IDN Variant Issues Project (VIP)

Project Update and Next Steps

ccNSO meeting on 13 March 2012
Why this project

- Long-standing request from a number of IDN user communities.

- Board direction to develop an issues report on the subject.

http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-25sep10-en.htm#2.5
Integrated Issues Report
IDN Variant Issues Project Phases 1 & 2

Completed in 2011

- Arabic Case Study Report
- Chinese Case Study Report
- Cyrillic Case Study Report
- Devanagari Case Study Report
- Greek Case Study Report
- Latin Case Study Report

Draft Integrated Issues Report Published

The IDN Variant Issues Project
A Study of Issues Related to the Management of IDN Variant TLDs (Integrated Issues Report)
20 February 2012
What is a “variant”?

- No commonly-agreed definition.
- Used to refer to a number of different concepts.
- Report continues to use the term in a loose sense.
- More specific terms are recommended, e.g., “variant” with a qualifier to give more information.
Scope of the report

- Issues discussed concern IDN variants at the top level (i.e., IDN variant TLDs).
- Other related issues are discussed as relevant.
Classification of identified variant cases

Cases referred to as Variants

Linguistic

3
Dialectal

Whole String

Exchangeable Variants

1

1*2

Visually-Similar

2

Code-Point
Whole string variants vs. code point variants

**Code point variants:** based on a relationship between code points
- E.g., a single code point is a variant of another code point or sequence of code points.

**Whole-string variants:** based on a relationship between whole strings.
- E.g., their meaning to a language community.
Themes in the report

Tension between:
• Interest in creating greater functionality to address a range of potential variant cases
• Difficulties of meeting those objectives.

Risks and costs are significant
• Need for cost-benefit analysis for each potential mechanism to balance risks, costs, and benefits.
Next Steps: Project Plan
Potential next steps

Several potential projects identified in the Integrated Issues Report.

Open for public comment:


Comment period through 18 March 2012, with reply period through 8 April 2012
IDN VIP Next Steps

Feasibility Studies 2012

- Includes board decision on types and states of variants to implement.

Develop Key Processes 2013

- Decision Point

Implement Processes

- Decision Point

Includes board decision directing staff to implement the variant processes.
Timeline

ICANN FY | FY12  | FY13  | FY14  
---|---|---|---
Month | CY12 | CY12 | CY13 | CY13 | CY14 
2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6

ICANN Mtg | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50

- **P1** Label Generation Ruleset Tool
- **P2** Label Generation Ruleset Process Development
  - P2.1 Label Generation Ruleset Process Development
  - P2.2 Implement Label Generation Process for the Root
- **P3** Whole-String Variants Feasibility Study
- **P5** Mirroring Variants Feasibility Study
- **P6** Variants with and without Mirroring, User Experience Study
- **P4** Visual Similarity Process Enhancement
  - P4.1 Visual Similarity Process Enhancement
  - P4.2 Improved Visual Similarity Process Implementation
- **P7** Updates to ICANN’s gTLD and ccTLD Programs
- **P8** Updates to ICANN and IANA Operations

COSTA RICA

11-16 March 2012
Project 1: Label Generation Ruleset Tool

Already ongoing; Not dependent on having variants in the root

Description:

Develop the specification for a standard tool for listing the allowed code points and the label generation rules, and for the generation of the corresponding variant labels, if any.

(Specifies an standard format for an IDN table)

Project 2: Label Generation Ruleset Process for the Root Zone

**Project 2.1:**

Determining the approach to developing the code point repertoire and the label generation process for the root zone.

**Project 2.2:**

Depending on the outcome of project 2.1, work is to develop the code point repertoire and the label generation process for the root zone.
Project 3: Examining the Feasibility of Whole-String Variants

Description:

Study the feasibility of unambiguously identifying and implementing whole-string variant TLDs.
Project 4: Enhancing Visual Similarity Processes

**Project 4.1:**

Develop an enhanced visual similarity process for the root that is predictable and repeatable.

**Project 4.2:**

Depending on the outcome of project 4.1, work ranges from keeping status quo to using tools like the LGR tool to identify visual similarity using a deterministic approach.
Description:

Study the technical feasibility of mirroring variants in the root. Particularly the feasibility of ensuring that mirroring works beyond DNS, in applications like Web, email, FTP, etc.

(“Mirroring” means a mapping of 2 or more namespaces)
Project 6: Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs

Description:

Study the implications on user experience of variant TLDs in both mirrored and non-mirrored implementations.
Questions?
Thank You