Report on IDN Study

New Delhi, India
Feb 13, 2008

rmohan@afilias.info - Ram Mohan
SSAC IDN Study

To determine the impact of the introduction of IDNs at
the top level (IDN TLDs) on the Security & Stability of
the Domain Name System

The initial IDN Study was setup to answer questions about:

The impact on the DNS of the introduction of top-level IDNs:

– Technical Security/Stability
– Policy Security/Stability
– Operational Security/Stability

• Study growth, scaling and system-wide issues that are
going to cause hiccups due to the introduction of IDNs
• Not our position to make policy, but to provide useful
insight into what decisions might mean
Focus Areas

1. Survey of current alternate IDN TLD systems
   • Review systems in:
     • Iran (IDN in Farsi)
     • Arab League (IDN in Arabic)
     • China (IDN in Chinese)
     • Israel (IDN in Hebrew)
   • Goal: Is there an impact on the DNS due to tweaks/changes to systems made as a result of alternate systems
Focus Areas

2. Work with ICANN IDN Testbed to potentially conduct empirical tests
   • Removed areas of speculation (since actual testbed has laid to rest several security & stability question areas)
   • Determining answers to questions by trying them out live in the IDN “example” top levels
   • Conduct email (EAI) tests to determine potential issues with compatibility and stability
Focus Areas

3. Study possible criteria for the evaluation of IDN top level domain applications
   • Create objective measures for the evaluation of IDN TLD applications
   • Specific focus on security & stability aspects
Timelines

• Originally planned to complete in 2007
• Delayed due to protocol revision work and some internal reorganization
• Re-engaging in 2008 to achieve focus area goals
Report on IDN Study

New Delhi, India
Feb 13, 2008