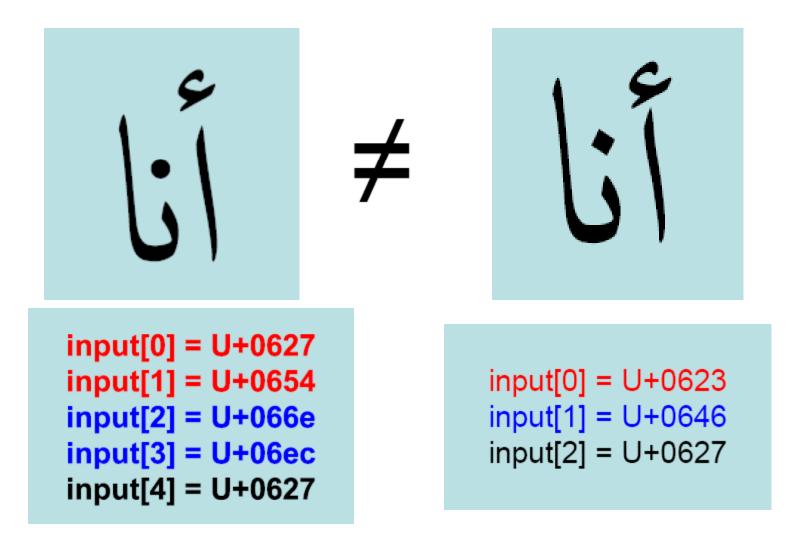
Arabic Script IDN Working Group (ASIWG)

ICANN Paris IDN Workshop 26 Jun08

Spot The Difference...

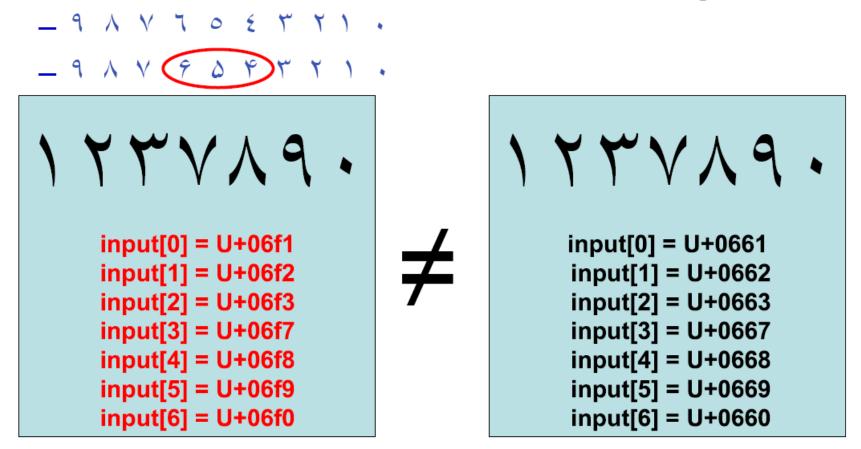


They Look The Same To Us ... But Not To A Computer

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When 1 is not 1...

Arabic-Indic VS. Eastern Arabic-Indic digits



The Arabic Language is only a part of the Arabic Script table

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ASIWG

- Stands for Arabic Script IDN Working
 Group
- **ASIWG** is a self-organizing group that consists of interested parties in the implementation of Arabic script in Internationalized Domain Names

Initial Goals

Initial Goals

- Establish a framework for implementation of IDNs in Arabic Script which:
 - Requires development of language tables & related variants (confusingly similar characters)
- Consider technical, linguistic & policy matters in the development of a Unified Arabic script table:
 - Highlight problems & come up with recommendations or guidelines where feasible
 - May serve as a best practice for other scripts to follow

Current Representation

- Current Participation:
 - Egypt Iran Kuwait Pakistan Saudi
 Arabia Syria UAE Malaysia
 - Afilias PIR UN ESCWA APTLD
 - ICANN ISOC Africa
 - Experts (Michael Everson & John Klensin)
- Languages represented:
 - Arabic Persian Urdu Sindhi Pashto -Jawi

