity is present.



Broader Benefits

By focusing on intentionality, we can improve stability in domain resolution, leading to more predictable outcomes in unintentional circumstances, benefiting both users and operators.



Make it Safer: Guarding Against Malicious Intent



Domain Spoofing

- Detection of IDN homoglyph attacks
- Record spoofing
- Confusingly similar trademarks or portal subdomains



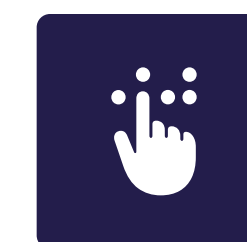
Proactive Defenses

Using partners like CleanDNS and their signals to guard against phishing, fake shops, and multi-hop 301/302 redirects.



Intentional Configurations

Tailoring outcomes to meet community standards, corporate policies, national directives, and parental controls



Coexistence Strategy

Ensuring smooth coexistence of solutions with the sophistication of our hybrid Web 3/Web 2 approach

Adding Elegance to Intention

Indexing

- Scanning and indexing blockchain namespaces
- Coupled Web 3-Web 2 indexing with analytics and processing
- Pre-processing delivers SPEED
- response time is crucial

Analysis

- Zone file and resolution log analysis for conventional DNS
- Signals and Learning:
 - a. Third-party abuse feeds
 - b. Crowd trends and popular client configurations
 - c. Analytics on non-identifiable user data and usage patterns

The NOTO Protocol: Intentional Web2 First Approach

Web2 as Bedrock

Utilize the well-established Web2 platform, offering users a seamless and intentional transition to Web3, while enhancing trust and experience.

Design Philosophy

The NOTO Protocol extends the sound principles of the conventional internet, adapting them to fit decentralized technology.

Key Elements

- Rules: Grounded in established internet standards and best practices
- Score: Enhances trust through measurable, transparent metrics.



Resolving a Domain and Handling Collision With NOTO

1.

RESOLUTION

Request

2.

FETCH

Obtain set of relevant Web3/Web2 domains

3.

FILTER

Apply Scoring computing algorithm

4.

