

JIG (Joint ccNSO-GNSO IDN Group) Update

ICANN Cartagena | Dec 6, 2010

Background of the JIG

- Charter adopted by both the ccNSO and GNSO Councils:
 - <http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/jiwig.htm>
- The purpose of the JIG is to identify and explore issues and topics of common interest of relevance to both the ccNSO and GNSO and report on such an identified issues to the respective Councils and propose methodologies to address the issues

Current Members

- ccNSO Representatives:
 - Fahd Batayneh, .jo
 - Chamara Disanayake, .lk
 - Chris Disspain, .au (ccNSO Chair)
 - Andrei Kolesnikov, .ru
 - Young-Eum Lee, .kr (ccNSO Vice-Chair)
 - Doron Shikmoni, .il
 - Jian Zhang, NomCom Appointee, Co-Chair
- GNSO Representatives:
 - Edmon Chung, Co-Chair (RySG)
 - Terry Davis (NomCom Appointee)
 - Stéphane van Gelder (RrSG)
 - June Seo (RySG)
 - Rafik Dammak (NCSG) Non Commercial Stakeholder Group, Technical/Research
 - Karen Anne Hayne (CSG)

Current Members (cont)

- Observers:
 - Avri Doria (NCSG) - Originally an ex-officio member as GNSO Council Chair
 - Chuck Gomes (Ex-Officio)
 - Sarmad Hussain, National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences, Pakistan
 - Erick Iriarte, LACTLD
 - Han Chuan, Lee, .sg
 - Yeo Yee Ling, .my
- ICANN Board Member:
 - Ram Mohan - Afilias
- ICANN Support Staff:
 - Bart Boswinkel
 - Tina Dam
 - Liz Gasster
 - Gisella Gruber-White
 - Robert Hoggarth
 - Marika Konings
 - Margie Milam
 - Olof Nordling
 - Kristina Nordström
 - David Olive
 - Scott Pinzon
 - Glen de Saint Gery
 - Gabriella Schitteck

JIG Discussions

- Bi-Weekly Conference Calls (since March 2010)
- Issues of Common Interest identified:
 1. Single Character IDN TLDs
 2. IDN TLD Variants
 3. Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs
- Face to face meeting in Brussels
- Cartagena sessions:
 - Mon 1700-1800: Single Character IDN TLDs
 - Thu 0800-0900: IDN TLD Variants

Single Character IDN TLDs

Progress update

- Initial Report completed:
 - <http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/jig-initial-report-26jul10-en.pdf>
- Public Comment period completed:
 - <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-27jul10-en.htm>
- Staff summary on comments completed:
 - <http://forum.icann.org/lists/jig-initial-report/pdfaul7JXcqaa.pdf>
- Draft Final Report published for public comments:
 - <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-04dec10-en.htm>
 - Closing: Dec 30, 2010

Progress Update

- Initial Report for Single Character IDN TLD published for public comments
 - Date: **July 26, 2010**
 - <http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/jig-initial-report-26jul10-en.pdf>
 - Public Comments Closed: **Sep 9, 2010**
 - Staff Summary of Public Comments Posted
 - <http://forum.icann.org/lists/jig-initial-report/msg00008.html>
- Draft Final Report for Single Character IDN TLD
 - Published for Public Comments: Dec 4, 2010
 - Closing: Dec 30, 2010
 - <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-04dec10-en.htm>

Background

- IDN Implementation Working Team Final Report:
 - 3.1 The team does not recommend the banning of one-character gTLDs.
 - 3.2 The team recommends that further ramifications of this issue be addressed by policy bodies such as the ccNSO and GNSO.
 - The team suggests using the term “grapheme cluster” where a combining sequence of a base character and combining mark(s) appears to be a single character, using the definition of an “extended grapheme cluster” from section 3 of Unicode Standard Annex #29
 - There seem to be no technical reasons for restricting one-character IDN TLD labels

Background (cont)

- GNSO IDN WG Final Outcomes Report:
 - 5. Single and Two Character IDNs: Single and two-character U-labels on the top level and second level of a domain name should not be restricted in general. At the top level, requested strings should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis in the new gTLD process depending on the script and language used in order to determine whether the string should be granted for allocation in the DNS with particular caution applied to U-labels in Latin script

Background (cont)

- IDN ccTLD Fast Track IDNC Final Report:
 - D: Fast Track only for non-Latin scripts: The possibility of IDN ccTLDs being delegated in Latin script is a matter that will be considered as part of the ccPDP. Accordingly, in the Fast Track, the script has to be a non-Latin script to avoid pre-empting the outcome of the ccPDP
 - Meaningfulness Requirement: For purposes of the Fast Track the string used must be meaningful in the Official Language
 - Technical Requirements [#8]: No names that are shorter than two characters in non-ASCII are used.

