DNS Abuse Measurement and Mitigation

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ICANN Security Stability & Resilience (SSR) Group

 Think Tank that mostly do research and development on Internet identifiers

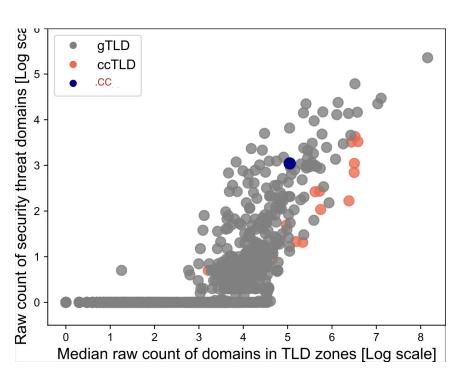
- Our goal is to increase reliability of the metrics that measure (e.g., security, insecurity, abuse, etc.)
- Areas where existing methods and metrics need improvements or we need to develop a method from scratch

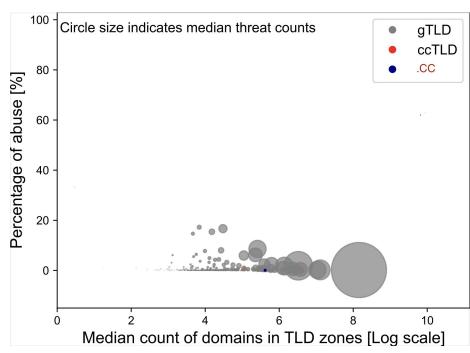
 We look to use data and scientific methods to answer questions of interest to the community



Why Metrics Matter?

Same Data - Two different ways of showing it







What Makes a Better Metric?

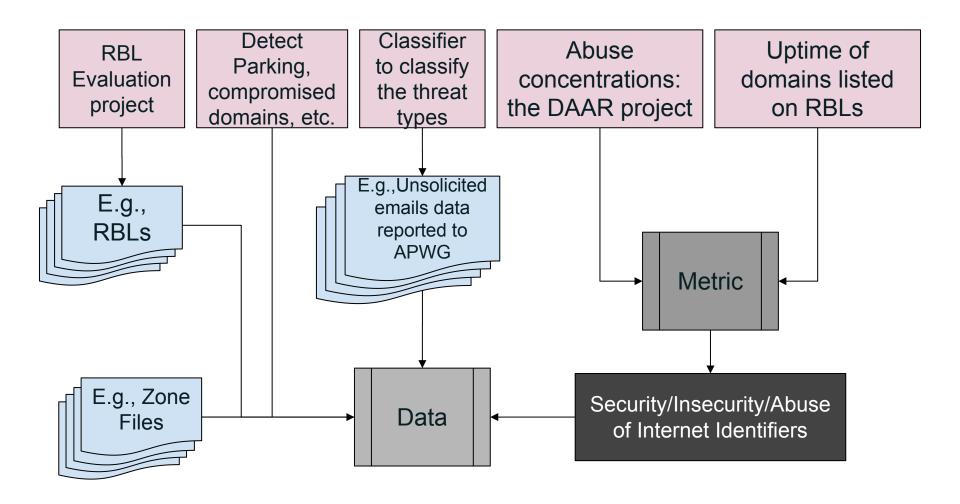
→ Higher quality data → data with fewer false positives

→ More precise definitions of what is measured → e.g., Spam as a unsolicited email vs Spam as a delivery mechanism for malware

→ Incorporating Measurement Errors → acknowledging limitations of the metric used



Towards Better Metrics





Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR)



DAAR (Domain Abuse Activity Reporting)

