
SINGAPORE – At-Large IDN Working Group
Wednesday, March 26th 2014 – 17:00 to 18:00
ICANN – Singapore, Singapore

SUZY JOHNSON: Good afternoon to all of our participants here in Singapore. And good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to all of our remote participants. My name is Suzy Johnson. Welcome to the At Large IDN Working Group, this 26th day of March at 17:00 local Singapore time. Please remember to state your name when speaking for transcript purposes. Over to you Rinalia.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you Suzy. Rinalia Abdul Rahim for the transcript. I am co-chairing this meeting together with Edmon Chung, who is seated beside me. I just wanted to say welcome. This is the At Large IDN Working Group meeting. We have divided the meeting into two sections, and only have one hour to cover it.

The first section will address the issue of universal acceptance, and the second session will address the issue of the root zone label generation rules project, specific to the concerns and needs of language community. The question has been asked, what is the difference between this session and previous sessions that have been addressed by ICANN?

The difference is that this session is organized by the At Large community. Your input and your issues are important for us because

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

we advocate the interest of Internet end users in ICANN. So if we see that there is a need to make statements through the ALAC on specific issues of concern to you, that is valuable for us to know, and that's why we're having this discussion.

And with that, I hand over to Edmon to start the first part of the meeting.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you Rinalia. And thank you for the panelists that we have – coming along, that we have invited. And I see that they're dispersed along the table. That's fine. I'll come and pick up on you guys as we go along. So the issue has been talked about a little bit. It is the universal acceptance, but this particular one focusing on IDN, and of course, IDN TLDs. So, the – this, of course, just has a quick background. This is an issue that has been around, and it's not just about IDN TLDs, however, what IDN and IDN TLDs does make a difference is this issue – this universal acceptance of TLD issue is no longer just a gTLD issue, but also a ccTLD issue.

And that is highlighted by a document that the joint IDN Working Group between the GNSO and the ccNSO produced. It's a report that identified a few recommendations for ICANN to take, and further the work. I won't go into the details of it, but I did want to highlight that the main theme of the four recommendations is basically one, that within what ICANN – within ICANN's purview, within ICANN's policy, direct influence, there are some areas that ICANN can do to promote universal acceptance of IDN TLDs.



Then that's basically on really getting our own act together, making sure that registry and registrar systems that have a relationship with ICANN themselves, are – have universal acceptance implemented. The second one, which would be to take this issue to its most strategic level at ICANN, right now a lot of times we talk about universal acceptance. It is regarded as more of a technical side of things, previous documents before the gig that talk about this came from, for example, the SSAC, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee.

So here is a time the particular final report does try to push this to a more strategic level, and also to point towards work for the community At Large or a cross community work. So, in a nut shell, I think there has been some work done, and the report that the gig produced covered most of the policy aspects of this issue, I think.

And it has been adopted by the two councils and sent to the Board. What I'm interested to talk about perhaps here, is to talk about next steps. What the community as a whole could do in assisting ICANN not only on the recommendations, but what exactly we should do as next steps, starting from here but certainly going beyond this community. So I guess with that, I'm happy if a few panelists are willing to join me to at least get the discussion started. I don't see Ram here yet, but he should be on his way.

So I'm happy that Jothan Frakes, Sarmad, Michele, Andrei, thank you for joining us here. I would like to start by, I guess, asking you to perhaps take a quick note on, what do you think the next steps should be building on some of the discussions we had previous, and especially on Monday as well, in the public session on this related topic?



Just looking around the table, if I could perhaps start with Jothan and go around.

JOTHAN FRAKES:

Certainly Edmon. Thank you very much Rinalia and everyone from the ALAC for the invitation to participate in this important topic. My name is Jothan Frakes, and I'm here as a community contributor to the developer community through a role as a volunteer with the Mozilla Foundation, where I have the opportunity to assist with the public suffix list and helping in upkeep and maintenance of that important public resource.

That has been an invaluable tool for universal acceptance, not just of new generic top level domains, but also within the ccTLD community. And of course, the very, very important frontier of multilingual domain names as we've been introducing new IDN ccTLDs as well as IDN gTLDs in the ICANN space. I'd like to report some successes that we have had as a result of the important work in coming together between the ICANN community, the At Large community, the community of people who have come together in working groups, in and around the important topic of internationalized domain names.

