IDN ccTLD Fast Track Update

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in San Francisco • 13-18 March 2011

SILICON VALLEY Meeting
ICANN

Agenda

IDN Fast Track Update

- Status update
- Review Process
- Themes From Review Process
- Recommendations

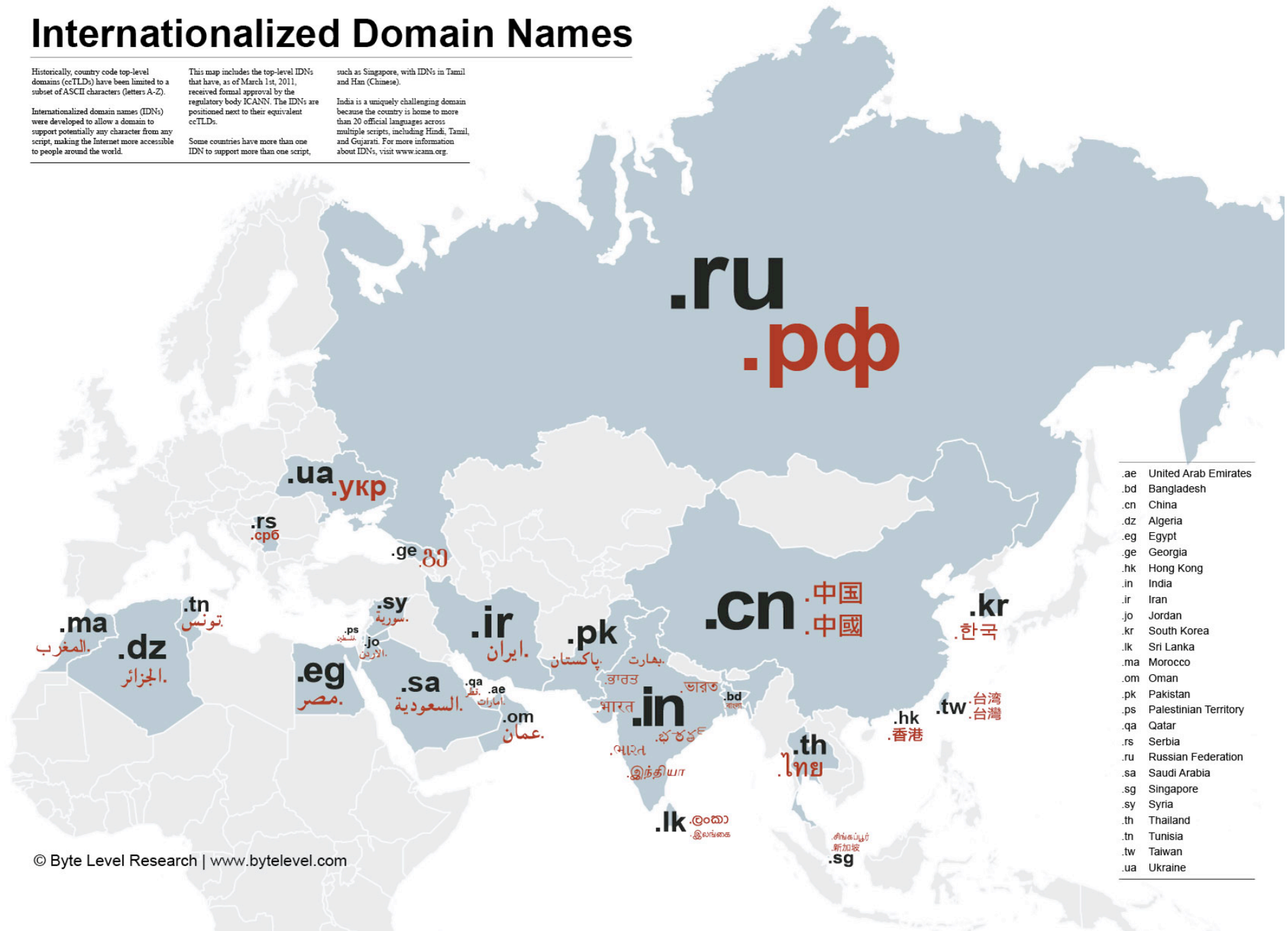# Fifteen Months Later and....

Launched
Nov 16
2009!

- 34 unique requests received to date

- 27 IDN ccTLD in Root Zone
  (17 countries/territories)

- 9 approved ready to apply for/in IANA delegation process

Internationalized Domain Names

Historically, country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) have been limited to a subset of ASCII characters (letters A-Z).

Internationalized domain names (IDNs) were developed to allow a domain to support potentially any character from any script, making the Internet more accessible to people around the world.

This map includes the top-level IDNs that have, as of March 1st, 2011, received formal approval by the regulatory body ICANN. The IDNs are positioned next to their equivalent ccTLDs.

Some countries have more than one IDN to support more than one script,

such as Singapore, with IDNs in Tamil and Han (Chinese).

India is a uniquely challenging domain because the country is home to more than 20 official languages across multiple scripts, including Hindi, Tamil, and Gujarati. For more information about IDNs, visit www.icann.org.

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.bd	Bangladesh
.cn	China
.dz	Algeria
.eg	Egypt
.ge	Georgia
.hk	Hong Kong
.in	India
.ir	Iran
.jo	Jordan
.kr	South Korea
.lk	Sri Lanka
.ma	Morocco
.om	Oman
.pk	Pakistan
.ps	Palestinian Territory
.qa	Qatar
.rs	Serbia
.ru	Russian Federation
.sa	Saudi Arabia
.sg	Singapore
.sy	Syria
.th	Thailand
.tn	Tunisia
.tw	Taiwan
.ua	Ukraine

Fast Track Process Review

- Required by Final Implementation Plan

- Public Comment Completed 31 January 2011

- Summary of Comments and Recommendations Published at:

  http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/fast-track-review-summary-comments-18feb11-en.pdf

Main Themes From Review

- Community Support

- Confusing Similarity Assessment

- Transparency

- Disputes and Objections

- IDN Tables

- Delegation of Variant TLDs

Community Support

- Clarification of community support requirement:
  - String Evaluation Process
  - IANA Delegation Process

- Enhanced the information made available about the differences in community support requirements

Confusing Similarity Assessment

- Checks for string similarity between applied for strings and existing TLDs and reserved codes

- Review identified that the subject of assessment of user confusion requires further community discussions

Transparency

- Two competing notions:
  - Maintain confidentiality of requests until completion of string evaluation
  - Release application materials earlier in the process

- Publication of string evaluation reports

Disputes and Objections

- The Fast Track Process does not offer a specific appeals/objection process

- Request for a mechanism for appeals or re-evaluation of request

IDN Tables

- Continued discussion

- Continued publication of IANA IDN Practices Repository

Delegation of Variant TLDs

- Concern about the lack of a clear definition for variants and a description of the problems associated with delegation of variants in the root zone

Session:
Wed – 14:30 to 16:00
Room: Elizabethan A-C

Recommendations

- No immediate changes to IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

- Staff implemented explanatory process changes to assist in understanding process requirements

- Outreach events concerning string confusability issues

- Coordination with initiatives such as <u>Delegation of Variant TLDs Project</u>

One World

One Internet

Questions

Thank You