- Aggregate data from RBLs at TLD level (count per TLD)
- Combine with count of domains from zonefile
- Maintain consistent methodology since October
 2017
- Monthly reports
- Daily access through the API
- Longer term trends

https://www.icann.org/octo-ssr/daar



DAAR Project Uses, and Limitations

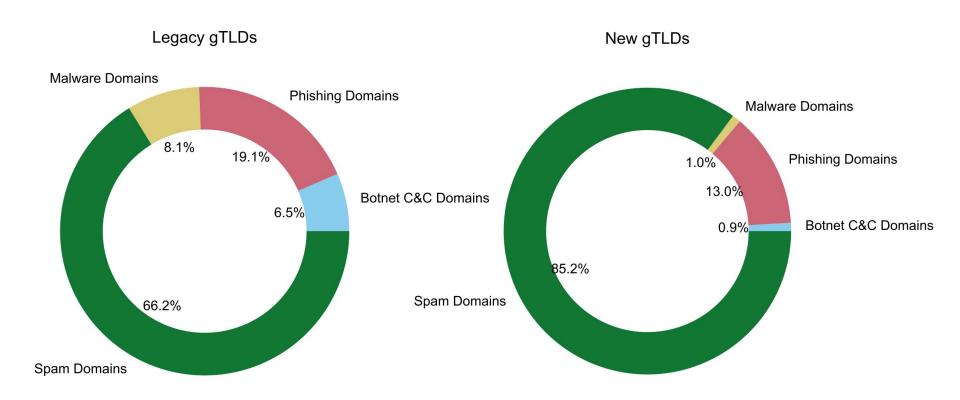
- DAAR data CAN be used to
 - Report on threat activity at TLD level
 - Historical analysis of security threats or domain registration activity
 - Help operators understand their reputations in the DAAR RBLs or the impact of their antiabuse programs or terms of service
- DAAR data CANNOT be used to
 - Provide info about mitigation
 - Distinguish maliciously registered vs. compromised domains
 - Provide information on individual security threats within domains
 - Rank TLD providers in terms of their security concentrations







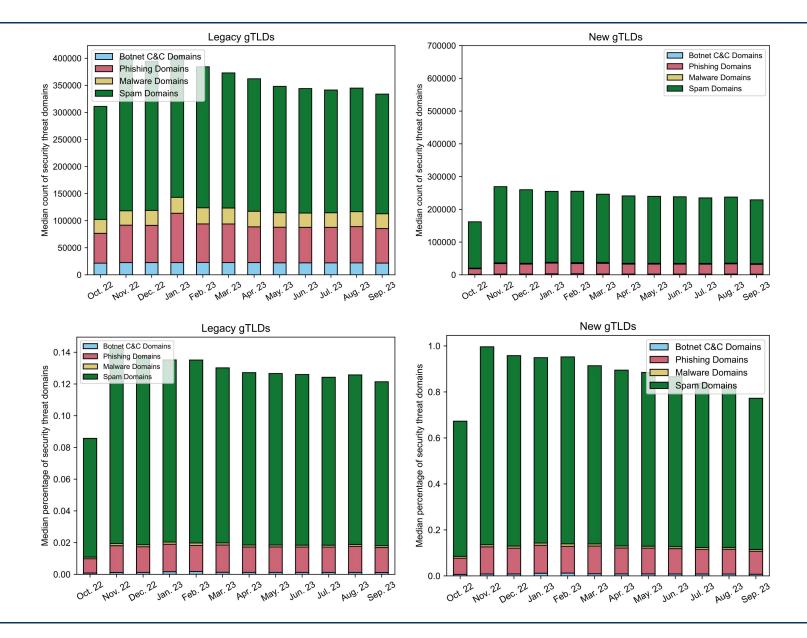
Overview



(Legacy gTLDs are those delegated pre-2010)

