

Quick Reference Guide: New gTLD Workshop
29 October 2007

This reference guide is provided in conjunction with the GNSO's New gTLD Workshop on 29 October 2007. It contains the complete set of Principles, Recommendations, and Implementation Guidelines developed by the GNSO, as well as additional links for more detailed information.

Workshop Agenda

Session 1

1. Moderator presentation
 - a. Background
 - b. Workshop Instructions
 - c. Summary of Council vote re. the recommendations
2. Panel presentation(s)
 - a. Principles A-F
 - b. Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, & 13
 - c. Implementation Guidelines IG A – IG E IG M – IG O
 - d. Overview of Draft RFP
 - e. Projected Timeline
 - f. Estimated Costs
 - g. Other Implementation Details
3. Responses to questions submitted in advance (if not already answered)
4. Live Q&A

Session 2

1. Panel presentation(s)
 - a. Recommendations 5, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19
 - b. Implementation Guidelines IG I – IG L
 - c. Overview of Draft Base Contract
 - d. Other Implementation Details
2. Responses to questions submitted in advance (if not already answered)
3. Live Q&A

Session 3

1. Panel presentation(s)
 - a. Principle G
 - b. Recommendations 3, 6, 12, 20
 - c. Implementation Guidelines IG F, IG G, IG H, IG P, IG Q, IG R
 - d. Other Implementation Details
2. Responses to questions submitted in advance (if not already answered)
3. Live Q&A

Principles

- A** New generic top-level domains (gTLDs) must be introduced in an orderly, timely and predictable way. [5]¹

¹ Bracketed numbers following each item refer to the corresponding page number in the Summary of the GNSO's Final Report on the Introduction of New gTLDs, <http://losangeles2007.icann.org/files/losangeles/gnso-newgtlds-workshop-29oct07.pdf>.

- B** Some new generic top-level domains should be internationalised domain names (IDNs) subject to the approval of IDNs being available in the root. [5]
- C** The reasons for introducing new top-level domains include that there is demand from potential applicants for new top-level domains in both ASCII and IDN formats. In addition the introduction of new top-level domain application process has the potential to promote competition in the provision of registry services, to add to consumer choice, market differentiation and geographical and service-provider diversity. [5]
- D** A set of technical criteria must be used for assessing a new gTLD registry applicant to minimise the risk of harming the operational stability, security and global interoperability of the Internet. [5]
- E** A set of capability criteria for a new gTLD registry applicant must be used to provide an assurance that an applicant has the capability to meets its obligations under the terms of ICANN's registry agreement. [5]
- F** A set of operational criteria must be set out in contractual conditions in the registry agreement to ensure compliance with ICANN policies. [5]
- G** The string evaluation process must not infringe the applicant's freedom of expression rights that are protected under internationally recognized principles of law. [5]

Recommendations

- 1** ICANN must implement a process that allows the introduction of new top-level domains. The evaluation and selection procedure for new gTLD registries should respect the principles of fairness, transparency and non-discrimination. All applicants for a new gTLD registry should therefore be evaluated against transparent and predictable criteria, fully available to the applicants prior to the initiation of the process. Normally, therefore, no subsequent additional selection criteria should be used in the selection process. [6]
- 2** Strings must not be confusingly similar to an existing top-level domain or a Reserved Name. [10]
- 3** Strings must not infringe the existing legal rights of others that are recognized or enforceable under generally accepted and internationally recognized principles of law. Examples of these legal rights that are internationally recognized include, but are not limited to, rights defined in the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industry Property (in particular trademark rights), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (in particular freedom of expression rights). [15]
- 4** Strings must not cause any technical instability. [6-7]
- 5** Strings must not be a Reserved Word. [11]
- 6** Strings must not be contrary to generally accepted legal norms relating to morality and public order that are recognized under international principles of law. Examples of such principles of law include, but are not limited to, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, intellectual property treaties administered by the World Intellectual