But I'd also like to note that the variant working group, as well as the joint IDN group, Edmon, I believe you chaired that. These were very, very important foundations that helped to build upon and bring information into the developer community. I participate as – have participated as a volunteer with the Mozilla Foundation to help them both with some of the issues that they had early on with



internationalized domain names, as well as, of course, with what I've described as the public suffix list upkeep.

When I first had the opportunity to start my volunteer work with Mozilla, they had a process in place that was designed to create security protection for users in the form of an essentially a white list that you would have to be included in, in order for internationalized domain names to work at the second level or deeper within an URL.

And you would have to present to the developers, essentially your code points, your policies around IDN. And this was really around protecting from the very well-known homograph issue where you can compose PayPal using a combination of Latin characters and Cyrillic characters, in combination.

Now, since that time, the joint IDN, as well as work of the variant working groups, had built a base of work where language specialists and specialists within these different scripts, came together within ICANN, and were able to identify the areas where those things were possible in combination or not possible in combination. And I was able to take that information into the developer community, to identify – you know, for example, that the combination of Greek and Latin characters together might be problematic, however it's unlikely that you'll run into these other problems in other language combinations.

So, there are some problematic combinations where these homographic texts are possible, and there are combinations where they are not. And so rather to take and have a white list where somebody has to go through and get their domains approved through yet another process



after going through the ICANN process, why not instead have it rule based?

Rule based upon the language preferences of the browser, or the underlying operation system. And so, I was able to compile what other browsers were doing. And I notice Mr. [Subernard] is in the room, I wanted to compliment on what you did early with Microsoft, with the Internet Explorer, because we built a lot upon that. We essentially made it rule based, and so this was very important because with the pace of IDN TLDs coming into the root, we wanted to make sure that rather than have this process, which in some cases, would take months.

And sometimes I think there were a couple of occasions where people have made requests and those didn't go through. It was not going to scale with the velocity and pace of the introduction of the important IDN TLDs at the right side of the dot. That would be replaced. In essence, rather than exposing XN dash, dash, for IDN characters, for TLDs that had not yet been, and I'm doing finger quotes in the air as I say this, been blessed by this community process.

Let's let them be exposed in the native characters that they have been composed in, so that those show up in the URL appropriately. And then, only in the cases where there is combinations that are known to be problematic, expose those characters as [?] code, where the combination of code points is not – both languages are not activated in the browser.

So if an user activates both Cyrillic, like I've got the Russian language activated and perhaps French, or Russian and English, that you would expose a combination of that PayPal homographic tact, but somebody



in that circumstance might actually have the sophistication to appreciate that it's not actually PayPal that they're visiting.

And this was a wonderful benefit because the [?], and when some of the other new top level domains were introduced, there was not the problem that you would have to go through this terrible blessing process to have not have your [puni-code] domain name exposed. Rather instead, it would work right out of the box. And so when the new TLDs arrive to the...

EDMON CHUNG: Sorry, Jothan, for intervening. We have very short time...

JONTHAN FRAKES: So in summary, it works now well and we built upon some of the work that happened with the joint IDN group and the variant working group, and we had a lot of support from ICANN staff, and we're quite pleased with the ability to have that working. So I thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you Jonthan. And I apologize for intervening, we have, it's like 15 minutes or less...

JONTHAN FRAKES: No problem. I get paid by the word. Yeah, so.



EDMON CHUNG: No wonder. Should have considered that. I think that's a great... The reason why I wanted you to start first, I think that gives us a great example of work done here in ICANN impacting other areas, and that's really where we want to build it. So, just back to sort of the item is that, what do you think the next steps should be now that we have identified these issues and come up with this report?

JONTHAN FRAKES: Could I add one final, I guess, closing thing. This is volunteer work that I do, and I mentioned this in other forum, but we talk about ICANN and things that ICANN should do. And I really view myself as ICANN, and all of us in this room as ICANN, and look at where we can do things like I did to volunteer with Mozilla, to help build upon what's happening, to help chip away at some of these issues that are in the way of universal acceptance. So again, thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you Jonthan. So, I'd like to go to Michele, because one of the things is that, one of the recommendations is for registries and registrars to, you know, may need some changes to their system to make sure that its system, those who are providing IDN TLDs to make sure that they have acceptance. For example, in the contact fields, emails, or name server records, you know, those kinds of things.