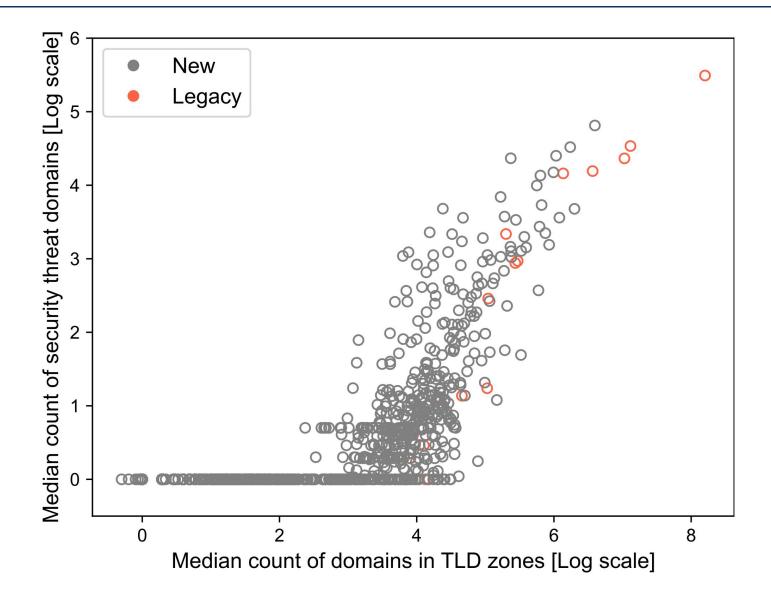


12-month trends

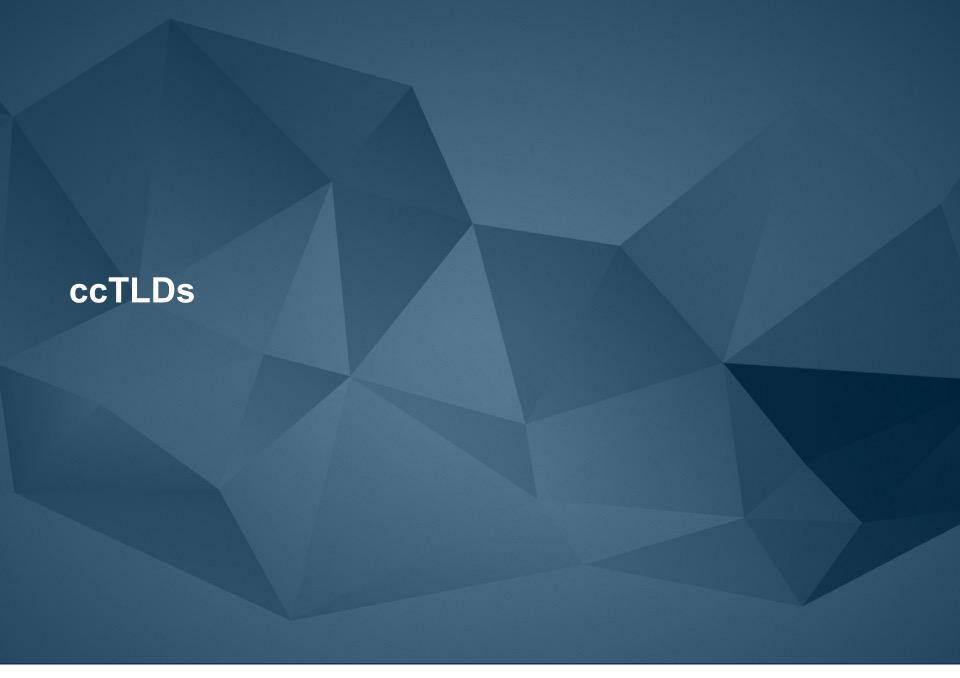




Per TLD

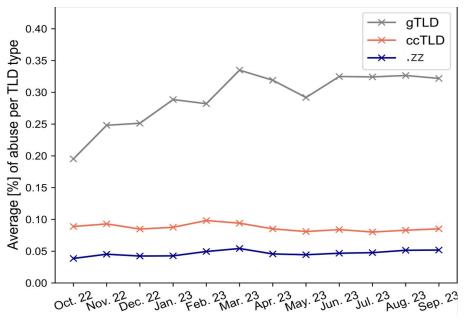


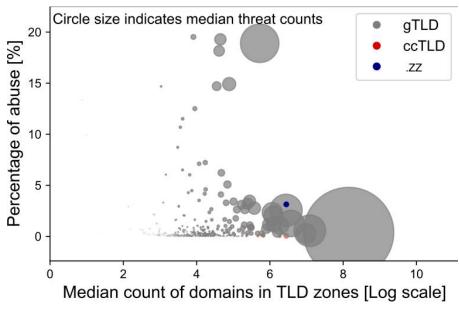






Individualized Report Example: Aggregate Threats over All TLDs







Future Plans

- Adding more ccTLDs
- Provide individualized reports to all DAAR participants
- Publish methodology for RBL evaluations
- DAAR Evolution
 - Provide domain level sharable RBL data
 - Registrar level metrics
 - Uptime (Security Threat Persistence Metrics)
 - Malicious vs. Compromised
 - Security Threat Prediction
 - Dynamic Dashboard
 - o API
 - Others ...



Domain Name Security Threat Information Collection and Reporting (DNSTICR)

Identification and Reporting of pandemic-related malicious domain names