- Property Organisation (WIPO) and the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS). [15-16]
- 7 Applicants must be able to demonstrate their technical capability to run a registry operation for the purpose that the applicant sets out. [12]
 - 8 Applicants must be able to demonstrate their financial and organisational operational capability. [12]
 - 9 There must be a clear and pre-published application process using objective and measurable criteria. [7]
 - 10 There must be a base contract provided to applicants at the beginning of the application process. [7]
 - 11 [Replaced with Recommendation 20 and Implementation Guideline P]
 - 12 Dispute resolution and challenge processes must be established prior to the start of the process. [17]
 - 13 Applications must initially be assessed in rounds until the scale of demand is clear. [13]
 - 14 The initial registry agreement term must be of a commercially reasonable length. [14]
 - 15 There must be renewal expectancy. [14]
 - 16 Registries must apply existing Consensus Policies and adopt new Consensus Policies as they are approved. [8]
 - 17 A clear compliance and sanctions process must be set out in the base contract which could lead to contract termination. [8]
 - 18 If an applicant offers an IDN service, then ICANN's IDN guidelines must be followed. [14]
 - 19 Registries must use only ICANN accredited registrars in registering domain names and may not discriminate among such accredited registrars. [9]
 - 20 An application will be rejected if an expert panel determines that there is substantial opposition to it from a significant portion of the community to which the string may be explicitly or implicitly targeted. [18]

Implementation Guidelines

- IG A** The application process will provide a pre-defined roadmap for applicants that encourages the submission of applications for new top-level domains. [7]
- IG B** Application fees will be designed to ensure that adequate resources exist to cover the total cost to administer the new gTLD process. Application fees may differ for applicants. [9]
- IG C** ICANN will provide frequent communications with applicants and the public including comment forums. [6]
- IG D** A first come first served processing schedule within the application round will be implemented and will continue for an ongoing process, if necessary. Applications will be time and date stamped on receipt. [13]
- IG E** The application submission date will be at least four months after the issue of the Request for Proposal and ICANN will promote the opening of the application round. [13]
- IG F** If there is contention for strings, applicants may:
- i) resolve contention between them within a pre-established timeframe

- ii) if there is no mutual agreement, a claim to support a community by one party will be a reason to award priority to that application. If there is no such claim, and no mutual agreement a process will be put in place to enable efficient resolution of contention and;
- iii) the ICANN Board may be used to make a final decision, using advice from staff and expert panels. [17]

IG G Where an applicant lays any claim that the TLD is intended to support a particular community such as a sponsored TLD, or any other TLD intended for a specified community, that claim will be taken on trust with the following exceptions: i) the claim relates to a string that is also subject to another application and the claim to support a community is being used to gain priority for the application; and ii) a formal objection process is initiated. Under these exceptions, Staff Evaluators will devise criteria and procedures to investigate the claim. Under exception (ii), an expert panel will apply the process, guidelines, and definitions set forth in IG P. [8]

IG H External dispute providers will give decisions on objections. [18]

IG I An applicant granted a TLD string must use it within a fixed timeframe which will be specified in the application process. [7]

IG J The base contract should balance market certainty and flexibility for ICANN to accommodate a rapidly changing market place. [8]

IG K ICANN should take a consistent approach to the establishment of registry fees. [8]

IG L The use of personal data must be limited to the purpose for which it is collected. [8]

IG M ICANN may establish a capacity building and support mechanism aiming at facilitating effective communication on important and technical Internet governance functions in a way that no longer requires all participants in the conversation to be able to read and write English. [10]

IG N ICANN may put in place a fee reduction scheme for gTLD applicants from economies classified by the UN as least developed. [9]

IG O ICANN may put in place systems that could provide information about the gTLD process in major languages other than English, for example, in the six working languages of the United Nations. [10]

IG P The following process, definitions and guidelines refer to Recommendation 20.

Process

- Opposition must be objection based.
- Determination will be made by a dispute resolution panel constituted for the purpose.
- The objector must provide verifiable evidence that it is an established institution of the community (perhaps like the RSTEP pool of panelists from which a small panel would be constituted for each objection).

Guidelines

The task of the panel is the determination of substantial opposition.