What do you think of what the next steps might be? Perhaps given perspective from the registrars point of view as well?



MICHELE NEYLON:

Thanks. Michele Neylon for the transcript record and all of that. But I'm amused that you've forgotten that Jothan is actually wants to become a politician when he grows up. From the registrar perspective, I suppose some of the challenges comes down to implementation and education. We've seen multiple implementations of IDNs. There is different technical ways of doing it.

I think part of the challenge, of course, it goes back to this IDN exists as a concept. You can type it in your browser, but then suddenly, depending on what browser you're using, it could end up reverting back to the [puni codes], so again, the XM dash dash, instead of the actually address you've typed in. And we've seen that kind of thing. In terms of stuff that we need to do, a lot of it depends on our software, a lot of it works fine.

It's grand, [?] I should say, it's grand, that's Irish for, it works fine. There is Andrei across there. Andrei is the man who actually explained the IDNs actually in a way that I could actually understand and made it real. Because as a native English speaker, you don't really appreciate IDNs. I mean, you can't. You cannot... You can see them as an abstract, see them as some kind of academic thing, but you can't really empathize with a non-native speaker who is using a different keyboard.

And this gentlemen sitting beside me here can tell you all about the challenges he has had with keyboards and software not being available, things like Twitter won't support IDNs properly. So I think in many respects, the issue is not just a matter of one on registrars because we're at the more technical end of the spectrum. Under the 2013 RIA,



there is a pretty light but simple requirement for us to support the IDNs, as the registries do them.

Which I kind of scratched my head and re-read them, passed them to my technical team, they read it, went, “Huh?” We’re not going to come up with a different mapping, for God’s sake, why would we? We’ve got better things to be doing. I think a lot of it comes down to, trying to get these platforms and that needs a lot of work. That’s where one of the challenges lies.

But it’s not just... Universal acceptance isn’t just IDNs. IDNs are part of it, and it means an important part, I totally appreciate that. But you know, I’ve seen some of the pokes from others where you type in whatever the hell it is dot com, and it doesn’t matter what browser, what device you’re on, it knows that’s an URL. You do it with, let’s say, a dot guru or a dot, one of the other crazy new extensions, and it doesn’t know what to do.

It just sits there, laughing at you, and kind of going... Especially if you’re on a mobile.

EDMON CHUNG: One of the questions is, some of the IDNs as you register, the email part or the name server records...

MICHELE NEYLON: The email part, okay, you did go down the email road. I didn’t want to go down the email route because that’s the bit that really breaks it all.



Can somebody please name one widely used, open source or commercial, email client that is 100% fully compliant with IDN?

EDMON CHUNG: We have an answer.

MICHELE NEYLON: I know, using the power supply won't work. [CROSSTALK]

UNIDENTIFIED: ...Outlook supports IDN completely. [CROSSTALK]

MICHELE NEYLON: Hold on. I suppose I should qualify that. Without me, as a non-Russian speaker, non-Chinese speaker, non-Mandarin, non-Cantonese, non-all of those things, having to install extra language packs. It works? Okay. On Windows?

EDMON CHUNG: Clarifying that actually. Outlook does work on the domain part. If you talk about the user name part, that's a different story. But at least on the domain part, I believe we have people from Microsoft...

MICHELE NEYLON: This may have changed. The last time I tried to do it, I can't remember which email client I was using at the time, I couldn't. And that was one of the challenges that we've been discussing in certain areas for a while.



Now, I'm not a big Microsoft head so, I wouldn't – if Microsoft does support them now, then maybe that fixes it. [CROSSTALK]

EDMON CHUNG: ...comment perhaps from...

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, I think a lot of it's getting better. It's not perfect though. So I think your comment is correct, and it's definitely functional [?]. Properties like Outlook dot com, no this is, you know, the web based versions of the email access are not [CROSSTALK]...

Outlook itself, the Outlook client, does.