DNSTICR

(Spoiler alert!)

- Criminals use the internet
- Criminals use big events to "hook" victims
- ⊙ Global event + Internet = Mass audience

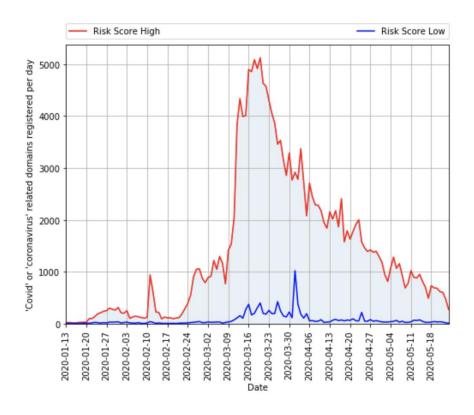
- Big events have associated bursts of domain name registration
- COVID-19 no different
 - The extra working from home made it the perfect storm



Context

TLP: White

Domain trends update



(Source: John Conwell, DomainTools)



DNSTICR

- Many articles talked about "suspicious" or "potentially malicious" registrations
- Some looked at full URLs, some at domains, some at certificates...

- Wanted a clear, published methodology
- Get good intelligence to the right people

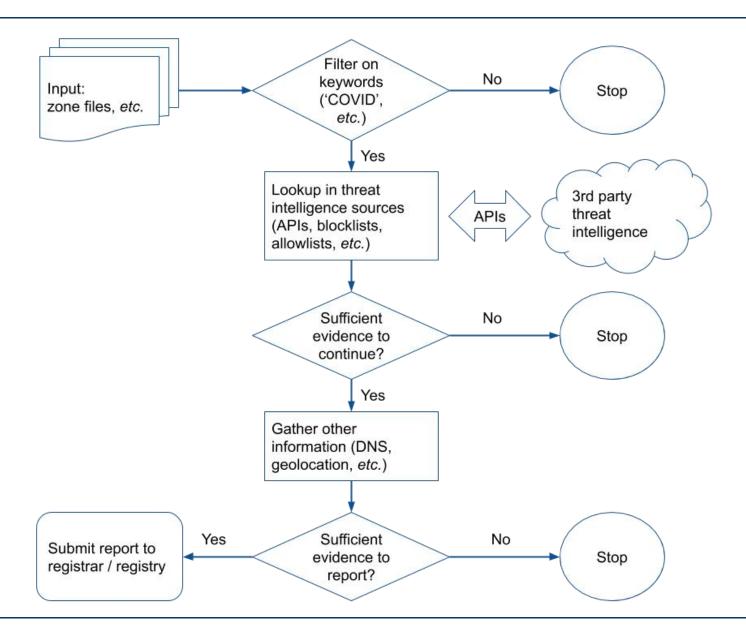
April 2022 – added terms related to conflict in Ukraine







