

IDN Variant Issues Project (VIP)

*Project Update and Next Steps
ccNSO meeting on 13 March 2012*



Why this project

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

<http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-25sep10-en.htm#2.5>

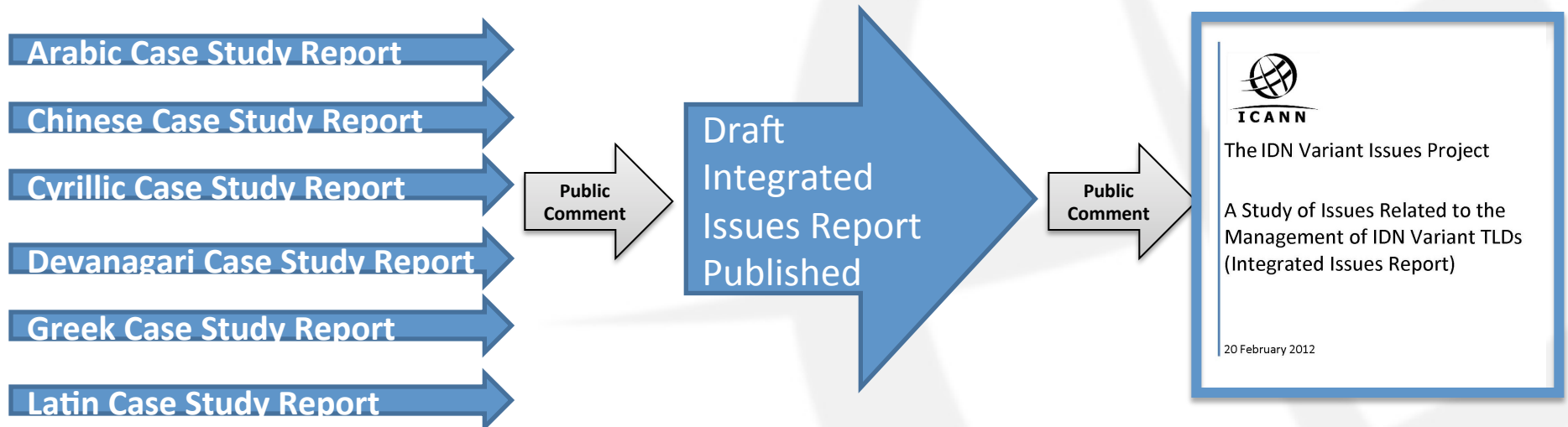


Integrated Issues Report



IDN Variant Issues Project Phases 1 & 2

Completed in 2011



What is a “variant”?

- No commonly-agreed definition.
- Used to refer to a number of different concepts.
- Report continues to use the term in a loose sense.
- More specific terms are recommended, e.g., “variant” with a qualifier to give more information.