MICHELE NEYLON: Thanks for the clarification. As I said, I tried some of the stuff a couple of years ago, it didn't work and, you know, I've got a lot of things I'll get excited about. I just didn't go back again.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. And I guess one of the things is whether, within this community, if we get our own systems from the registry and registrar, at least that those parts working, that might help sort of create the momentum. I'll go over to Andrei, I guess, in terms of thoughts and whether this, the ICANN community... What else can the ICANN community do?



ANDREI KALESNIKOV:

I'll just do my regular preaching, who is an IDN, just go out and keep pushing the guys, from Google and Microsoft. The big guys. I know there is a lot of development in the small open source projects, email based engines. There are a lot of custom solutions to support the IDN in email, for example. Okay? But it can be covered globally around the world. It should be taken by the leaders, by social networks, email platforms, search engines.

And if somebody, some big guy, will start, others will follow. So it's like a circle. Who starts first? That's my opinion on the IDN.

MICHELE NEYLON:

This is one of the things, like I say, start with the big guys. It's like a lot of the things we talk about are in these closed, airless, windowless rooms. I think actually ICANN is trying to depress us all. Please, can I have a room with windows? There are several of these things.

I mean, there is DNSSEC, IPv6, IDN, and you know, you find a lot of the time that a part from those of us who go to a lot of these things, it does not, it's kind of a chicken and egg, as we say in English. There is a chicken and an egg scenario. When we are, oh my God, which conference was it? Was it the new domains one in Munich? Help.

One of the guys from Google said that, "Oh yes, Google is committed to making..." And I can't remember what he committed to exactly, and if I say the wrong thing, I'll probably get sued and they can afford many more lawyers than I can. But he said they were committed to making a lot of these things work on all of the Google applications.



Now I don't know what's happened since then, but he actually stood up and said a few things and had people go, oh, this is interesting.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you. And I guess riding on that, and really driving at one particular question in terms of next steps, from at least the At Large IDN pointing group, is whether there are things, whether it is valuable to convene some sort of group to continue this advocacy as the staff team implements? So I would like to, perhaps Sarmad can add, not necessarily on this, but just in terms of what you think the next steps might be.

SARMAD HUSSEIN:

So I have four clear things that I want to say. And we've all been talking about what others can do, I think, I'm probably going to focus more on what we can do. And I think that's probably more complete as far as they are concerned. First of all, I get concerned... So I'm speaking in my personal capacity as a community member. A community member representing a community of Arabic, coming from a community of Arabic script, which is actually using a Latin set.

And I get a little concerned when the two terminologies being used, so I'm a little confused and I want to actually clarify that as well. I will talk about the acceptability of TLDs, or are we talking about, you know, acceptance of IDNs, domain names? And I think that's a very important clarification we need to do.

There would be an inclination from ICANN's site that they limit the work to IDN TLDs, but that doesn't solve user problems. So what we really



need as an user community to solve the problem of universal acceptability of domain names. The difference is, if I – for those that are not understanding what I’m trying to say, if the code word domain name, it has multiple parts.

So, we can have www.ICANN.org, if we are just solving problems of universal acceptability of TLDs, we’re only going to solve dot org problems, and not www.ICANN, part of the domain name problems. And that’s no use for the end user. So for the end user, the whole thing, www.ICANN.org must work.

So first of all, I think we need to clarify and be very clear whether we’re talking about TLDs or domain names, and I really do recommend that we talk about domain names and not TLDs. So that was the first point that I wanted to make. The second point which I wanted to make was that, we’re trying to solve a problem without actually trying to understanding what the problem is.

So one of the first things we need to do is not talk about this in a top down way, but actually go down there and do a warm up exercise and actually first make a complete list of what all of the issues are. And that list needs to be exhaustive, and then once we have an exhaustive list, classify the problems into whatever categories or problems they may be. So they may be smaller list of classes that needs to be identified, and then based on those classes of issues, identify who are actually the target audience of people who are actually going to solve those problems.

And some of them maybe actually sitting around the table here, some maybe outside of ICANN, but you know, we really do need to chart the



problem down more explicitly. Just to give you three examples, so I do hear about, and it was mentioned here as well, that length of a TLD is a problem. Well, sure, the length of TLD is a problem, but there are many more problems, and let's get them out on the table as well.