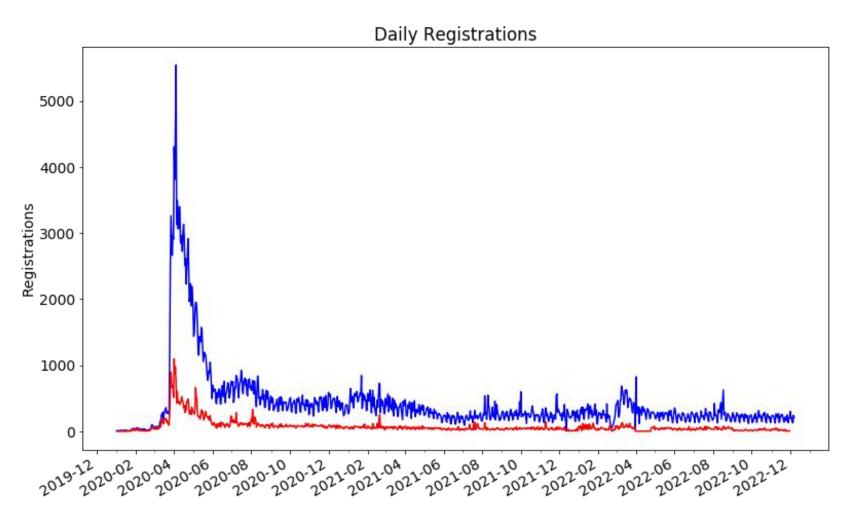
DNSTICR - Data to Intelligence







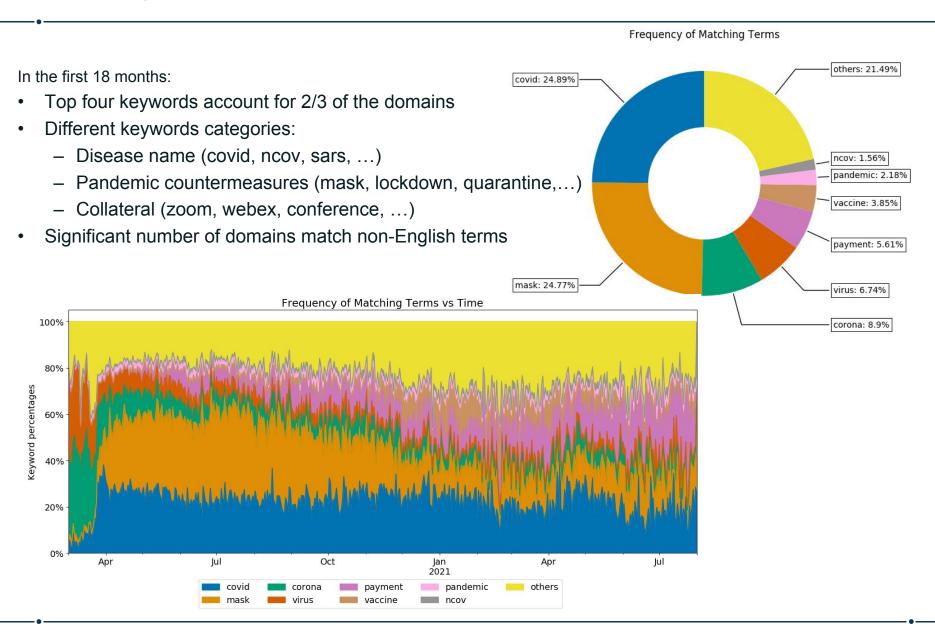




Registrations per day matching one or more of our filter terms (blue line) plus those which had one or more third-party reports (red line). Dates in DD-MM-YYYY format.



