Westpac unit nets domain name
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FORMER Internet Registry Australia director Bradley Norrish has lost ownership of a domain name after a complaint by BT Financial Group.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation's Arbitration and Mediation Centre last week ruled that the domain name bt.com.au should be handed to BT, which is owned by Westpac.

The previous bt.com.au owner was Basketball Times, whose sole director, Mr Norrish, has previously been involved in court action over misleading and deceptive conduct in domain name sales.

BT Financial Group wrote to Mr Norrish in April 2003 after being contacted by a financial adviser who mistakenly looked up www.bt.com.au while seeking BT's website, and was instead directed to a pornographic site.

Law firm Mallesons Stephens Jacques, which represented BT, said the financial organisation had 700,000 customers, managed $41 billion and had many registered trademarks using the letters BT, while Basketball Times, did "not appear to be trading".

WIPO found Mr Norrish had "no rights or legitimate interests" in the domain name, and Basketball Times was not commonly known as BT or bt.com.au.

Mr Norrish did not respond to the complaint when contacted by WIPO.

His business associate, Chesley Rafferty, is appealing against an April decision by the Federal Court, which found his domain name renewal notices, sent out by his company, Domain Names Australia, misleading and deceptive.

A spokeswoman for BT Financial Group said a 10-day cooling off period meant BT did not yet have control of the domain name and had not decided what to do with it.

The company currently uses btonline.com.au for its main customer website.

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