SORT

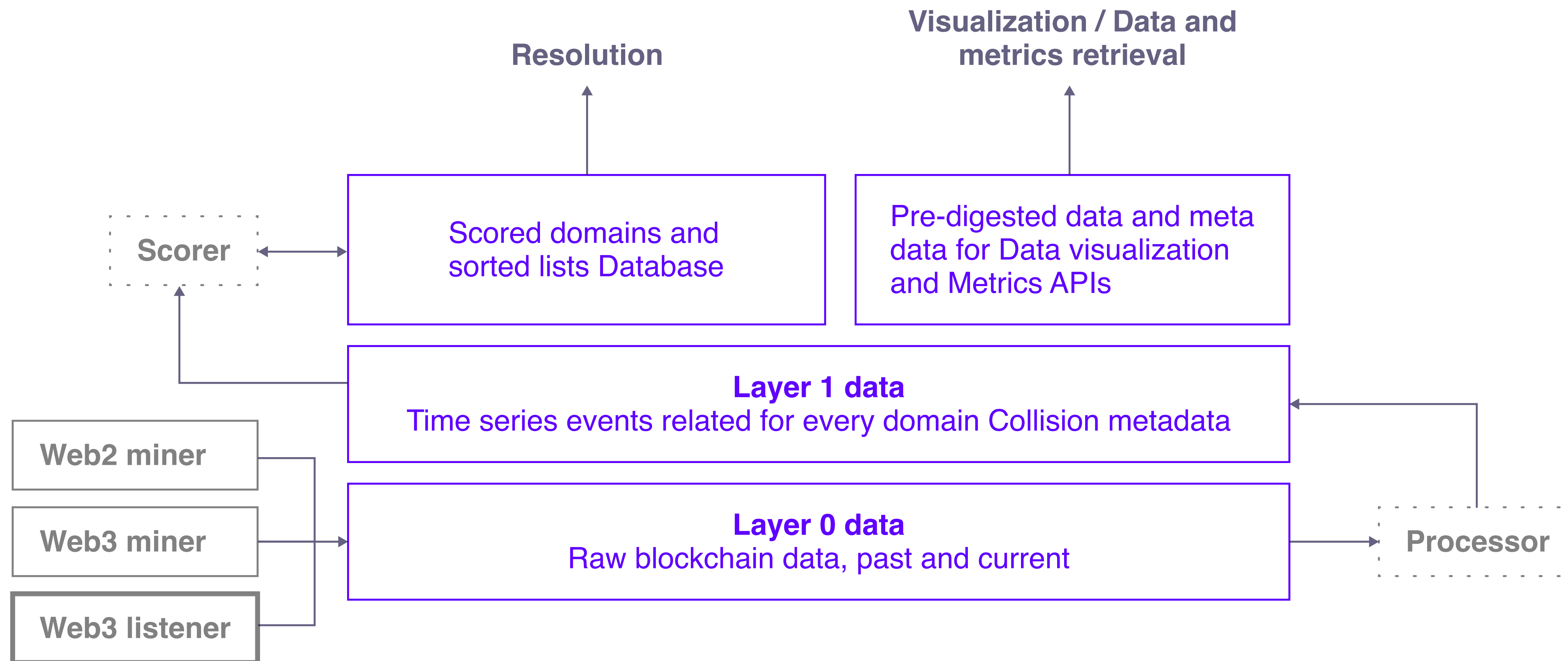
Order domains by score

5.

DELIVER

Return results / records for the first domain

Resolving a Domain and Handling Collision With NOTO



Resolving a Domain and Handling Collision With NOTO

The process handles naming collisions during domain resolution, using our Collision Management Engine to navigate and mitigate conflicts between similar Web3 domains across multiple namespaces and Web2 DNS.

Rule-Based Resolution:

- **Execution Phase:** Pre-resolution or post-resolution application
- **Conditional Criteria:** Triggers rule execution
- **Priority Ranking:** Resolves conflicts between multiple rules
- **Authority Level:** Defines rule hierarchy
- **Action:** Determines operational behavior (e.g., resolve, block, redirect, etc)

Types of Rules:

- **Resolution Rules:** Block or redirect queries based on predefined criteria
- **Collision Management Rules:** Prioritize or sequence namespaces during collisions
- **Other Rules** or methodologies, different kind of abuse mitigation systems: child protection, civic laws, filter content...

Resolving a Domain and Handling Collision With NOTO

Score-Based Resolution: If unresolved, a scoring system ranks domains using qualitative and quantitative characteristics to determine the final resolution.

1.

The default resolution is guided by an intention-based scoring mechanism, where thresholds can be adjusted either on an instance basis or tailored to specific users.

2.

Concurrent or conflicting data is resolved systematically to maintain consistency.

A predictable default outcome is established, based on the intentional scores.

3.

Administrators have the ability to override the default resolution for their specific instance. For example, if I'm managing the NOTO domain, I can define which domain should be prioritized within my organization.

4.

Addressing Abuse Using Signals for Resolution Mitigation

1.

RECEIVE

signal from Abuse partner

2.

EVALUATE

and process signal

3.

ADJUST

rules (if needed) for mitigation and notification

4.

STORE

or update rule in Rules index

5.

APPLY

the rule when triggered

Signal and Resolution Management for Mitigating Abuse

- 1. Different abuses in Web2 or Web3**
Each mitigation is suited for purpose within namespace
- 2. Role of Signal Management**
Critical in mitigating DNS abuses, with signals generated by DNS Abuse Management Providers to block domains or modify resolution records
- 3. Outcome**
Enhances Web3 domain security, providing a safer user experience.
- 4. Rule-Based Abuse Handling**
Abuse reports trigger signals processed by the Collision Management Engine, which creates rules to block or override domain resolutions, ensuring scalable abuse management

Signals for Abuse by IDN Homoglyph Attacks

Paypal.tld to the Latin letters but belong to the Cyrillic alphabet.

One possible homoglyph for “PayPal” in Cyrillic could be:

PayPaI

In this version:

- “P” (Cyrillic letter for “R”) is used for “P”.
- “a” (Cyrillic letter for “a”) is used for “a”.
- “y” (Cyrillic letter for “u”) is used for “y”.
- “I” (Cyrillic letter for “I”) is used for “l”.

