

IDN Variant TLDs

Issues Project Update



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.



Scope of the Project

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

Final Proposal Published

- Published final proposal based on public comments received on 20 April 2011
 - Addition of Greek case study
 - Refine the Indic case to become the Devanagari case study



Call for Volunteers

- Published call for volunteers for six case study teams
- Received 70+ applications across six case study Teams
- Completed and published selection of team members
- Selected case study coordinators



Case Study Teams

- Comprised of community experts in DNS, Registry/Registrar operations, Linguistics, Security, Policy, and IDNA
- Led by a case study team coordinator
- Teams will have regular teleconference calls and face-to-face meetings
- ICANN will provide support for case study teams



Consultants / Experts

- Andrew Sullivan – DNS & IDNA expert
- Nicholas Ostler – Linguistic expert

Local Host Organizations

- **Arabic:** Qatar Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQATAR)
- **Chinese:** Chinese Domain Name Consortium (CDNC)
- **Cyrillic:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



Local Host Organizations

- **Devanagari:** Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India
- **Greek:** Institute of Computer Science of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH-ICS)
- **Latin:** The Internet Infrastructure Foundation - Registry Operator for .SE



Definitions Document

- Need to define the terms that are being used
- Initial document developed
- Case study team feedback required
- Two types of definitions
 - Existing References (IDNA, Unicode 6, RFC 3743, draft-ietf-appsawg-rfc3536bis-01)
 - New Definitions (to be finalized)

Definitions Document

- The Project asks that case study teams use the terms only as defined.
- If a term is defined in a way that the team finds undesirable, or if there is not a term for something the team needs to discuss, the Project prefers the team to define a new term so that it is always clear what a given term means.
- The goal of this restriction is to minimize the difficulty later during the harmonization step.



How to stay informed?

- Mailing list for anyone who wants to participate:

<https://mm.icann.org/mailman/listinfo/vip>

- Community wiki:

<https://community.icann.org/display/VIP/Home>



And the work began ...

- Case study team members met in Singapore for a full day working sessions on Saturday
- Case study coordinators presented a summary of their groups' work on Monday public session



What's Next ...

- Periodic teleconferences
- Intercessional meetings
- Issues report from each case study team by 30 September 2011
- Final issues report by 15 December 2011



Questions

One World

One Internet



Thank You

