



Cross-Community Working Group on Use of Country & Territory Names as TLDs

Update on progress

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Scope

- Scope limited to C & T names as TLDs – not second level
 - Based on ISO 3166
- Reviewed current policies and typology identified by the former Study Group
 - Is used as basis for the work
- Reviewed the feasibility of the framework in use today
 - AGB Module 2, 2.2.1.4
- Develop a framework all can agree on, if possible
- F2F meetings at the ICANN-meetings – teleconferences every other week

Methodology

- Identification of categories of representations of c & t names that could be used as TLDs
- Explore potential for development of a consistent and uniform definitional framework for all SO/Acs
 - Country codes (2-letters/3-letters)
 - Names in full
- Definitions
 - Agreed upon some – some still undefined
 - Will be extended
- First step: 2-letter codes – discussed Monday 22nd
 - Hope to finish before Dublin
- Next step: 3-letter codes

2-letter codes – options discussed (1)

1. All 2-letter strings reserved for use as ccTLDs only, ineligible for use as gTLDs (Ascii)
2. 2-letter strings eligible for use as gTLDs if not in conflict with ISO 3166-1 (and/or other standard/list) (Ascii)
3. Unrestricted use of 2-letter strings if not in conflict with an existing ccTLD or any applicable string similarity rules (Ascii)
4. Future 2-letter strings reserved for use as IDN ccTLD only, ineligible for use as gTLD (IDN)

2-letter codes – options discussed (2)

5. Unrestricted use of 2-letter strings if not in conflict with an existing TLD or any applicable string similarity rules of (other conflict conditions to be discussed, for example visually similar to any 1-character label (in any script) or visually similar to any possible 2-letter Ascii combination) (IDN)

Benefits/risks 2-letter codes

- Asked WG for input on benefits and risks with different options (exemplified by some points for option 3):
 - Risks
 - Increased user confusion
 - Discrimination of new countries
 - Depreciation of the 2-letter code as a “brand” for countries
 - Benefits
 - Full commercial potential
 - Brand owners like VW could have their brand
 - Equal treatment with IDN two character strings

The views of ccTLDs

- Is it important for you that 2-letter codes remain ccTLDs?
- If 2-letter codes in the future will be both ccTLDs and gTLDs, what do you see as risks? What will it do to the system of today?
 - Confusion?
 - Discrimination of new countries?
 - Extinction of the differentiation between ccTLDs and gTLDs?
 - Will ICANN rules for gTLDs be imposed on us?
- What about 3-letter codes? Do they need protection?
 - Support/non-objection?
 - Should all be gTLDs? Distinction between those on the ISO-list and those not?

GAC WG on Geographical Names

- All geographical names
- First level and second level
- Important to coordinate
- GAC observer in the ccWG on c & t
 - Outreach to make them more active
- Do not want different results

Future

- 3-letter codes discussed from now to Dublin in October
- If we can agree, go on to country names
- If you have view on use of c & t names as TLDs, please join the group
- We need all hands on deck! Problems ahead!





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