

ICANN 48

# IDN Variant Program Update

GNSO Working Session  
16 November 2013



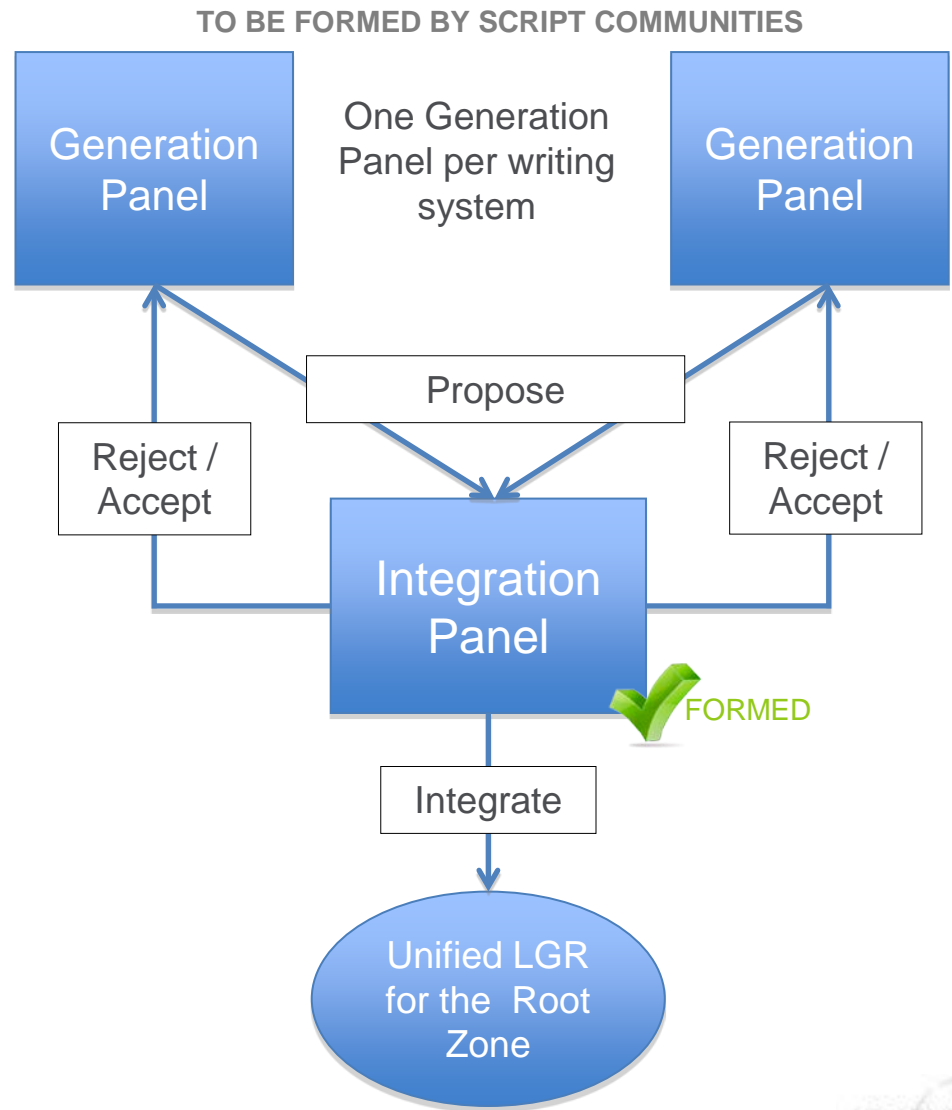
# Agenda

- + IDN Root LGR Procedure – Implementation Updates (Project 2.2)
- + User Experience Study – Community Input on Implementation of Study Recommendations (Project 7)

# IDN Root LGR Procedure Implementation Updates (Project 2.2)

# Review of the LGR Procedure

- + Generation Panels generate proposals for script specific LGRs, based on community expertise and requirements
- + Integration Panel reviews proposals and integrates them into common Root Zone LGR while minimizing the risk to Root Zone as shared resource
- + Label Generation Rules (LGR) define:
  - + which labels are permissible
  - + which variant labels exist
  - + which variant labels may be allocated



# Integration Panel (IP) Launched

- + Integration Panel [selection](#) completed on 6 September 2013



- + Integration Panel members will continue to do research work on startup tasks for the LGR procedure
- + [Supplemental guide](#) on Integration Panel operations issued and project website launched in November 2013

# IP Startup Tasks

- + Integration Panel is working on:
  - + Maximal Starting Repertoire for the Root
  - + Default Whole Label Evaluation rules
  - + Definition of format for LGR submissions
- + The Maximal Starting Repertoire for the Root and the default Whole Label Evaluation Rules will:
  - + provide a common starting point for the Generation Panels
  - + eliminate unnecessary duplication of work

# Focus next on Generation Panels

- + Generate proposals for script specific LGRs to be added to the unified IDN Root Zone LGR
- + Consist of experts in given writing system, plus additional ICANN-contracted experts if needed
- + Combine technical and linguistic expertise with representation of community of users of domain names for given scripts
- + To date, ICANN received Statements of Interest for:
  - + Arabic, Chinese, Cyrillic and neo-Brahmi scripts
- + [Call for Generation Panels](#) published on 11 July 2013, including guidance on composition, expertise, diversity, members, responsibilities, etc.