- a) **substantial** – in determining substantial the panel will assess the following: signification portion, community, explicitly targeting, implicitly targeting, established institution, formal existence, detriment
- b) **significant portion** – in determining significant portion the panel will assess the balance between the level of objection submitted by one or more established institutions

and the level of support provided in the application from one or more established institutions. The panel will assess significance proportionate to the explicit or implicit targeting.

c) **community** – community should be interpreted broadly and will include, for example, an economic sector, a cultural community, or a linguistic community. It may be a closely related community which believes it is impacted.

d) **explicitly targeting** – explicitly targeting means there is a description of the intended use of the TLD in the application.

e) **implicitly targeting** – implicitly targeting means that the objector makes an assumption of targeting or that the objector believes there may be confusion by users over its intended use.

f) **established institution** – an institution that has been in formal existence for at least 5 years. In exceptional cases, standing may be granted to an institution that has been in existence for fewer than 5 years.

- Exceptional circumstances include but are not limited to a re-organization, merger or an inherently younger community.
- The following ICANN organizations are defined as established institutions: GAC, ALAC, GNSO, ccNSO, ASO.

g) **formal existence** – formal existence may be demonstrated by appropriate public registration, public historical evidence, validation by a government, intergovernmental organization, international treaty organization or similar.

h) **detriment** – the objector must provide sufficient evidence to allow the panel to determine that there would be a likelihood of detriment to the rights or legitimate interests of the community or to users more widely. [18]

IG Q ICANN staff will provide an automatic reply to all those who submit public comments that will explain the objection procedure. [17]

IG R Once formal objections or disputes are accepted for review there will be a cooling off period to allow parties to resolve the dispute or objection before review by the panel is initiated. [17]

Useful Links

- A summary of the GNSO's recommendations is available at <http://losangeles2007.icann.org/files/losangeles/gnso-newgtlds-workshop-29oct07.pdf>.
- The full GNSO Final Report on the Introduction of New gTLDs is available at <http://gnso.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/pdp-dec05-fr-parta-08aug07.htm> (Part A) and <http://gnso.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/pdp-dec05-fr-partb-01aug07.htm> (Part B).
- The GNSO's issue page on New gTLDs is at <http://gnso.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/>.

Reserved Names Summary

Please note that reserved name requirements include both those listed in the alphabetical list in the table that follows and the requirements described in the Special Reserved Names Categories section after the table.

Alphabetical List

ASCII			IDN		
Top Level	2 nd Level	3 rd Level	Top Level	2 nd Level	3 rd Level***
0-9 (single digits)	AFRINIC	AFRINIC	All Unicode versions of 'Example' and 'Test'	All Unicode versions of 'Example' ** and names that appear in the IDN Evaluation Facility.	All Unicode versions of 'Example' **
a-z (single letters)	APNIC	APNIC			
AFRINIC	ARIN	ARIN			
APNIC	ASO	ASO			
ARIN	ccNSO	ccNSO			
ASO	Example	Example			
ccNSO	GNSO	GNSO			
Example	gtdl-servers	gtdl-servers			
GNSO	IAB	IAB			
gtdl-servers	IANA	IANA			
IAB	iana-servers	iana-servers			
IANA	ICANN	ICANN			
iana-servers	IESG	IESG			
ICANN	IETF	IETF			
IESG	Internic	Internic			
IETF	IRTF	IRTF			
Internic	ISTF	ISTF			
IRTF	LACNIC	LACNIC			
ISTF	LATNIC	LATNIC			
LACNIC	NIC*	NIC*			
LATNIC	rfc-editor	rfc-editor			
NIC	RIPE	RIPE			
rfc-editor	root-servers	root-servers			
RIPE	Whois*	Whois*			
root-servers	www*	www*			
test					
Whois					
www					

* For use by registry operators only.

** The RN-WG recommended that ICANN not try to translate 'example' into Unicode versions for various scripts or to reserve any ACE versions of such translations or transliterations if they exist, except on a case by case basis as proposed by given registries.

*** Applicable only in cases where a registry registers names at the third level.

Special Reserved Names Categories

In addition to the reserved names included in the table above, the following requirements also apply for all new gTLDs:

- Symbols may not be used in any ASCII name at any level except in cases where the hyphen (-) is allowed.
- Tagged names may not be used in any ASCII name at any level except when a registry has approval to offer IDN names and, in such cases, only the currently approved IDNA prefix may be used in tagged names (e.g., xn--).
- Two letter ASCII names at the top level are reserved for the use of ccTLD names only.