IDN ccTLD Implementations
Arabic Script Case Study

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Arab IDN ccTLD Implementation

- More than 10 Delegated Arabic IDN ccTLD strings in the root
  Countries include ( Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Qatar, Jordan, Tunis, Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Palestine )

- IDN registrations service launched ( Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Qatar, Jordan, Tunis )

- High expectations for the launch of Arabic domain names

- Arabic IDN ccTLD Implementation Challenges:
  - Political
  - Linguistic
  - Technical
  - Research and Development
Political : The Arab Spring
Linguistic Challenges

- The Arabic language and Arabic script are rich and complex, written right to left

- One Script, Different Languages (Arabic, Farsi, Urdu,…etc)

- Arabic language comprises 28 letters (أبجدتوح)

- Many of the letters have various shapes

- Use of abstractions and abbreviations for example like UK, UN is not common in Arabic

- Characters may have more than one shape in accordance to its position in word, in the beginning, middle and end of the word

- 2 groups of digits format used, both written from the left to right with the same reference yet they have different codes in the Unicode Arabic characters sets:

  Eastern numerals (currently called Arabic-Indic numerals).
  They are the most widely used in the Arabic countries (٩,٨,٧,٦,٥,٤,٣,٢,١,٠)

  Moroccan numerals (currently called Arabic numerals). They are widely used in the northwest of Africa (especially in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) (٠,١,٢,٣,٤,٥,٦,٧,٨,٩)
Technical Challenges

- Registry Systems support of Arabic IDN
- Language tables
- Variants Issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unicode Code Point</th>
<th>Unicode Name</th>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Domain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U+0629</td>
<td>Arabic Letter TEH MARBUTA</td>
<td>ئ</td>
<td>جامعه.قطر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U+0647</td>
<td>Arabic Letter HEH</td>
<td>ه</td>
<td>جامعه.قطر</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Bundling Vs Non-Bundling
Browsers Support
- IDN Email
- Social Media networks (e.g. Twitter and Facebook)
- Browsers in Mobile Devices or Tablets
Domains Names Registration Distribution

- com.qa: 40%
- name.qa
- qa
- net.qa
- .QA: 19%
- info.qa
- biz.qa
- Closed zones: 6%

Zones Percentage Distribution

Source: Qatar Domains Registry System
Data until Last week of December 2011
Try a Domain NOW

- + 500 Registered Arabic Domain Names in 2 Month
- Many are Operational Arabic Domain
Making Qatar more visible

بحث مع أمين التعاون تطورات المنطقة

الأمير يطلع على ترتيبات التشاورية الخا

McQaryb QN

AlArab.QA

مقترح تونسي بإدارة مستشفى قطري

الدوحة - محمد عس

ملحق الاقتصاد

شركات التأمين تتبع المركزى في دونو
QATAR ARABIC DOMAIN NAMES CHALLENGES

- Population, Demography and Market Size
- Highly Educated Internet users, comfortable using ASCII domains
- Applications and Software Support (Usability of the Arabic domains)
Solutions

- Proactive in resolving issues of Usability/Application Support of Arabic Domains
- Marketing and Awareness
- Research and Development
Thank You

Qatar Domains Registry

www.domains.qa