So, one example is basically we use a [?] non joiner in non-Arabic script, what Internet Explorer does is ignores it when it's parsing an IDN, and what Chrome does is actually uses it and [?] as part of the [?] code. So, Chrome and IE have a different, they do not agree with the way they day with it, [?] and I think the responsibility and the issue does not lie with IE and Chrome, it lies with the Arabic script community, because they've really not defined how that should be used with Arabic script community.

So I'm not putting the responsibility outside it, I'm actually putting responsibility inside, probably on myself to a large extent. So, we need to come together as a community and define these problems, and how these problems should be addressed in a consistently. Only then, people outside can actually implement them the way we would like it.

[A line hide] for example is an issue when these browser bars are just not compatible with Arabic domain names, and so on. So, those are a couple of issues. The third thing I wanted to bring up is that, if we have to check out these problems, we cannot do an IDN acceptability problem. This needs to be sliced up as script level. What are Arabic script problems?

What are Chinese script problems? So it has to be sliced up at language level, and really looked at it in detail from a language, sorry, script level and script perspective. And the final thing is that, as I said earlier, there



is a script community responsibility in this as well. And the script community does need to come forward and take that responsibility to identify very clear what the problems are. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you so much, and sorry for rushing. So your first few items really, sort of speaking my mind. One of the things, the reason why the jig is actually closing down, is realizing that this issue is a little bit more than and policy and more than just the SOs. And that's why trying to get the ALAC side of things, and we can talk about universal acceptance, especially, not just on a TLD level, but on an IDN level, which is what this root is about.

And that perhaps is the right direction, because if you solve the universal acceptance of IDN, you automatically solve these issues of universal acceptance of TLDs. It's, you know, that's the kind of side effect it gets. Thank you Ram for joining us. So, before I go... I guess I would like to see if anyone wants to add to it, and then I'll give you to the last word, kind of...

But I guess in my... I'll be direct in saying that looking at some of the discussions, my question really is whether, from the At Large community, or whether the At Large community should try to gather some momentum to have a group that would work alongside, probably a cross community group, that would work alongside the staff implementation, or the staff work on this, as we go along the path, so that we can leverage the At Large network and also, you know, the ICANN community.



So anyone wants to... Please. And please keep it really short and then I'll leave a couple of minutes for round two to wrap up.

UNIDENTIFIED: [?] for the record, thank you very much. We just propose to create a working group, or especially for Cyrillic IDNs, first of all, aiming of the solving of problems of the domains. Because, for example, for Ukraine, it's not very good to have only one browser, which can work with emails, and that we would like to invite not only ICANN, of course, cross community representatives. But we would like also to invite ISOC representatives and other organizations. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. Any additions? Since we are running out of time... Oh, Michele.

MICHELE NEYLON: Sure listen, you did invite me along, what did you expect? Is there any kind of synching up between ALAC, ICANN, and ISOC on these kinds of things? I mean, it just seems that ISOC is a kind of a nature, I'll use the word partner... Oh, and by the way, bonus points for using cross community Edmon, bonus points, excellent, buzz words, yeah. You win.

ISOCs seem to be very good at the entire communications, talking about these things in terminology that my mother could actually work with, whereas ICANN seems to be very good at speaking pure lawyer. I'm sorry, American lawyer.



EDMON CHUNG: And your mother is not an American lawyer.

MICHELE NEYLON: My mother is not an American lawyer. That's like a double insult. Where did the...? Oh my God, wow.

EDMON CHUNG: Okay. No, thank you. So that is, I think, at least in my mind, that's where I would like to explore. And I guess we kind of run out of time, but we'll take it to the mailing list to explore further whether a group might be...

MICHELE NEYLON: Practical, practical thing. If you're going to talk about a mailing list, you might want to put it up on the slides.

EDMON CHUNG: It's the IDN working group mailing list, and I think everybody – anyone is welcome to join. So, we'll, if staff could put up, yeah. We'll put up, and I'll pass it around, I guess, just before we wrap up.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you and my apologies for coming into this session late. I had something else that was scheduled at five, but it's an ICANN meeting. So, I just – I thought I would share just a couple of things. It seems to me that the focus, this is not a technical problem.



And I hear in many, many venues ways to solve the technology. There are technical things that had to be solved, relatively speaking my perspective is that those are the easier parts of the problem to solve. There are a few things that I would like to enumerate as things that had to be worked on.

