IDN variant TLDs
A Study of Issues Related to the Delegation of IDN Variant TLDs
Why this project?

• Long standing request from a number of IDN user communities.
• Board instructed staff to develop an issues report on the subject.

http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-25sep10-en.htm#2.5
IDN variant TLDs as of today

• Applicants may declare variant strings for the TLD in its application.
• No variant TLD strings are delegated until variant management solutions are developed and implemented.
What is being proposed?

• Conduct five study cases with participants from the community:
  1) Arabic
  2) Chinese
  3) Cyrillic
  4) Indic
  5) Latin
Case study composition

• Each study case composed of community members* experienced in:
  • DNS,
  • Security,
  • Policy,
  • Linguistics,
  • Registry operations, and
  • Community representatives

* Some members are shared across case study teams
Avoid reinventing the wheel

- Survey of current TLDs’ policy on IDN variants.
- Coordination with other groups working on the subject (DNSEXT, JIG, etc.)
- Use documents available from other groups as input.
Project scope

1. Create a glossary of terms vetted with technical and linguistic communities.
2. Identify challenges (requirements) of IDN variant TLDs based on:
   a) linguistic accuracy,
   b) technical feasibility & accuracy,
   c) usability (including minimize user confusion),
   d) accessibility, and
   e) security and stability
Outcome of the project

- Issues Report from each case study
- Issues Report integrating common and case-specific issues
## Timeline

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<td>Goal setting</td>
<td>31 March 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruit case study team members</td>
<td>29 April 2011</td>
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<td>Complete case studies</td>
<td>30 September 2011</td>
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<td>Synthesize issues across cases</td>
<td>30 November 2011</td>
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<td>Issues report</td>
<td>15 December 2011</td>
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We value your feedback


- Talk with project coordination team in SF
Thank You
Questions

One World

One Internet
Definitions of Variant TLDs

• No universally accepted definition.
• In our proposal, the following* is used:
  “Variant characters occur where a single conceptual character can be identified with two or more different Unicode Code Points with graphic representations that may or may not be visually similar. IDN variant TLDs contain one or more characters that have such variants.”

* Based on definition from RFC 3743
Problem space

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