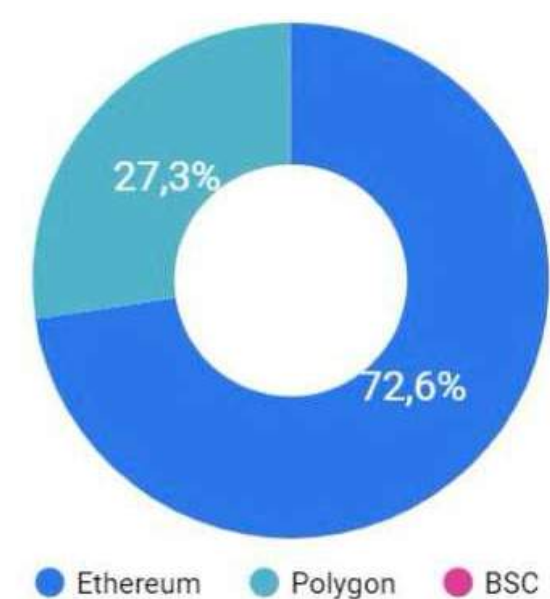
Underneath the Dataset

Visualization Dashboard

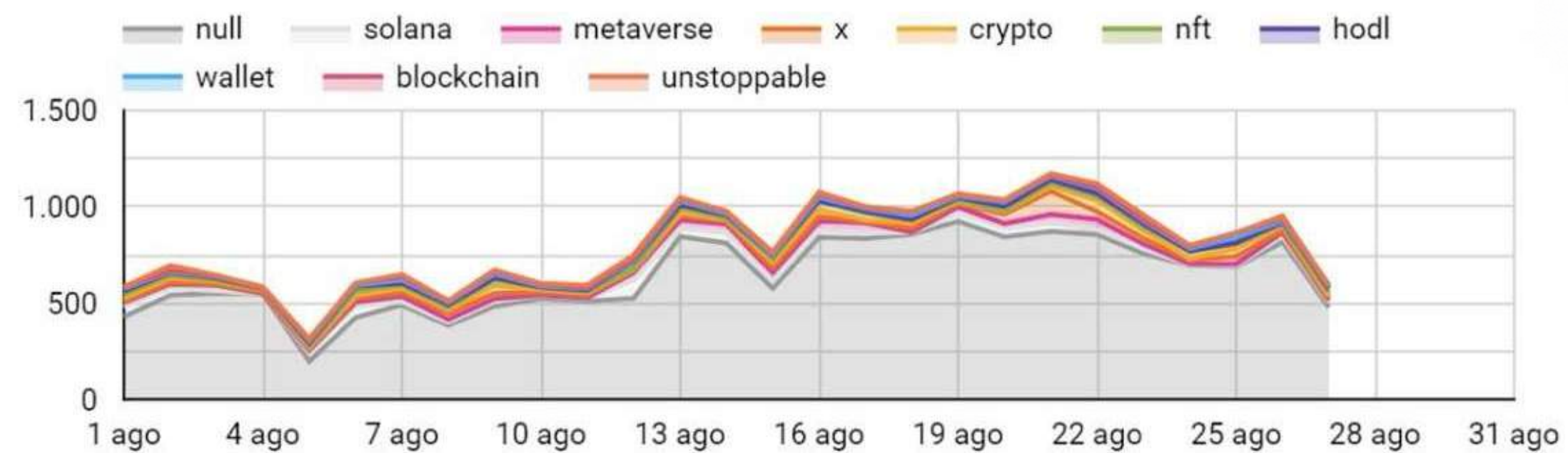
Total Domains by Blockchain



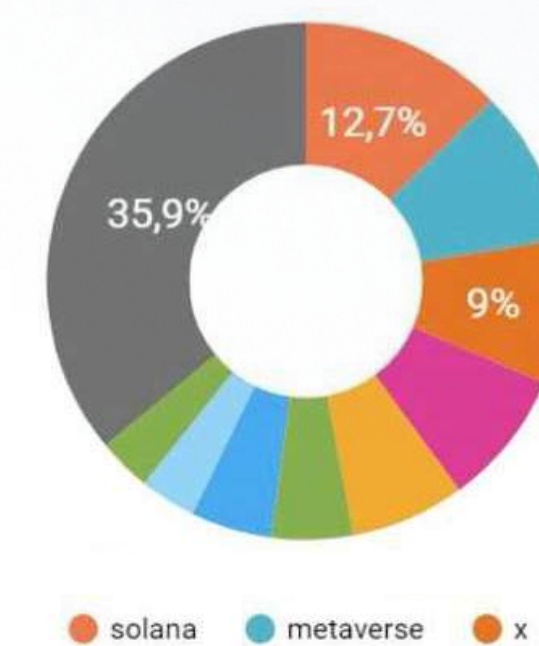
Domains by Chain



Total Domains by TLDs



Domains by Chain



Request Access to Dataset



Questions?



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- Conduct & Information Analyst, Swiss Army
- Industry 4.0 Cybersecurity consultant for Bureau Veritas, Milan
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- MsC Software Engineering

