

3. Waiver Process

3.1 Submitting a Request for Waiver

Any agency may apply for a waiver by submitting a Request for Waiver.

The Request for Waiver should include the following information:

- **Agency name:**
 - Office of the Chief Information Officer
- **Name, title, and contact information for the agency contact person regarding the request:**
 - Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager, tom.rolfes@nebraska.gov, 402-471-7969
- **Title of the NITC Standards and Guidelines document at issue:**
 - 7-104 (1.4) Web Domain Name Standard
- **Description of the problem or issue**
 - **7-104 (1.4) Domains other than nebraska.gov and ne.gov may be purchased but cannot serve content or be publicly promoted.**
 - ‘.net’ is the top-level domain reserved for organizations involved in networking technologies, and is specifically used by state and regional education networks, although not exclusively (e.g. Verizon.net). Of the 42 statewide education networks associated with Internet2, 21 of the 42 (50%) use the .net domain naming convention as their publicly advertised URL (see attached list). By comparison, ‘.org’ includes 9 of the 42 networks, and ‘.gov’ includes only 6 of the 42.
- **Description of the agency's preferred solution, including a listing of the specific requirement(s) for which a waiver is requested**
 - The preferred solution is to indefinitely maintain www.networknebraska.net as the publicly promoted URL for the Network Nebraska website or for as long as Standard 7-104 and the Network Nebraska project/network exists.
 - In order to prevent the unwanted exploitation of Network Nebraska-related URLs, www.networknebraska.net, www.networknebraska.org, www.networknebraska.com, and www.networknebraska.gov (if sought and approved), have been purchased and would all redirect to <http://networknebraska.ne.gov>

- **Any additional information and justification showing good cause for the requested waiver**
 - <http://www.networknebraska.net/> is the primary source for content for the Nebraska statewide education network, while <http://www.cio.nebraska.gov/> is the statewide network source for information for state and local governments and <http://csn.nebraska.edu/> is the statewide network information source for the four campuses of the University of Nebraska and county extension.
 - While the Office of the CIO is the agency primarily responsible for the Network Nebraska website development and web hosting, 100% of the funding for the web development and maintenance of the website originates with the 275 entities that fund the project, and their preference, as communicated through the Network Nebraska Advisory Group, is to preserve www.networknebraska.net as the publicly promoted URL.
 - The Collaborative Aggregation Partnership, at their June 18 meeting, unanimously agreed to have Tom Rolfes submit a proposal for a waiver of Standard 7-104.

Requests should be submitted via email: ocio.nitc@nebraska.gov



June 24, 2014

Walter Weir, Chair
NITC Technical Panel
Varner Hall
3835 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68583

Walter:

As co-chairs of the Network Nebraska Education Advisory Group, we support the request for a waiver from NITC 7-104: Web Domain Name Standard for Network Nebraska.

The Network Nebraska domain is currently "networknebraska.net," which is appropriate for our infrastructure organization. This has been our domain for the life of Network Nebraska and our members identify with that name. The ".net" domain designation was one of the original top-level domains and was intended for organizations involved with networking. At this time, 50% of statewide networks in the U.S. are .net and 14% are .gov.

Network Nebraska-Education is managed by the Office of the CIO for the State of Nebraska and by the University of Nebraska for the benefit of the educational entities who fund the network. The Network Nebraska web site could be part of state government or it could be part of the University of Nebraska, but as an entity entirely funded by member educational institutions, we feel it is important to have a domain separate from the State of Nebraska and from the University of Nebraska.

We urge you and the Technical Panel to approve the request for a waiver from the Web Domain Name Standard for Network Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Stritt".

John Stritt
Co-chair
Distance Education
Network Information
ESU 10

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deb Schroeder".

Deb Schroeder
Co-chair
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Information Technology
University of Nebraska at Kearney