Guiding Principles

- Standardized solution conforming to IETF IDNA Protocol and IDN Guidelines to ensure security and stability of the Internet
- Extendable solution attempting to be inclusive with respect to all languages that implement the Arabic script worldwide
- Simple & Transparent solution guided by enduser requirements (registrant and navigator)
- Fast & Easy solution that is practical for registries to deploy
- ccTLDs & gTLDs solution, that works for both

Structure

- Open Working Group
 - Decisions based on rough consensus
 - Members expected to provide substantive input into the WG, and contribute experts to the group
 - Members fund own participation, to the extent possible
 - Desire participation from:
 - Registries implementing Arabic script
 - Linguistic community experts
 - DNS/Standards experts

Outcomes

- Reviewed the Arabic Code Block, agreed on a set of recommendations and sent them to the IETF (IDNA Protocol Group)
- Definition of:
 - Variants at the script level are:
 - Characters that are identical to each other in any of the four positions in the Arabic script
 - Variants at the registry level are:
 - Two strings that appear to be confusingly similar to each other in more than one language implementing the same script

Accepted characters for Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and Pashto

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Recommendations, so far

- Variants should be registered/reserved to the same registrant
- Restrict the 3 Arabic sets of numerals from mixing at the protocol level
- Dealing with <space> is more of an application layer issue, to be resolved later and potentially by a different group
- At this stage, implement IDNs without Harakat/Tashkeel (Diacritics)

Other Ongoing Work

- Complete the identification of visually confusable characters
- Agreeing on Pvalid Characters / Code points that are not to be included in the Unified Arabic Script Table, at this stage at least
- Coming up with guidelines on the registration process for languages implementing Arabic Script
- Outreaching to other language communities
- Studying funding options and sustainability

Channels to Submit Work

- Submit the group's recommendations as either Informational RFCs or Best Current Practice (BCP) RFCs to the IETF
- Submit the group's recommendations to ICANN

Online Resources

• Wiki Page:

http://www.asiwg.org

• Mailing List:

Idna-arabicscript@lists.irnic.ir

• Archives:

http://lists.irnic.ir/mailman/listinfo/idnaarabicscript

Thank You

http://www.asiwg.org

Next Meeting – Nov 2008 | Next Call – Jul 2008

Mailing List: ldna-arabicscript@lists.irnic.ir

Appendix

Meeting Plans

- Face-to-face meetings, in the region:
 - First meeting: in Apr08 in Dubai back-to-back with ICANN regional meeting
 - Second meeting: in May08 in Dubai
 - Next face-to-face in Nov08 in Cairo, after the ICANN meeting
- Meetings organized and supported by Afilias, PIR & UN ESCWA, TRA (UAE). Support promised also by APTLD
- Attempt to coincide with other Internet meetings, to the extent feasible
- Conference calls arranged to keep the working going inter-sessionally, planned: Jul08 Aug08 Oct08

Approach

Level 4	Application / User Level
Level 3	Registry / Language / Policy Level
Level 2	Unified Arabic Script Table
Level 1	IDNA Protocol Level

- Consideration of a layered model to address issues with regards to scripts
- Attempt to solve as much issues as possible on the lower levels

Level 1: IDNA Protocol Level

Level 4	Application / User Level
Level 3	Registry / Language / Policy Level
Level 2	Unified Arabic Script Table
Level 1	IDNA Protocol Level

Level 1: deals with decisions that should be made at the IDNA protocol level (Pvalid, Disallowed, ContextO)

Level 2: Unified Arabic Script Level

Level 4	Application / User Level
Level 3	Registry / Language / Policy Level
Level 2	Unified Arabic Script Table
Level 1	IDNA Protocol Level

Level 2: deals with decisions that should be made across all of the Arabic Script, with an intent to be inclusive of all languages that uses the script

Level 3: Registry/Lang/Policy Level

Level 4	Application / User Level
Level 3	Registry / Language / Policy Level
Level 2	Unified Arabic Script Table
Level 1	IDNA Protocol Level

Level 3: deals with decisions that should be made on a language implementation basis at the registry level

Level 4: Application / User Level

Level 4	Application / User Level
Level 3	Registry / Language / Policy Level
Level 2	Unified Arabic Script Table
Level 1	IDNA Protocol Level

Level 4: deals with decisions that should be made at the software application or user level