Policy Aspects Identified

1. Possible confusion with reserved single char ASCII TLD
2. Special financial considerations
3. Smaller pool of possible names (special allocation methods?)
4. Shorter string (easier for users to make mistakes?)
5. Policy for distinguishing between a Single Character IDN ccTLD and gTLD
6. Usability of Single Character IDN TLDs given existing application environments

Issue 1: Possible confusion with reserved single char ASCII TLD

- similar to two character IDN TLDs
- similar to that for the IDN ccTLD Fast Track where only certain scripts are allowed (or not allowed)
- a combination / adaptation of the above

Issue 2: Special financial considerations

- gTLD
 - same string contention process (auction) can be used for Single Character IDN gTLDs
 - prohibition of names considered to be a representation of a country or territory name
- ccTLD
 - meaningful representation of a country/territory name in an official language of the particular country/territory
 - 19. Competing or confusingly similar requests should be dealt with on a case by case basis and resolved in consultation with all concerned stakeholders; 20. Policies for dealing with multiple applications, objections to applications or disputes that are currently applied for ASCII ccTLDs should be equally applied to IDN ccTLDs

Issue 3: Whether due to the relatively smaller pool of possible names that special allocation methods should be considered

- gTLD
 - the Community Priority Evaluation process addresses the social considerations for the allocation of TLDs as a scarce resource.
- ccTLD
 - the meaningfulness requirement; the pressing demand test (Principle C), the non-contention condition (Principle E); the GAC ccTLD Principles on competition; and, the GAC Interim IDN ccTLD Principles addressing contention;

Issue 4: Whether due to the relatively shorter string, it may be easier for users to make mistakes, and that special policies should be considered

- A concern was raised for Single Character IDN TLDs in that because there is a smaller number of possible single character IDN TLDs (as compared to two or more character IDN TLDs), there is a higher chance for a user to mistype the Single Character IDN TLD which coincides with another Single Character IDN TLD.
- The issue pertains to causing user confusion, and therefore should be addressed based on policies established to avoid such confusion.

Issue 5: What should be the policy for distinguishing between a Single Character IDN ccTLD and a Single Character IDN gTLD

- The IDN ccTLD Fast Track requires that a selected string be a meaningful representation of the country or territory name
- The new gTLD process addresses the geographic names issue
- An IDN TLD allocated based on the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process, or an IDN ccTLD process once the IDN ccPDP is complete and implemented, would be considered an IDN ccTLD. An IDN TLD allocated based on the new gTLD process would be considered an IDN gTLD.

Issue 6: Whether special policies are required to address usability of Single Character IDN TLDs given existing application environments

- This is an issue related to the “*Universal Acceptance of All Top-Level Domains*” (<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/TLD-acceptance/>). Since the introduction of new gTLDs that is longer than 3 characters, the issue has been identified as one which would require community-wide efforts to address. The same would apply for Single Character IDN TLDs (and equally for IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs). Policies to promote the universal acceptance of all TLDs based on the authoritative root zone should be encouraged, but such undertakings should not impede the introduction of Single Character IDN TLDs.

Staff Summary of Comments

- Published Oct 1, 2010
- All comments indicate an appreciation of the work of the working group and indicated to be in support of the introduction of Single Character IDN TLD's.
- Noted that some comments relate to other area's of the new gTLD and IDN ccTLD's processes, for example topics of the Draft Application Guidebook version 4, and have not been concluded to date and therefore should be raised there.

