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 begins ...

- Case study team members met in Singapore for a full day working sessions on Saturday
- Case study coordinators will present a summary of their work from the Saturday sessions
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
Arabic Case Study

Sarmad Hussain, Professor and Head, Center for Language Engineering, Al-Khwarizmi Institute of Computer Science University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Pakistan
Arabic Case Study Team

- Sarmad Hussain - *Coordinator* (Pakistan)
- Abdulaziz Al-Zoman (Saudi Arabia)
- Behnam Esfahbod (Iran)
- Fahd A. Batayneh (Jordan)
- Huda Sarfraz (Pakistan)
- Khaled Koubaa (Tunisia)
- Manal Ismail (Egypt)
- Mohamed El-Bashir (Sudan)
- Raed Al-Fayez (Saudi Arabia)
- Siavash Shahshahani (Iran)
- Syed Iftikhar H. Shah (Pakistan)
Challenges in Arabic Script

- پاکستان پاکستان (U+06A9 U+0643)
- پر پر (U+0691 U+0631 U+0615)

(U+0691 U+0631 U+0615)
Arabic Case Study Timeline

List all issues

19 Jun

Agree on relevant issues

24 Jun

Possible f2f meeting

5-7 Jul

Possible f2f meeting

1st f2f meeting

Issues

Document issues with examples

15 Aug

25 Aug

Finalize Issues

15 Sep

Definitions

Identify additional definitions

10 Aug

First draft of additional definitions

31 Aug

Finalize definitions

5-7 Jul

bi-weekly conference calls

15 Sep

Team’s report

30 Sep

1st f2f meeting

18 Jun

19 Jun

24 Jun

18 Jun

1st f2f meeting

19 Jun

24 Jun

5-7 Jul

15 Aug

25 Aug

15 Sep

10 Aug

31 Aug
Chinese Case Study

Prof. Xiaodong Lee, VP&CTO, CNNIC;
Chinese Academy of Sciences
Chinese Case Study Team

- Coordinator: Prof. Xiaodong Lee (VP & CTO, CNNIC)

- Local Host Organization: Chinese Domain Name Consortium (CDNC)
Member Highlights

- Prof. Tseng and Dr. Wang: Current CDNC co-Chairman and Secretary

- Prof. Lee and James Seng: Main Contributors to RFC 3743 and 4713 (foundational documents for Chinese variants), former IETF IDN and EAI Working Group Co-Chairs

- Prof. Zhang: Contributors of the Unicode CJK Repertoire and IANA Chinese Variant Table
Member Highlights

- Joseph & Yoneya: Two IETF working group co-chairs on internationalization related issues

- Registry representatives some of which operate IDN variant TLDs

- Well-represented community members in the Asia Pacific Region
Cyrillic Case Study

Alexei Sozonov, co-CEO of Regtime.net, ICANN Accredited registrar
Cyrillic Case Study Team

- Alexey Sozonov (Coordinator)
- Alexei Mykhaylov
- Alexey Ptashniy
- Daniel Kalchev
- Iliya Bazlyankov
- Oksana Prykhodko
- Saso Dimitrijoski
- Sergey Sharikov
- Vladimir Shadrunov
Cyrillic Case Update

• Working on the necessary definitions for the Cyrillic script

• Team member cover a number of languages that use Cyrillic but not all

• Team felt coordinators should interact and share issues and progress
Cyrillic Case Update

• Team will have weekly calls
• Team will be working closely with Andrew Sullivan for technical advice
• Progress will be shared in the wiki and the open mailing list for broader input from community
Devanagari Case Study

Dr. Govind, Senior Director
Government of India, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Department of Information Technology
Devanagari Case Study Team

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr. Govind (Coordinator)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amardeep Singh Chawla</td>
<td>Manish Dalal</td>
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Summary of Discussions

• The “Definitions” need to be suitably worded to accommodate the nuances of complex script like Devanagari

• Character variant Definition:
  • Difficult to define preferable variant.
  • One to one mapping of code point and its variant is not the case in Devanagari, however multiple code points sequence may have variants. Hence the “language variant table (as given in RFC 3743)” suggested needs to accommodate this requirement.
Summary of Discussions

• The word “Registered” needs to be changed to “allocated”, and “Activated” to be changed to “Delegated”

• Suggestion to each case study group to produce a table containing an explanation what they understand on the each definition, if that fits or not their case study, and provide example(s).

• The same to be shared with all the case study group members
Next Steps

• Weekly meetings (teleconferencing) planned starting from Monday 27 June 2011.

• 6 July 2011 conference at New Delhi on “New horizons in IDN with specific reference to gTLDs”

• Face to Face meeting planned in Pune, India on 21 and 22 July 2011.
Greek Case Study

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos
on behalf of Vaggelis Segredakis, FORTH-ICS, Administrator of the .GR Domain Registry
Greek Case Study Team

• Vaggelis Segredakis (Coordinator)
• Asimina Giannopoulou
• Catherine Tsapikidou
• Evangelos Melagrakis
• Fotia Panayiotou
• George Papapavlou
• Giannis Papaioannou
• Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos
Latin Case Study

Jothan Frakes, Volunteer at Mozilla Project;
Volunteer Curator, PublicSuffix.org
New TLD Consultant, Jothan.com
Latin Case Study Team

- Jothan Frakes (Coordinator)
- Andrzej Bartosiewicz
- Cary Karp
- Eric Brown
- Francisco Obispo
- Giovanni Seppia
- Harald Alvestrand
- Nadya Morozova
- Wil Tan
- Will Shorter
Thank You