

Discussion document on

ccNSO-GAC IDN Working Group
DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

ISSUE PAPER

Selection of IDN ccTLDs associated with
the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes

<http://www.ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/joint-draft-issues-paper.pdf>

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June 3-4, 2007
APTLD in Dubai

Should an IDN ccTLD string be meaningful?

- Yes.

<reason>

- What a TLD string represents may be learned in a long term. However, one of the primary motivations of the introduction of IDN ccTLD is to make the ccTLD string "easy-to-understand" for those who use the script of the string. Therefore, IDN ccTLD string should be meaningful from the beginning of its life.

How many IDN ccTLDs per character set?

- One IDN per Country/Territory per Character Set.

<reason>

- If a country corresponding to a ccTLD has two languages that share a script, and the names of the country are different in those languages, the country may want to have two IDN TLD strings.
- However, since the above situation is assumed to be rare, the number of IDN ccTLDs per character set is proposed to be one.
- Relaxation of above limitation may be revisited after initial deployment of IDN ccTLDs has been experienced.
- Investigation is needed as to whether IDN ccTLD strings with homographs/variants are regarded as one string.

Number of character sets per territory

- **One** (in the initial phase *1)

<reason>

- It is not easy to define the definite number of character sets for each ccTLD.
- Limiting the variety of the IDN ccTLDs in the initial phase will help us to avoid the delay with non-productive discussion.
- Relaxation of above limitation may be revisited after initial deployment of IDN ccTLDs has been experienced.

*1 initial phase - Here it is, for example, assumed that one IDN ccTLD string per one ASCII ccTLD will be applied by the current ASCII ccTLD registry and introduced to the root zone in the initial phase

Number of characters in the string

- The number of characters should not be pre-defined. It should be decided by each ccTLD country/territory.

<reason>

- Limitation of the length may damage the "meaningfulness of the IDN ccTLD" which is one of the primary motivations of introducing IDN ccTLDs.

Are there any 'rights' attached to a given character set?

- No rights should be attached to any character set

<reason>

- Language communities may not be able to be formally defined (especially "predefined") in many cases, at least in a reasonable timeframe.
- Therefore, no formal approval by language groups should be expected in IDN ccTLD introduction.
- A public review/challenge/objection process in approving an IDN ccTLD may complement the language-aspect investigation against the IDN ccTLD introduction.

Should a list of IDN ccTLD strings be mandated?

- a) No
- c)d) Each ccTLD country/territory can define the ccTLD string it likes

<reason>

- Making a mandated list will take a long time.
- IDN TLD version of a ccTLD is actually a local matter and its usefulness and meaningfulness is specific to the users of specific ccTLD.
- Each ccTLD country/region may choose an appropriate string if it goes through a consultation process with the local community in deciding the string.
- Public review/challenge/objection process may be necessary to find possible issues for the proposed ccTLD strings.

Who picks a string for a territory in the absence of a mandated list?

- Same discussion as the previous Q/A
- This issue is closely related to the previous one and the same answer should apply.

What coordination between the different actors?

- No predefined formal global coordination should be mandated.

<reason>

- Formal global coordination cannot be defined in a short term.
- Local coordination will be made through consultation process in deciding the IDN ccTLD string at least for the first phase launch.
- Public review/challenge/objection process may complement such global coordination at a certain level.
- After initial phase, necessity of more formal cooperation will be investigated for further phases.

Who can apply to have the IDN ccTLD delegated or to be the delegate for that ccTLD?

Who decides on the delegation?

- It should be decided locally.

<reason>

- The simplest way is "in the initial phase, the current ccTLD manager is the one that manages the corresponding IDN ccTLD."
- This is because the current ccTLD manager can be assumed to know the demand of registrants and users better than any other organization does.

Who will formulate the policy for these processes?

Should there be a mandated policy/process for dealing with multiple applications, objections to applications or disputes?

- Someone, possibly ICANN Board, should be the authority to decide that an applied IDN ccTLD string is newly introduced as a TLD.

<reason>

- Strings from multiple applications may collide or be confusingly similar. Some other entities may challenge/object the application. Mechanism to solve these problems must be established as is the case with a new gTLD creation as ICANN currently poses.

Is the operation and management of an IDN ccTLD different to that of an existing ccTLD such that there be specific global technical requirements related to running the IDN ccTLD?

- No.

<reason>

- There seems to be no other technical requirements/guidelines than those from IETF and ICANN.