# What GPs do?

- + The process is driven by volunteer-based Generation Panels that:
  - + propose the set of code points for a particular script
  - + propose variant code points, if applicable
  - + propose whole label evaluation rules, if applicable
- + submit output representing the desired LGR elements to the Integration Panel



# Forming Generation Panels

## + Where to start?

- + Communities with existing working groups can respond to the "[Call](#)" by submitting an SOI for the working group as a whole, **OR**
- + Work with community to form a prospective panel, **AND**
- + Create a tentative work plan that includes:
  - relevant writing systems covered by the script
  - user community representation on the prospective panel
  - a tentative schedule, including major milestones
  - all other relevant information: composition, members, information suitable for evaluating any conflicts of interest or diversity requirements, etc.
  - submit to ICANN for review in light of the criteria set forth in the Procedure

# Forming Generation Panels – Cont.

- + ICANN can facilitate formation of panels
- + Once composition and work plan are reviewed by ICANN staff with advice from Integration Panel, the Generation Panel can start its work on the LGR
- + To support the Community in this effort, ICANN published a supplemental document on [‘How to setup and run a Generation Panel’](#) available on project website
- + Project wide public mailing list: [LGR@icann.org](mailto:LGR@icann.org)
- + For support from ICANN Staff: [idnvarianttlds@icann.org](mailto:idnvarianttlds@icann.org)

# Stay Informed on LGR Work

- + Project website available on [ICANN Community Wiki](#) dedicated to provide:
  - + Updates on LGR Procedure implementation developments
  - + Integration Panel and Generation Panels work status updates
  - + Integration Panel and Generation Panels membership information
  - + Useful documentation and tools
- + Project wide public mailing list [LGR@icann.org](mailto:LGR@icann.org) for:
  - + communications between the Integration and Generation Panels
  - + matters related to LGR work and submissions of LGR proposals

– User Experience Study –  
Community Input on Implementation  
of Study Recommendations  
(Project 7)

# Input from SO's and AC's

- + ICANN Board invited interested Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees to provide staff with any input and guidance they may have to be factored into implementation of the Recommendations from the [Report on User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs](#)
- + Community input on the received from:
  - + ALAC
  - + GNSO
  - + SSAC
- + Input is posted on [IDN Variant TLDs](#) page

# Selected Guidance Received

- + Additional policy development is not needed, expedite the introduction of variant TLDs
- + IDN Variant TLDs should be “bundled” with its primary IDN TLD: e.g., single owner, single agreement, single set of registry policies.
- + Limit confusion and collision:
  - + Conservatism and minimality
  - + Block delegation of variant TLDs to different operators
  - + Necessity
  - + Automate use of LGR
- + Consult with appropriate language communities when evaluating variant TLD applications

# Specific SSAC Recommendations

- + The root zone must use one and only one set of Label Generation Rules (LGR)
- + Be very conservative with respect to the code points that are permitted in root zone labels.
- + The LGR must be backward compatible whenever possible
- + Activate the fewest number of strings possible.
- + Maintain an objective process to resolve cases in which community members disagree with an LGR result
  - Being implemented through the IDN LGR for the Root Zone or other variant TLD handling mechanisms

# Specific ALAC Recommendations

- + Facilitate the process of finding common ground between the technical and linguistic communities towards introducing IDN Variant TLDs without undermining the security and stability of the Domain Name System.
- + Expedite the implementation of the Root Zone LGR process
  - This describes the essence of the LGR Procedure; the interplay between linguistic community input via GPs and IP as watchdog
  - The Integration Panel is in place; communities are forming Generation Panels.



# Specific GNSO Recommendations

- + IDN Variant TLD implementation...should not require further policy development processes.
- + Rely on findings of the IDN Working Group:
  - + Delegate one string per new IDN gTLD except in the rare cases when there is a need to cover script-specific character variants of an IDN gTLD string. (§4.1.4)
  - + Take measures to limit confusion and collisions due to variants while reviewing and awarding new IDN gTLDs. (§4.1.5)
  - + Take measures to ensure that an IDN gTLD string with variants be treated in analogy with current practice for IDN SLD labels, i.e., strings that only differ from an IDN gTLD string by variants (see above) are not available for registration by others. (§4.1.6)
- Being implemented through the IDN LGR for the Root Zone or other variant TLD handling mechanisms

# ICANN IDN Team

## Thank you

### Useful links

The LGR Procedure

<http://www.icann.org/en/resources/idn/variant-tds/lgr-procedure-20mar13-en.pdf>

Selection of Integration Panel for the IDN Root Zone Label Generation Rules (LGR)

<http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-06sep13-en.htm>

Call for Generation Panels to Develop Root Zone Label Generation

Rules <http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-11jul13-en.htm>

Setting up and running a Generation Panel

<https://community.icann.org/display/croscomlgrprocedure/Generation+Pannels>

Community Wiki LGR Project website

<https://community.icann.org/display/croscomlgrprocedure/Root+Zone+LGR+Project>

Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs <http://www.icann.org/en/resources/idn/variant-tds/active-ux-21mar13-en.pdf>

Community inputs on User Experience study on ICANN IDN Variant TLD page

<http://www.icann.org/en/resources/idn/variant-tds>