Considerations of Public Comments

- *Issue 1: The issue of **string confusion** whether between IDN and ASCII string or within specific scripts will be further considered by the WG. The working group notes that its scope is limited to IDN's, and therefore does not consider ASCII character strings.*
- generally accept Single Character IDN TLD strings, with **special considerations for Single Character IDN TLD strings in alphabetic scripts** for other technical confusability, such as the likelihood of user slip with relevance to keyboard layouts.

Considerations of Public Comments

- *Issue 2: The comment is noted, however the **issue raised is addressed in other ICANN fora**, for example the Joint SO/AC Working Group on New gTLD Applicant Support (JAS WG).*
- No further comment. The chairs of JIG will **inform the chair of JAS WG** of the comment received.

Considerations of Public Comments

- *Issue 3: The comments are noted, however some relate to other area's of the new gTLD and IDN ccTLD's processes... The **working group notes that the discussions in these area's are taking place in other ICANN fora** and have not been concluded to date and therefore should be raised there.*
- In response to the comments received, the JIG especially **emphasizes in its policy implementation recommendation that restrictions, qualifications and requirements including considerations of geographical names, similarity and confusability, etc. must be applied to Single Character IDN TLD strings** as well.

Considerations of Public Comments

- *Issue 4. It is unclear that merely typing one character in fact leads to more errors than typing complex words or combinations of words which is commonly done today at the second level. The comment is noted, and will be taken into consideration by the working group.*
- In response to the comments received, **the JIG makes the recommendation to suggest evaluation panellists to consider other factors of confusability in their assessment**, such as the likelihood of user slip with relevance to keyboard layouts.

Considerations of Public Comments

- *Issue 5: Comment noted that **the current distinction between IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLD should be maintained** and it is assumed that under the current rules and procedures the criteria are sufficient to qualify a string.*
- **Same as response to comments received for Issue 3:** the JIG especially emphasizes in its policy implementation recommendation that restrictions, qualifications and requirements including considerations of geographical names, similarity and confusability, etc. must be applied to Single Character IDN TLD strings

Considerations of Public Comments

- *Issue 6: It is suggested to initiate more outreach to application communities to bring more awareness and improve TLD/domains validation or related concerns in order to promote acceptability of IDN's. The comment is noted. As indicated in the public announcement soliciting public comments and input on the universal acceptance of IDN TLDs is considered one of the main topic areas of the JIG. The suggestion made will be considered in the context of the WG discussions of that topic area.*
- The JIG takes note of the comments received and will proceed into working on the identified issue of common interest: “Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs” immediately after the completion of our work on the first 2 issues: 1. Single Character IDN TLDs; and, 2. IDN TLD Variants.

Implementation Recommendations:

- A. Single Character IDN TLDs should be acceptable under the IDN ccTLD Fast Track and ... in IDN ccPDP, taking into account the findings from this report
- B. The GNSO policy recommendation ... for Single Character IDN TLDs should be implemented.
- C. The definition of an “**extended grapheme cluster**” from section 3 of Unicode Standard Annex #29... should be used to define the concept of a “Single Character IDN” TLD / Label / String.
- D. Requested Single Character IDN TLD strings should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis ... depending on the script and language. Single Character IDN TLDs should be acceptable, but **must not be confusingly similar to single or two character ASCII TLDs. For alphabetic script Single Character IDN TLDs, other technical aspects of confusability may be taken into consideration**, such as the likelihood of user slip with relevance to keyboard layouts.

Editorial Implementation Suggestions

- Suggested changes to IDN ccTLD Fast Track Implementation Plan
 - Module 3 TLD String Criteria and Requirements
 - Module 5 Request Submission for String Evaluation
 - Module 5, Section 5.6.3 DNS Stability Evaluation
- Suggested Edits to New gTLD Applicant Guidebook
 - Module 2, Section 2.2.1.1.1
 - bullet 4
 - subheading “Review of 2-character IDN strings”
 - new subheading “Review of single character IDN strings”
 - Module 2, Section 2.2.1.3.2 String Requirements
 - Part III, Section 3.2
 - Part III, Section 3.2.1

Next Steps

- Public comment period closing: Dec 30, 2010
- Consideration of comments received
- Finalization of Final Report
- Submission of Final Report to ccNSO and GNSO councils
- ccNSO/GNSO councils to separately consider adoption/acceptance of the report and to take further actions