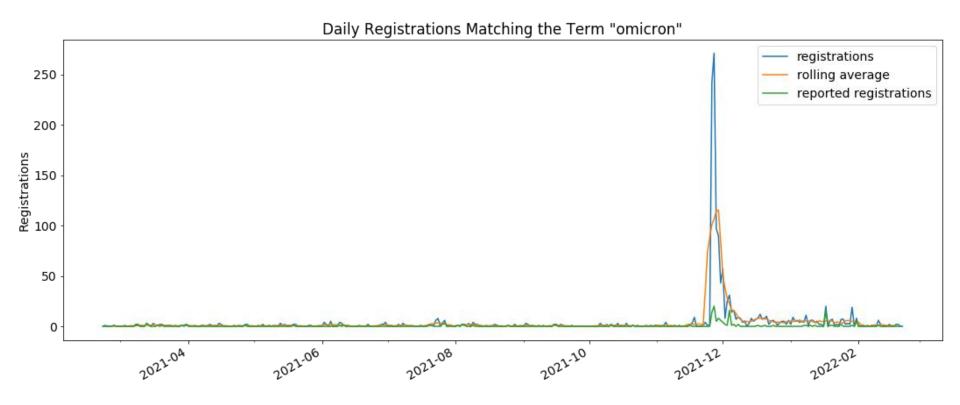
What keywords do these domains contain?





New search terms

- New terms added, e.g.
 - Passport
 - Immunity
 - o Omicron

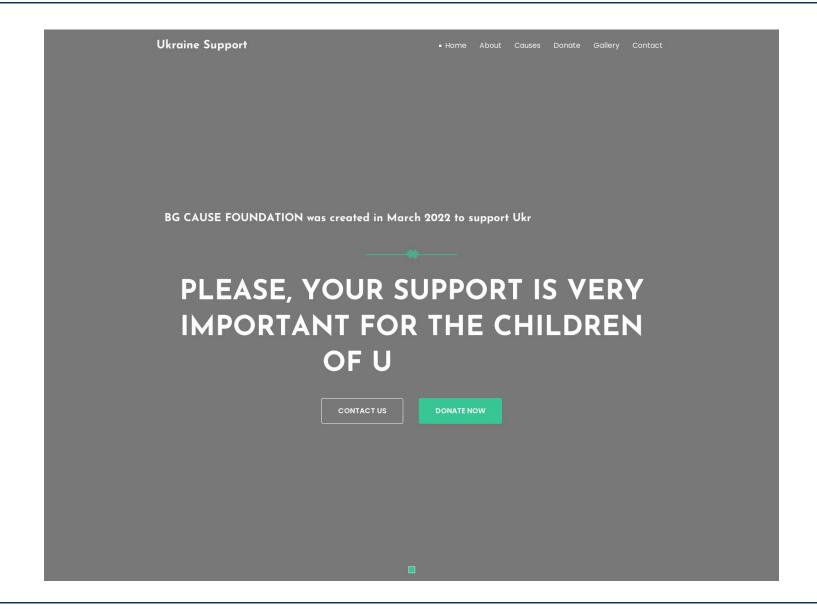




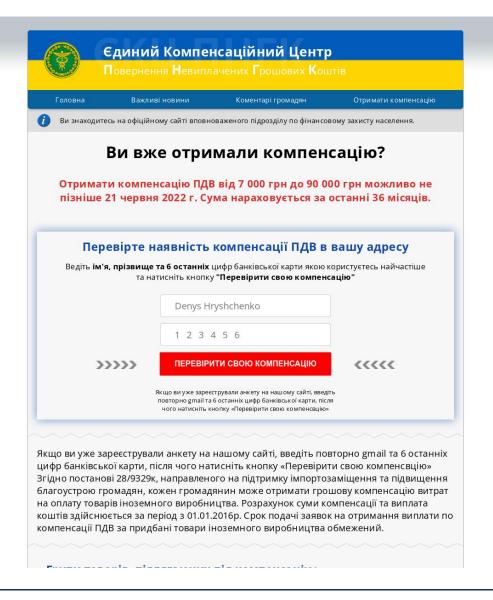
Statistics

- 2020 December 2022
 - o 579 Search terms
 - o 489,169 matched one or more search term
 - o 28,411 (5.8%) had third-party reports
- Many matching terms but not covid related
 - o "mask" matches "metamask" (crypto wallet) phishing/fraud
 - "payment" matches financial phishing/fraud
- Seeing lots of similar-looking registrations being reported but we see only parked pages

