Internationalized Domain Names Status Report

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Principles

• Global uniqueness and interoperability of the DNS
  – unique and unambiguous domain names with same functionality regardless of geographic placement of access

• Promote “Future-Proof” solutions
  – define characters that are allowed and an ability for adding new ones

• Not all characters used in the worlds languages will be available for use in domain names

• Diminish user confusion as much as possible, via
  – technical development and implementation requirements, registry policies, and user education

• IDNA protocol standard in implementation

• Promote multi-stakeholder involvement

• Roles of ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees
  – ICANN staff does not create policy
Internationalized Top level Technical Test

• Laboratory test of Root-zone and resolver software successfully finalized

• Various suggestions from community:
  – Application testing
  – UI testing
  – Registry/registrar interface testing across to the end-user
  – Testing of sets of strings for user preference
  – DNAME testing and production
  – None of the above
  – More…

• Staff is consulting with ICANN Board Liaison’s for their technical expertise and recommendation on how to reach the goal
  – Create an overview of what happens from UI to DNS resolution
  – SSAC IDN Study
  – RSSAC participation

• Decision of whether internationalized top level labels can be inserted in the root-zone in a technically secure and stable manner
IDNA Revision - IETF

• IDNA is the protocol for IDNs
• The revision of IDNA is based on RFC4690, intends to:
  – Make it easier to understand how the protocol is working and should be implemented
  – Clearer terminology definitions
  – Make the protocol non-dependant on versions of Unicode
  – Inclusion based model instead of exclusion based
  – Stringprep changes to eliminate R-to-L script errors

• Follows the IETF process for RFCs – open participation

• Latest Internet draft version is available at:

IDN Policies

• No formal policy development process has been started in the ccNSO and the GNSO
• Many IDN policy focused working groups and numerous meetings on the issues reports that was generated by these groups

• IDN Policy workshop:
  – Perhaps not possible to separate internationalized top level domains into ccTLD, gTLD or other categories
  – ccNSO, GNSO, GAC IDN working groups have a large amount of overlapping issues that need to be solved together
  – Staff will discuss with SO/AC Chairs for next steps
    • More transparent, efficient and faster process to finalize
Apologies
- to all who need internationalized top level labels because we are not able to provide that service today

Thank You
- to all those who work hard and proactively to make internationalized top level domains a reality