Internationalized Domain Names
-prepared for the At-Large Summit

Tina Dam
Director, IDN Program

Bart Boswinkel
Senior Policy Advisor, ccNSO

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Agenda

- What is IDNs
- Where are we and where are we going
  - Two IDN TLD allocation processes
- IDNA protocol providing technical requirements
  - the very basic level of IDNs
- IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process
  - What is it and how did this start?
  - How does the process work?
  - Special Fast Track topics for this week:
    - Documentation of Responsibility (DoR), Financial Contributions & IDN Tables and Variants
IDN Definitions

- Internationalized domain names are:
  - Names with characters other than the standard ASCII (a,b,...z), (0,1,...9), (-)

- Example:
  - ñandú.cl → xn--and-6ma2c.cl

- IDNs are about localized solutions
  - But need to be ‘internationalized’ due to the global nature of the Internet
Internationalization of the internet means that the internet is equally accessible from all languages and scripts
What we have / what we need

- IDNs have existed as second level since 2003
  - under web protocol standards (under revision)
  - email protocol standards are underway (IETF)
- We also need IDN TLDs
  - 北京.中国; [xn--1lq9oi. xn--fiqs8s]

### Domain Availability

**Today**

- ASCII domain names (a, b,…,z), (0,1,…,9), (-)
- IDN second level
- IDN TLDs

**Future Addition**

- domainname.TLD icann.org
- 실례.TLD - under various existing TLDs
- 실례. 테스트
## IDN TLD Processes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation of Country-code IDN TLDs – Fast Track</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- implementation of recommendations of IDNC WG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issues not addressed by IDNC WG:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- relationship between ICANN and IDN ccTLD manager</td>
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<td>- financial contribution by IDN TLD managers</td>
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<td>- review of technical requirements for IDN ccTLDs</td>
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<table>
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<th>Country-code IDN TLDs – Long Term</th>
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<td>- Full policy that caters for all</td>
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<td>- Follows the full ccNSO Policy Development Process</td>
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<th>New Generic TLDs</th>
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<td>- New ongoing policy for new gTLDs</td>
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<td>- Includes internationalized domains</td>
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<td>- Focus on non-ASCII squatting &amp; confusingly similarity solutions</td>
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IDNA Protocol Revision (IETF)

- IDNA provides technical requirement for IDN strings:
  - must be a valid IDN specified in technical standards
- Technical requirement is the same
  - IDN ccTLDs top and second level
  - IDN gTLDs top and second level
- Main positive revision results are:
  - Unicode version independent
  - Fixing problems with right-to-left script strings
IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

- Introduction of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs
  - associated with the ISO3166-1 list
  - meeting near term demand for ready territories /countries
  - preserve stability of the DNS
  - not based on characters from the Latin script
  - Current Delegation practices for ccTLDs

- Revised Draft Implementation Plan released
  - Including two topic papers (DoR and IDN Tables)
  - Including staff considerations on received comments
  - Public comment period open through 6 April 2009

- Report published over interest received from ccTLD managers and relevant public authorities
Draft Implementation Plan

- Requested by the ICANN Board at the Paris meeting:
  - Resolved (2008.06.26.05) ... submit a detailed implementation report including a list of any outstanding issues to the Board in advance of the ICANN Cairo meeting in November 2008

- Based on the recommendations provided by the IDNC WG Final Report
  - and on received public comments on this report

- Incl. elements not part of the recommendations from the IDNC WG
  - Decisions needed for the process to be implemented in a sustainable way
Draft Implementation Plan Modules

The draft plan is presented in modules to be detailed and finalized:

- M1: General Introduction and Background Info
- M2: Fast Track Eligibility Requirements
- M3: TLD String Criteria and Requirements
- M4: Technical Committee Considerations
- M5: Fast Track Request and Evaluation Process
- M6: TLD Delegation Process
- M7: Discussion of Additional Topics
IDN Fast Track Implementation Process

Stage 1: Preparations
- Develop variant table(s)
- Document endorsement from script(s) community(ies)
- Identify script(s) and language(s)
- Select the string(s)
- Document endorsement from territory
- Select TLD Manager(s)
- Document endorsement from territory (according to IANA procedure)

Stage 2: Request & Evaluation
- Request Submission
- Request Admissibility Process
- Request Admissible?
- String Confirmation Process
- String Confirmed?
- Yes
- Publish String
- Delegation Readiness Verification
- No
- Delegation Process
- IANA Delegation Function
- IANA Function Ok?
- Board Considerations
- Delegation Process

Stage 3: Further Steps
- More Info
- Yes
- No

Enter
Key Issues w/ Fast Track Process

- Presented in Module 7 and topic papers
- Lightweight agreement to
  - Ensure compliance with IDN technical standards
  - Document roles and responsibilities
  - Proposed as requirement

- Financial contribution discussion
  - Principle of required ongoing contribution
  - Fair and equitable share of costs
  - Different models
  - Further discussion needed

- Development of IDN Tables and variant management
- Prevention of contention w/existing & applied-for TLDs
- IDN ccTLD operator association to ICANN community
Documentation of Responsibility

- Proposed standard arrangement between prospective IDN ccTLD managers and ICANN
- Draft DoR posted for public comments, based on:
  - the existing ccTLD Framework
  - compliance with provisions for technical aspects
    - IDNA protocol
    - IDN Guidelines
  - Received comment of previous Draft Impl. Plan
    - Broad variety for and against a required arrangement
- A separate paper posted for public comments
Financial Model

- Received comments so far are split between
  - Cost-recovery (like gTLD Program)
  - No fees (like existing ccTLDs)
- Comparable activities aim at fair/equitable cost recovery
- ICANN standpoint:
  - new situation different from existing TLDs
  - requires some cost-recovery from the IDN TLD managers
- Additional details in Module 7
  - Requesting feedback on fee components and level
IDN Tables & Variants

- IDN Tables inform users and reduce confusion
  - based on a language, script, or sets thereof
  - a registry can use more than one table
- Proposal urge coord. across language communities
- ICANN usage of tables at top level:
  - Variant strings are either delegated or blocked
    - Due to linguistic usage of scripts within country/territory
    - Matching current second level policies and procedures
  - RFI reply analysis shows @7 variant strings allocated
- A separate paper posted for comments
Preventing Contention

- Prevention of contention between
  - Fast Track requested IDN ccTLD strings
  - Existing TLD strings
  - Proposed strings in new gTLD applications

- Proposed rule:
  - A gTLD application approved by the ICANN Board & a validated IDN ccTLD string is considered “existing TLD”
    - any other later application for the same string will be denied
    - Validated = meaningfulness confirmed, technical check passed
  - if contention is identified: new gTLD application is placed on hold, the IDN ccTLD request prevails (if passing validation)
  - if both parties have government assent, both applications is placed on hold until contention is resolved between them
More IDN Material and Information:
http://icann.org/topics/idn

IDN Sessions this week in Mexico are mixed within:

- Sunday 16.00: IDN basic introduction
- Joint SO/AC meeting Monday afternoon
- Constituency meetings
- GAC meeting
- ccNSO meeting
- gTLD sessions
- Monday, 11-12.30: IDN issues ahead