IDN Variant TLDs Program Update

28 June 2012
Agenda

- Program Overview
- Presentation of projects to be completed in 2012/13
- Summary of follow on projects
- Announce the team (staff and consultants) for each project
- Call for volunteers for P2.1
- Discussion and Questions

- Update on P6
- Discussion and Questions
Program Overview

Dennis Jennings
Project Background

- IDN Variant Issues Project to facilitate the development of workable approaches to the deployment of IDN TLDs containing variant characters.
  - Initiated by a decision of the ICANN Board of Directors in 2010
  - Script case study teams developed issues reports
  - Integrated issues report completed Feb 2012
Program Goals

• Define the processes that must be in place to enable the management of IDN variant TLDs

Note: Work is focused on exchangeable code point variants only
### Original Timeline (March 2012)

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<th>ICANN FY</th>
<th>FY12</th>
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#### P1 Label Generation Ruleset Tool

#### P2.1 Label Generation Ruleset Process Development

#### P2.2 Implement Label Generation Process for the Root

#### Decision on Types of IDN Variant TLDs to implement

#### P3 Whole-String Variants Feasibility Study

#### P5 Mirroring Variants Feasibility Study

#### P6 Variants with and without Mirroring, User Experience Study

#### P4.1 Visual Similarity Process Enhancement

#### Decision to implement the IDN Variant TLDs processes

#### P4.2 Improved Visual Similarity Process Implementation

#### P7 Updates to ICANN’s gTLD and ccTLD Programs

#### P8 Updates to ICANN and IANA Operations

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**ICANN Prague 2012**

[Image of ICANN Prague 2012]
Feedback Received (1/2)

- Expanding the number of scripts
- Support for variant TLDs to minimize user confusion and fraudulent uses
- Prioritization of code point variants over whole-string variants
- Individual community needs
- Advantaging and disadvantaging script communities
Feedback Received (2/2)

- Accommodate individual processes for different script communities
- Batching order and delegation of IDN variant TLDs
- Collaboration with technical and language communities
- Terminology
Revised Project Plan

Focus on issues in the critical path

• IDN table format tool (P1)
• IDN table creation and maintenance Process for the Root (P2.1)
• User experience with Active Variants (P6)

Reprioritize other projects
Revised Timeline (June 2012)

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<td>P2.1 Process for IDN Table Creation and Maintenance for the Root</td>
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<td>Approval of agreed IDN Table Creation and Maintenance process for the Root</td>
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PRAGUE
Projects to be completed in FY2013
Project 1: IDN Table Format Specification

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 2.1: Process for creating and maintaining IDN tables for the Root Root Zone

This project must be completed before any IDN variant TLDs may be implemented.

Project 2.1:

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

Approaches and criteria that may permit some communities (e.g. those that use subsets of the code point repertoire and label generation ruleset for the root) to proceed more rapidly than other communities are likely to be investigated.
Project 2.1 Proposed Milestones

Jul 2012: Publish strawman proposal

Aug 2012: 1st round of consultations with volunteers

Sep 2012: Post draft process for public comment

Sep - Oct 2012: 2nd round of consultations with volunteers

Nov: Post revised draft process for public comment

March 2013: Publish Process
Project 6: Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs

Description:
Study the user experience implications when two or more IDN variant TLDs are activated (i.e., have resource records in the DNS)

Expected Outcome:
Recommended rules or guidelines a TLD should operate under to provide an acceptable user experience with regard to variant TLDs, including appropriate policy or contractual provisions to make these rules effective

Creation of a useful reference for educating application developers and others affected by these changes

This project must be completed before any IDN variant TLDs may be implemented
Project 6 Proposed Milestones

Jun 2012: Publish study proposal & conduct first public consultation (Prague)

Jul - Aug 2012: Execute the study

Sep 2012: Post draft report for public comment

Oct 2012: Conduct second public consultation (Toronto)

Nov - Dec 2012: Revise the report

Jan 2013: Publish Final Report
Follow on projects

- P2.2 Population of the IDN tables for the Root Zone
- P7 Updates to ICANN's gTLD and ccTLD Programs
- P8 Updates to ICANN Operations
Identified Issues to be Addressed ... so far

- Atomicity of IDN variant TLD sets
- Conditions for delegating
- Evaluation requirements & fee
- Ongoing fees for registries and registrars
- Requirements for registries and registrars
- Whois output
- Rights Protection Mechanisms
Call for volunteers for developing the Root IDN Table Process (Project 2.1)

Seeking volunteers with expertise in:
• DNS
• IDNA
• Linguistics / Unicode
and with an understanding of ICANN’s role and responsibilities, including in policy development

Responses should be sent by 13 July 2012

Questions
Thank You