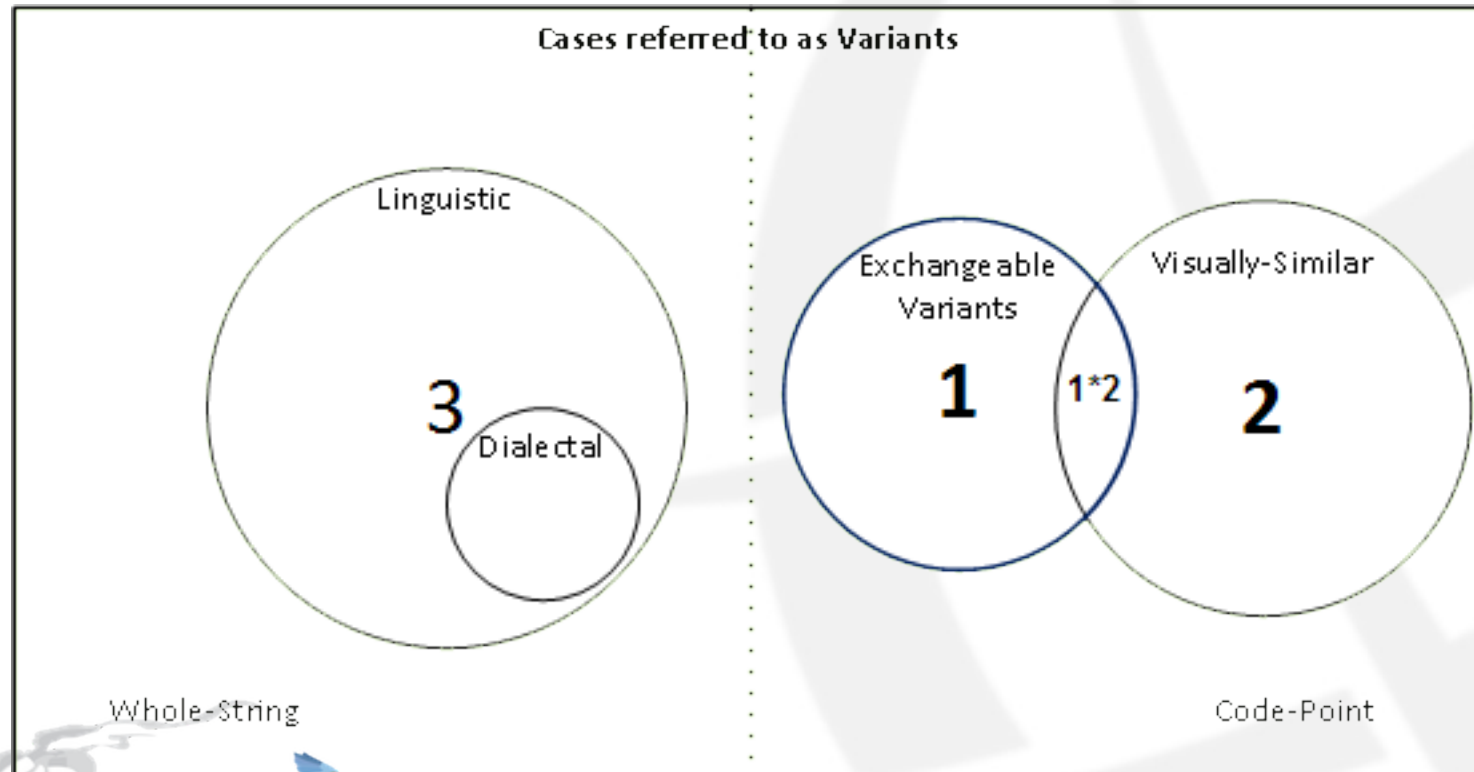


Scope of the report

- Issues discussed concern IDN variants **at the top level** (i.e., IDN variant TLDs).
- Other related issues are discussed as relevant.



Classification of identified variant cases



Whole string variants vs. code point variants

Code point variants: based on a relationship between code points

- E.g., a single code point is a variant of another code point or sequence of code points.

Whole-string variants: based on a relationship between whole strings.

- E.g., their meaning to a language community.



Themes in the report

Tension between:

- Interest in creating greater functionality to address a range of potential variant cases
- Difficulties of meeting those objectives.

Risks and costs are significant

- Need for cost-benefit analysis for each potential mechanism to balance risks, costs, and benefits.



Next Steps: Project Plan



Potential next steps

Several potential projects identified in the Integrated Issues Report.