Number one, the explanation of this problem, in a way that is understandable to technical folks who are management, is important. There is no such thing right now. If you look at most of the explanations, it is explanations that is understandable to technical people, but not to managers of technical people, and that layer. And that is where decision making is often happens in a lot of the organizations where we have to go and get them to do something.

So we have to work on that. The second is that, I think the job is to cast a pretty wide net, because the normal places that you look at browsers, and application systems, it's pretty easy to get to browsers relatively speaking, but application systems, it's – you have to take someone's approach and you have to go literally in geography by geography. Because forms that had been developed on various applications, that have predefined restrictions on universal acceptance.

You know, what is actually a TLD? What is actually an email? Those have now been localized around the world, and there is work that is required, and it has to be done in a local, regional, type of a way. There is no one size fits all for that. That's also not a technical problem.

One other thing which has opened up my eyes, it happened at this meeting here. Someone came to me and said, "You know, universal



acceptance may also be about governments allowing or disallowing TLDs.” Which is interesting.

In terms of the working group itself, and ALAC that has been proposed, I have three, maybe two suggestions on tasks and objectives. One is to be great, to come together and build, and to have a definition on what are the common user expectations on multiple platforms? That doesn’t exist today.

At best, what happens is that the individual who is involved in, or who is affected. If it’s a TLD operator, if it is a registrar, whoever, they’re expectations are being presented, but often that is colored by other requirements, economic requirements or government requirements, etc. So given that this is ALAC, it is very good, I think, to look at what are the common user expectations, especially in multiple platforms.

The second has to do with two topics. Acceptance encompasses compatibility, and the other part of it is interoperability. A lot of the discussion is about interoperability, okay, but compatibility is another component. So, the easy explanation for that is, an IDN TLD, is it compatible with an operating system that has been localized?

And that’s one of the interoperability question, right? We know that in Arabic itself, we know that there are operating systems that use different character sets of rules, depending on the locale. And having one solution, even in Arabic script area, may not actually be compatible with other systems. So look at both compatibility and interoperability. Thanks.



RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you Ram. I'm going to take the discussion to the second part of our topic today. Sorry Michele if you were going to intervene just now. We're going to move on. Okay. We have 19 minutes. And in the past two days, we've had an introduction in the IDN TLD program update of ICANN about the root zone project on label generation rule set. And different language communities have come together and had discussions with the integration panel, which is the group of experts on what their community is going to do with regards to their scripts that pertain to the root.

And we've gotten some feedback, and I would actually like some articulation of language community concerns that apply to end user interests that we can take back to the ALAC, and I would like to start with Sarmad for the Arabic script generation pattern.

SARMAD HUSSEIN: Thank you Rinalia. Again, I'll try to, excuse me, make two or three points, very quickly. First of all, I guess these comments are coming out of the initial work we've started doing with the Arabic script generation panel. This is work done by a taskforce on IDN, and I'm not going to spend time introducing the discourse, but it's a community led effort. And please feel free to get in touch and I can share more details with you.

So, some of the things which came up, and these have been shared on other platforms as well, but I would want to [?] them here. First of all, the process, IDN process requires MSR, maximum starting repertoire, which limits the IDN 2008 protocol to a smaller subset, which may be allowed to – to those characters which may be allowed for the LGR for



the root zone. It's understandably something which is [?] by certain rules of security, stability, longevity, and conservatism, and so on.

However, in any case, I think it's at this time, MSR is supposed to be sort of a first layer, actual delegation, actual work is going to be done through the LGR, which eventually included. So some of those conservative principles which apply eventually to LGR, may not be as much applicable to LGR, MSR. And I think that distinction needs to be a little clearer for us as a community to understand.

We are... So that was... And then a related issue is the MSR and LGR, there are supposed to be revisions cycles associated with these two levels of definition. We are making a decision on which characters we'll include at MSR level, and with characters to include at LGR level, our decision today is also based on when the MSR and LGR will actually be devised.

If something is to be devised five years, or 10 years from now, that has a different bearing on our work. The decision making process was if the MSR and the LGR are revised in one year. So I think one of the things which we are discussing as a community is that the revision cycle for MSR and LGR be made very explicit. And the process for that provision cycle should also be made very explicit by the integration panel and ICANN, LGR process.