IDN Variant TLDs

Progress Update

- Initial Report (version 0.3) being drafted:
 - [https://st.icann.org/data/workspaces/jig/attachments/joint ccnso gnso idn working group:20101011160729-0-13292/original/JIG-IDN-Variant-InitialReport-0.3.pdf](https://st.icann.org/data/workspaces/jig/attachments/joint_ccnso_gnso_idn_working_group:20101011160729-0-13292/original/JIG-IDN-Variant-InitialReport-0.3.pdf)
- Work suspended in consideration of Staff work plan (as per the Board resolution on October 18):
 - <http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-25sep10-en.htm#2.5>
- Work to be restarted after update from Staff regarding the work plan to be discussed here in Cartagena

Background

- IESG Statement on IDN
 - <http://www.ietf.org/iesg/statement/idn.html>
- JET IDN Guidelines
 - <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3743.txt>
- CDNC Guidelines
 - <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4713.txt>
- Arabic Language in Internet Domains
 - <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5564.txt>
- ICANN IDN Guidelines

Background (cont)

- GNSO IDN WG Final Outcomes Report
 - 4.1.4. One String per new IDN gTLD:
 - Agreement that the approach of the New gTLD PDP with one string for each new IDN gTLD application is relevant, except in the rare cases when there is a need to cover script-specific character variants of an IDN gTLD string.
 - 4.1.8. Suggested Approach towards Aliasing:
 - Agreement to address aliasing as a policy issue, rather than in terms of any specific technical mode for implementation of such a feature.
- IDNC Final Report
- Board Resolution : “.中国”, “.中國”, “.台湾” and “.台灣”
- Board Resolution Sep 2010
 - Work plan on IDN Variant

Policy Aspects Identified

1. Requirements for a string to be considered an IDN TLD Variant (of its Primary IDN TLD)
 - and a framework of attributes constituting an IDN Language Policy for producing IDN Variants
2. Types of IDN Variants
 - with respect to their allocation and delegation properties
3. Policy operatives corresponding to the types of IDN Variants
 - Under what conditions should IDN TLD Variants be included in the root
4. Requirements for zones directly managed by a TLD operator of an IDN Variant TLD
5. Adding IDN Variant TLDs
 - subsequent to initial delegation of a Primary IDN TLD

Requirements for a String to be Considered an IDN Variant

- Consistently produced based on a Primary (or Base) IDN along with **an appropriate IDN Language Policy**
- Is technically (based on the DNS standards) a different string than the Primary IDN

Components to be included in an Appropriate IDN Language Policy

- A set of character tables (IDN Language Tables):
 - Character Inclusion Table
 - Character Variant Mapping Table
- If IDN Variants are to be produced, at least one of the character tables being a character variant mapping table
- A set of rules describing how IDN Variants are to be generated from a given Primary IDN
- A set of rules describing how IDN Variants are to be categorized
- A set of rules describing any allowed or disallowed combination of characters

Properties / Requirement for an Appropriate IDN Language Policy

- Same set of tables and rules to be applied for second level registrations (or any level the registry provides registrations for)
- Demonstrate due consideration for user cultural and linguistic considerations

Types of Variants

- Categorized based on technicality (*whether the IDN is in the zone / activated*)
 - Zone Variant
 - Reserved Variant
- Categorized based on policy (*allocation / delegation requirements*)
 - Preferred Variant – Must be allocated & delegated together with the Primary IDN
 - Reserved Variant – Allocated together with the Primary IDN and can be OPTIONALLY delegated
 - Blocked Variant – Not allocated and cannot be delegated

2 Step Evaluation Process

1. IDN Language Table (Allocation Evaluation)
 - Based on consistent algorithmic approach
 - Consistent with IDN Variant allocation and delegation policies at the 2nd level (or lower levels for which the TLD offers registrations)
 - Demonstrate broad acceptance from relevant language community
2. Business Considerations (Delegation Evaluation)
 - Delegation of Primary IDN TLD
 - Consideration of Preferred IDN Variant TLDs
 - Consideration of Reserved IDN Variant TLDs
 - Consideration of Blocked IDN Variant TLDs

Next Steps

- Complete Discussion on Policy Aspects to be Considered
- Publish Initial Report for Public Comments
 - Target: Jan 2011