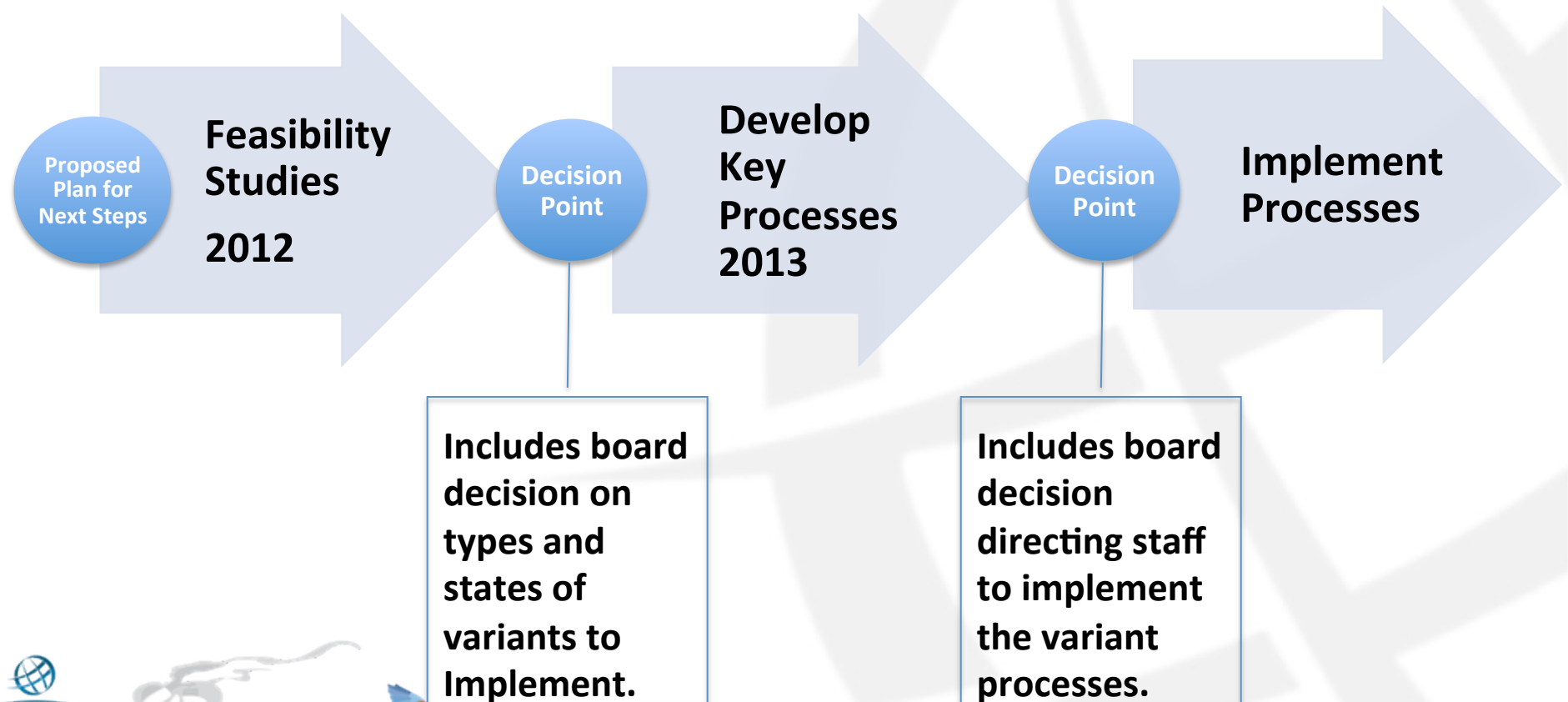
Open for public comment:

<http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/idn-vip-proposed-project-plan-20feb12-en.htm>

Comment period through 18 March 2012,
with reply period through 8 April 2012



IDN VIP Next Steps



Timeline

ICANN FY	FY12					FY13												FY14											
Calendar Year	CY12					CY12						CY13						CY13						CY14					
Month	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
ICANN Mtg	43				44				45					46				47			48				49			50	

P1 Label Generation Ruleset Tool

P3 Whole-String Variants Feasibility Study

P5 Mirroring Variants Feasibility Study

P6 Variants with and without Mirroring, User Experience Study

Decision on Types of IDN Variant TLDs to implement

P2.1 Label Generation Ruleset Process Development

P4.1 Visual Similarity Process Enhancement

Decision to implement the IDN Variant TLDs processes

P2.2 Implement Label Generation Process for the Root

P4.2 Improved Visual Similarity Process Implementation

P7 Updates to ICANN's gTLD and ccTLD Programs

P8 Updates to ICANN and IANA Operations



Project 1: Label Generation Ruleset Tool

Already ongoing;
Not dependent on
having variants in
the root

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)

<http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-davies-idntables>



Project 2: Label Generation Ruleset Process for the Root Zone

Project 2.1:

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

Project 2.2:

Depending on the outcome of project 2.1, work is to develop the code point repertoire and the label generation process for the root zone.



Project 3: Examining the Feasibility of Whole-String Variants

Description:

Study the feasibility of unambiguously identifying and implementing whole-string variant TLDs.



Project 4: Enhancing Visual Similarity Processes

Project 4.1:

Develop an enhanced visual similarity process for the root that is predictable and repeatable.

Project 4.2:

Depending on the outcome of project 4.1, work ranges from keeping status quo to using tools like the LGR tool to identify visual similarity using a deterministic approach.



Project 5: Examining the Technical Feasibility of Mirroring

Description:

Study the technical feasibility of mirroring variants in the root. Particularly the feasibility of ensuring that mirroring works beyond DNS, in applications like Web, email, FTP, etc.

(“Mirroring” means a mapping of 2 or more namespaces)



Project 6: Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs

Description:

Study the implications on user experience of variant TLDs in both mirrored and non-mirrored implementations.



Questions?



Thank You

