

.skill Mission and Purpose

“Skill” is an acquired human ability or a defined AI capability to perform a particular task effectively, with human skills developed through learning and practice and AI skills developed through training, instructions, knowledge, tools, or workflows. Kingfish LLC ("Kingfish" or the "Registry"), applicant for the “.skill” gTLD, will serve the global community of individuals, institutions, companies, and machines by providing a dedicated namespace to communicate, publish, and verify their skills, whether human competencies or the trained capabilities of software and AI systems.

The skills economy spans a rapidly growing and increasingly formalized set of communities. Workforce credentialing, professional certification, and continuing education have expanded globally, with related organizations collectively investing billions in skills frameworks. Professionals, tradespeople, academics routinely demonstrate their competencies to employers, clients, and institutions. A fast-growing market has also emerged around software and AI systems that organize offerings around discrete "skills" that are published, discovered, invoked, and evaluated independently of the broader system they belong to. Increasingly, this discovery happens machine-to-machine, making a standardized, addressable namespace a functional necessity.

A skill is only useful once it can be found, verified, and matched to a need. Yet there is no intuitive and unified TLD for individuals, institutions, companies, and machine agents to publish and locate these skills. The .skill Registry closes that gap, giving these constituencies a durable, portable digital identity. A dedicated .skill namespace will allow individuals to build verifiable professional identities; allow institutions to publish accreditation and training outcomes; allow companies to make software and AI capabilities discoverable; allow AI agents and automated systems to locate, verify, and invoke one another's published skills; and allow the broader public to search, compare, and evaluate skills directly.

INTENDED REGISTRANTS AND USERS

Though .skill will be an open, generic top-level domain, intended registrants include, among others: (i) professionals, tradespeople, and academics publishing verified competencies; (ii) educational institutions and certification bodies; (iii) developers of software and AI systems; (iv) staffing workforce-development organizations; and (v) marketplaces serving skill discovery and verification. Users will include these registrants and the customers, partners, and end users who interact with them.

ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE

The Registry will operate as an open top-level domain with: a Sunrise phase for trademark holders; a Landrush phase; tiered pricing that keeps individual skill registrations affordable while discouraging misappropriation of strings associated with established institutions and brands; anti-abuse monitoring aligned with the ICANN DNS Abuse Framework; and coordinated outreach to educational institutions, workforce-development organizations, and technology companies building agentic and automated systems. Names will be distributed through the ICANN-accredited registrar channel.

SUSTAINABILITY OVER TIME

Sustainability rests on three durable pillars. First, the population of parties seeking to publish and verify skills is growing rapidly each year, driven by workforce credentialing and emerging software and AI capabilities. Second, skill publication and verification is a recurring need rather than a one-time event, supporting strong renewal rates. Third, the Registry is capitalized to operate .skill for the required contractual term even under conservative demand scenarios. Surplus revenue will be reinvested in abuse mitigation, Universal Acceptance, and community outreach, reinforcing the long-term value of the namespace to the parties it serves.