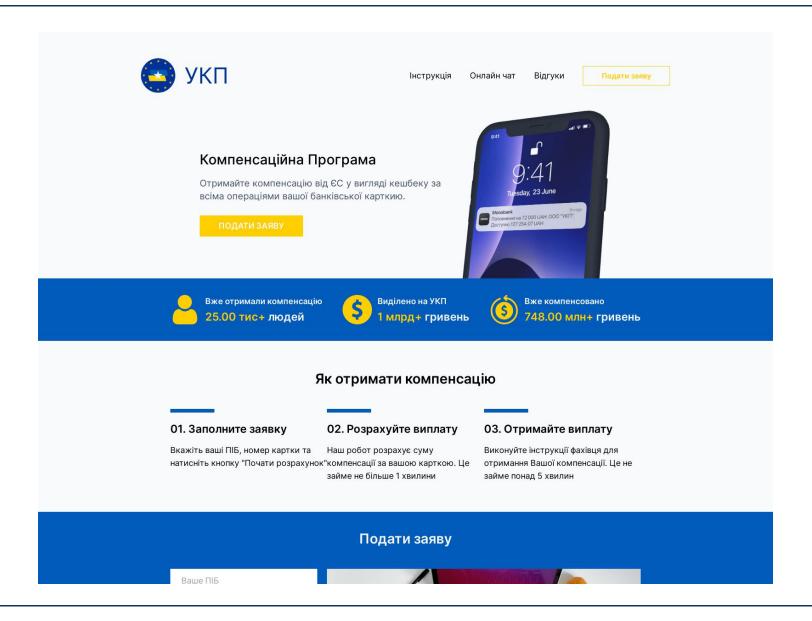




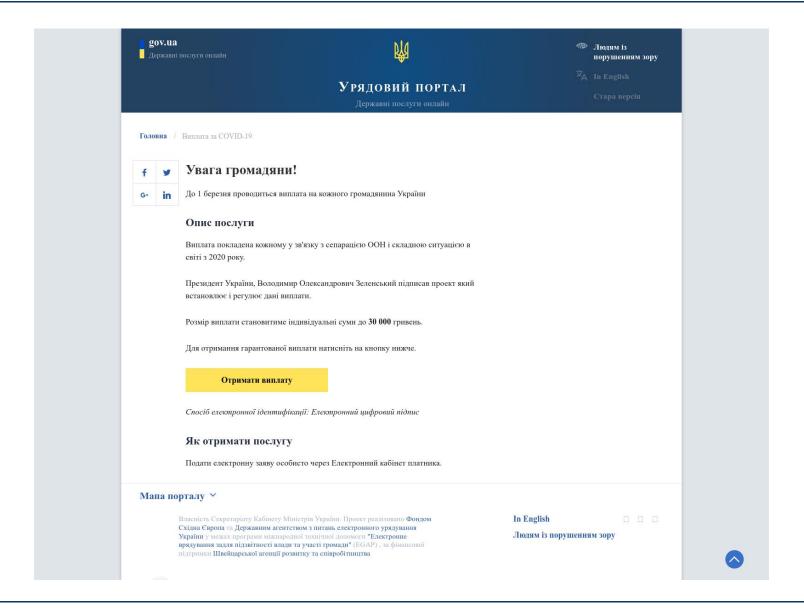
















Thank You and Questions

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