

# 1.15 What is...

## What is a domain name's life cycle?

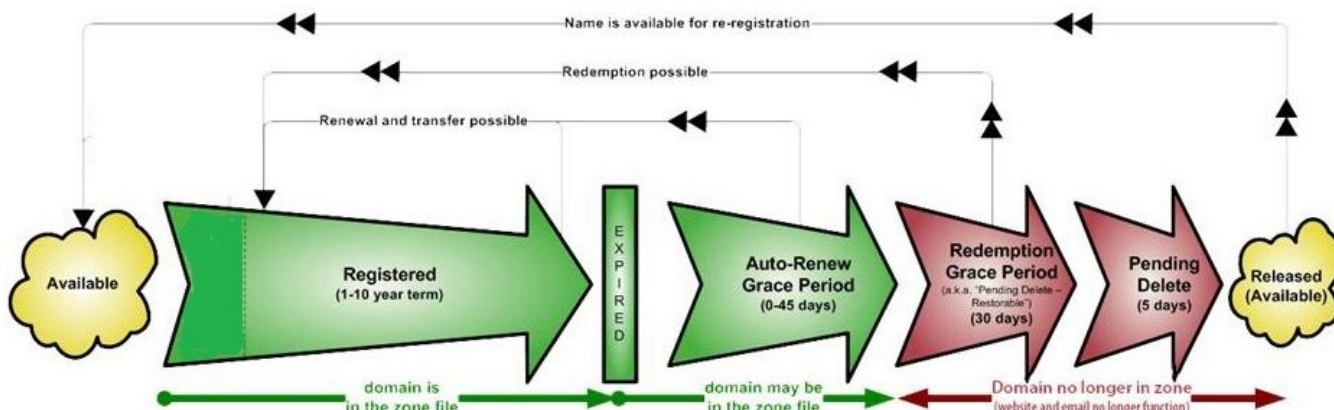
### Life Cycle of a Domain

It is important to know: When you register a domain name, you do not actually buy it, in fact you are paying for the right of using the domain name for a particular period of time.

Once this period terminates, the registration expires. Before this happens, you will be notified - and have the right to renew the domain name for an additional period.

The life cycles of a domain name may differ, dependent on the type of domain, and how the relevant registry is handling it. Below is illustrated, how the life cycle of a typical generic top level domain looks like:

### Life Cycle of a Typical gTLD Domain Name



(source of picture: ICANN.org)

### Registration (1-10 years)

A domain name usually can be registered for a span of 1 year up to 10 years.

### Auto-Renew Grace Period (1-90 Days)

This is the date when the registration period is over. Many individuals have a mis-conception that a domain would become available after that date, which definitely isn't the fact. Once the domain reaches the expiration stage, there are few other stages before it can be re-registered.

Upon expiration, the domain name may become inactive, though the registrant can still renew it with regular renewal charges. The domain would still stay there in your domain control panel.

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This stage of the domain life cycle is termed as the **auto-renew grace period** which would usually be anywhere in between 1 to 45 days (*Please find below the Joker.com TLDs Life-Periods*). This period varies between registries and registrars.

### Redemption Grace Period (up to 90 days)

Next comes the redemption stage ie. when a domain isn't renewed by the owner during the grace period, it enters into **redemption**. Please find the detailed description here: [What is a Redemption Grace Period \(RGP\)?](#)

A typical generic top level domain resides in the Redemption for **30 days** before moving onto the next stage. Some country domains (ccTLDs) have longer periods.

### Pending Delete

At this stage, there isn't any possibility for you to renew it. The registrar sends a command to the Registry for deleting the domain, the domain now enters the last phase of the life cycle called **pending delete**. The domain stays in this stage usually for **5 days**.

### Released / Available to All

As it suggests, the domain becomes available to all and there isn't any control of anyone.

These are the Joker.com TLDs Life-Cycle Periods:

TLD	Auto-Renew/Expired Grace Period (days)	Redemption Grace Period (days)
DE	25	40
EU	20	40

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AT	0	59
NL	20	40
UK	90	90
CH, LI	0	27
all other	30	30

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