



IDN ccTLDs for Indian Languages and Scripts - Status and Vision

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MR 1.02, HICC, Hyderabad



Linguistic Diversity in India vs. Internet Stats

Linguistic Diversity

- 22 constitutionally recognized languages
- 29 languages with 1 million plus speakers
- 3954 newspapers published in 35 languages
- 146 languages used in radio networks
- 97.7% of Indians speak 20 odd Indo-Aryan and Dravidian languages
- 2.32% of India's population speak about 97% of other languages
- 1576 rationalized mother-tongues and 1796 not yet classified

Internet Stats

- Internet Penetration Rate

World Average = 46.4%; Asia = 40.2%; India = 21 %

- Total No: of Internet Subscribers is over 340 million
- 93% out of the total is mobile wireless

Status of IDN ccTLD in India (.Bharat)



- .Bharat IDNs in 15 languages covering 7 scripts were delegated by end of December 2014
 - Devanagiri Script - Hindi/ Boro/ Dogri/ Sindhi/ Maithili/ Marathi/ Konkani/ Nepali
 - Gujarati Script - Gujarati
 - Bengali Script - Manipuri/ Bengali
 - Tamil Script - Tamil
 - Telugu Script - Telugu
 - Gurumukhi Script - Punjabi
 - Arabic Script - Urdu
- IDN domain count in the registry - over 22,000
 - Half is reserved domain names
 - Half is actually registered domain names
- NIXI has recently applied for 8 more languages to IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process
 - Publicly posted on ICANN's website
 - IANA delegation procedure underway

Contd..



- Malayalam Script - Malayalam
 - Bengali Script - Assamese
 - Kannada Script - Kannada
 - Oriya Script - Oriya
 - Perso Arabic Script - Kashmiri
 - Perso Arabic Script - Sindhi
 - Devanagiri Script - Sanskrit
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- Promos for IDN ccTLD
 - 1,00,000 to be distributed free with a .in domain



IDNs: One step closer to a multilingual Internet

- IDNs are a good start!
- But, only 2% of the total domain names are IDNs
- Out of total IDNs, 90% are being accounted for by Latin, Han and Cyrillic scripts
- Other factors for a multilingual Internet:-
 - Availability of content in relevant languages
 - Having unicode supported fonts, inputs methods, Universal Acceptance of new domain names including IDNs and associated email IDs, in Internet applications and services
- English is the predominant language of the Internet
 - 52.9% of all websites are in English
 - 6.45% are in Russian
 - 5.5% are in Japanese and German
 - All other languages < 5%
 - **Hindi < 0.1%**

A few Government Initiatives



- ISCI (Indian Standard Code for Information Exchange), 1991
 - First attempt to develop Indic fonts
- TDIL (Technology Development for Indic Languages)
 - Works on developing tools and resources for enabling ICT in local languages
 - Web standardization initiative to enable web related standards in 22 languages
- GoI is a member of Unicode Consortium
 - Indian languages are today a part of unicode standards, and can be used via standardized keyboards.
- Vikaspedia to create content in 22 languages besides English
- Ministry of Electronics & IT
 - Issued a directive mandating all mobile manufacturers to support text input in English, Hindi and one more local language by July 1st, 2017
 - Also, reading of text should be possible in all 22 languages

Vision



- Better digital inclusion when Internet moves from urban to rural areas
- At least all governmental websites all 22 languages with respective IDN URL
- More content and services in regional languages
- ICT Capacity building to bridge the digital divide



THANK YOU 😊