So, I think the conservatism of MSR should... So two points, summarizing again. The process and revision of MSR and LGR should be explicit, and then the actual process of conservatism as it applies to MSR, not LGR, should be a little more explicit as well. There was a talk



about using [?] scale, where we cut off languages between L4 and L5 levels. That gives, unfortunately, some...

There are some languages in our communities which are struggling to revive. And technology, in a way, should assist in that process, but this conservatism approach, especially at the MSR level, that's not helping in that process. Thank you.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM:

Thank you Sarmad. For the Chinese language community, Edmon, do you want to...?

EDMON CHUNG:

Sure. I'll be real quick. I think the user point of view, my biggest concern is right now the new gTLDs are already launched, and the IN variant TLDs are not there, so every day we're creating negative user experience for Chinese users around the world, especially, of course, in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and here in Singapore. So every day we're creating that negative experience for people.

And some of the IDN TLDs that have launched, are already live and that's the reason those are cause for concern. While I understand that the program is moving, I guess, as fast as it can. In fact, wearing a different hat, I think, you know, the team is working very hard on it. But I think this is something that we need to keep in our mind. Every day, Chinese users are getting a negative user experience, and may lose trust in IDNs as we go along.



RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you Edmon. Earlier, [?] made a presentation on behalf of the Chinese generation panel, and I understand that you would like is also to have a cross community panel for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes indeed. I think the, yeah, as I mentioned, and I will also too here, is right. That the cross panels in the group are desirable. And I would like to put the principle on the table that is, we don't care [?] of a cross panel group, as long as it's authorized and approved by ICANN. So that the agreement and the consensus could be official.

Okay. And I will also like to respond to Edmon. I agree with you. There is an increasing number of new gTLD in Chinese in the Internet, but [?] ..in that the [?] should... So yeah. I think it's time to accelerate.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you [?]. The point I take from you is that, in the Asian or East Asian region, the authorization process is important to facilitate it, in terms of getting together, that's why we're highlighting that. YJ Park in terms of the Korean language.

YJ PARK: Thank you Rinalia. I think probably those who attended previous sessions, you probably heard from [?] about what's going to happen with this Korea panel. And basically, Korea panel is going to get together in the future. We haven't really got together yet. But in terms of the uses of the [?], I got the impression, we are going to heavily discuss on whether we just wanted to include [?] only, instead of like



including other [?] to like alphabetical, you know, the [corrector] says, and also this Chinese [corrector] set.

That's one of the main discussions for [?]. And then for Chinese characters, we call [?], for that again, I just realized we also wanted to discuss about Chinese characters as well. But again, the scope of the [?] is going to be also discussed more. But one of our options in the suggestions from the expert is sort of, we wanted to use this [unique] code table, you know, the agreed, the CJK [?] unique version of around 20,000, the Chinese character set.

And that's the current [status code]. But taking advantage of this, I wanted to remind you that Singapore is very historic place in many ways, because this is the first city, like, you know, the people who were actively engaged with this IDN discussion, like back in even 1999, I started to see some of those faces here, who were actively engaged back then.

But we really have to understand this dialogue has been very slow in many ways. I think it's also our fault, as well as the users, we didn't really push them much. I mean, we've been very accustomed to this English domain name, and [?] myself, and we don't really want to pay attention to this IDN that much, and again, as users there is a whole like the technical terms, like LDR kind of a term. I don't know what it means.

So, yeah, so many people like that community, like the user community, maybe it might be one of our responsibility to summarize and explain, but really this technical term means to users. And what kind of connotation it has with this specific technical terms. So yes, that's so far



with the Korean panel. And we will hopefully come up with consensus among those members. This is so far, yeah, thank you.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM:

Thank you YJ. This is Rinalia again. Earlier when [?] from India, from [?] in India, was presenting, he also mentioned that this was a concern for him in terms of communication materials, primarily because the script that he was dealing with covers many languages, and he has to reach out to many communities, and it's quite difficult to reach the full set of communities.

And the communication tools can help a lot, in addition to special facilitation. And I know that from the Arabic script work as well, we are also concerned about the completeness of covering languages using the particular script. And I know in the presentation from [?] earlier from Korea, the concern is how to engage the communities in North Korea as well as the Korean/Chinese community, because it's quite challenging to do that. And yes, YJ, you want to say...?

YJ PARK:

So having said that, you know, I just realized Korea is also getting very globalized, like many other countries around the world these days. And it means that there are many people are getting married to people from different countries. Like for example, people from Vietnam and Indonesia [?] and China. So especially, in certain parts of Korea right now, there are a lot of these international families. And those who are educated under those, you know, the mother who use different languages and different character sets, probably they might have, you



know, pick up some kind of, you know, preference for other languages, character sets, rather than just Korean character sets.

So, you know, that's kind of the dynamics which we cannot really predict for the future generation, and the whole, you know, how we can reflect the current dynamics to the, you know, Internet.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you YJ. I was wondering if Andrei has any comment from the Cyrillic side?

ANDREI KALESNIKOV: Yes I do have a comment. We call the script a mono script. We don't have a variance, okay? So the life is much easier. And it's just straightforward. That's why I'm sitting here like listening, but I have nothing to add to that.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Okay. Thank you Andrei. [?] you wanted to make a comment.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes please, specifically to Andrei. I've heard this several times. So, it's our fault. It's misfortunate labelling of the effort. This is not about variance only. We are creating rules for permissible labels in the root zone, so everyone is affected. So Cyrillic is affected. By having a Cyrillic generation panel, which the Russian language belongs to the Cyrillic script, you're deciding which Cyrillic Unicode points are allowed to be used for Russian and Ukrainian, etc.



ANDREI KALESNIKOV: Yes, I understand that, but older registries refusing the Cyrillic have submitted their tables into IANA, the fast tracks, the gTLD domains. They also submitted the IDN tables. For example, it's not possible to register second level domain using a mixed script anyway. So I don't see the reason for the confusion, or I'm not getting it. I mean, really.

UNIDENTIFIED: Rinalia, do I have time to go into this?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: No. We don't have time, so I would encourage you to take it as a side table discussion. Because I think it's important that Andrei understand the linkage with the project, otherwise we would be in trouble. I would also like to, yes. I know that you want to comment on this issue as well. I just want to go around the table because we have four minutes, and I want to end it before 6:00. [?] is here, yes. I would like to hear from you [?].

UNIDENTIFIED: Hi Rinalia. This is [?]. I'm part of the proposed [?] generation panel, and I would like to second [?] voice regarding making available software operating systems and applications about the proper way of handling internationalized domain names, given the fact that next 2.8 billion Internet users could be coming from the IDN side.

Maintaining the trust in the internationalized domain names is of most importance at this point. Regarding the making terms that are being



used in these projects more – easy to understand for the community that define it, even what told the group about... When we approach the community, so that they can become a volunteer on this project, what happens is that the documentation that is needed, it is quite complex.

And if we have some material which will make them understand, in an easier way, what this process is all about, that would definitely be very helpful. Thank you.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you [?]. Did you have something to say? Yes, please.

UNIDENTIFIED: [?] from the ccTLD in Serbia. So we have a Cyrillic who is not exactly like Russian Cyrillic. We have phonetic language, but to maintain everything, to maintain user you must provide services. Service is what we need in Serbia. For example, I will give you example of what ICANN provides to us with Cyrillic characters. This is Cyrillic. So, what are we talking about? Universal acceptance? Okay. [CROSSTALK]

...working group on Cyrillic, in Serbia we have an IDN domain. We have a problem with IDN emails and not the ones that you talked about with Andrei. Andrei told you that Outlook will work with IDN emails, but this is not the right IDN email, because on the light side of the [?] side, you cannot have Cyrillic. Okay. I have seen Cyrillic, there is a standard, okay, okay, okay.



RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Okay. So I think the Cyrillic community need to get together and sort it out. And I would encourage you to have that meeting immediately. So we are now at the end of our meeting. I would like to thank you very much, but before you go, there is the APRALO Reception and Showcase starting at 6:00 in the VIP room lounge, and I would like to invite you to participate.

Michele, you have something?

MICHELE NEYLON: I just wanted to congratulate you Rinalia.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you very much. [Applause]

MICHELE NEYLON: I've been watching you chair this session, I was thinking to myself, "God. Soon enough she'll be up there on that high table, looking down on us all."

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Okay, that's it. Thank you everyone. Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

