



IDN TLDs / New TLDs

Issues & Concerns from gTLD Operator

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Overview

- GNSO Documents
 - GNSO IDN WG Outcomes Report
 - GNSO Final Report on new gTLD policies
 - GNSO response to ccNSO/GAC issues paper on IDN ccTLDs
- IDN gTLDs
- IDN ccTLDs

GNSO Documents

- Outcomes Report of the GNSO Internationalized Domain Names Working Group (IDN WG) – March 22, 2007
 - <http://gns0.icann.org/drafts/idn-wg-fr-22mar07.htm>
- GNSO Final Report Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains – July 30, 2007
 - <http://gns0.icann.org/drafts/PDFPDPDec05FRPartA30July07.pdf>
- GNSO Comments in Response to the ccNSO-GAC Issues Report on IDN Issues – Feb 10, 2008
 - <http://gns0.icann.org/drafts/ccnso-gac-issues-idn-cctlds-final-draft-31jan08.pdf>



GNSO: New gTLDs (Principles)

- A. New gTLDs introduced in an orderly, timely and predictable way
- B. Some new gTLDs should be IDNs subject to approval of IDNs
- C. Promote competition, add consumer choice, market differentiation and geographical and service-provider diversity
- D. Technical criteria for stability, security and global interoperability
- E. Capability criteria to assure capability to meet obligations under registry agreement
- F. Operational criteria to ensure compliance with ICANN policies
- G. String evaluation process must not infringe applicant's freedom of expression rights that are protected under internationally recognized principles of law



GNSO: New gTLDs (Recommendations)

1. Fairness, transparency & non-discriminatory
2. Strings must not be confusingly similar to an existing TLD or a reserved name
3. Strings must not infringe existing legal rights of others
4. Strings must not cause any technical instability
5. Strings must not be a Reserved Word
6. Strings must not be contrary to legal norms relating to morality and public order



GNSO: New gTLDs (Recommendations)

7. Applicants must demonstrate technical capability
8. Applicants must demonstrate financial and organizational operational capability
9. Clear pre-published application process
10. Base contract provided to applicants
11. [blank]
12. Dispute resolution and challenge process must be established
13. Applications assessed in rounds



GNSO: New gTLDs (Recommendations)

14. Agreement term of commercially reasonable length
15. Renewal expectancy
16. Consensus Policies
17. Clear compliance and sanctions process
18. ICANN IDN Guidelines must be followed
19. Must use only ICANN Accredited Registrars
20. Application will be rejected if an expert panel determines that there is substantial opposition to it from a significant portion of the community to which the string may be explicitly or implicitly targeted



GNSO IDN WG (Agreements)

- Avoidance of ASCII-Squatting
- GAC Consultation on Geo-political Impact
- Language Community input for Evaluation
- One String per new IDN gTLD
- Limit Variant confusion & collision
- Limit confusingly similar strings
- Priority rights for new gTLD strings and new domains:
 - Priority rights do not derive from existing strings
 - Applicants may face challenges/objections
 - Priority rights derive from IPR
- Aliasing as a policy issue rather than technical



GNSO IDN WG (Agreements)

- Single Script Adherence
 - Not to require adherence across all levels
 - Adherence within label at levels where registries maintain control
 - Mix-in of ASCII allowed as special case
 - Mixing allowed where accepted orthographic practice for a language requires script mixing
 - Official / significant languages in a country exists
 - Limit script mixing
 - Language community not defined by IDN-WG
 - ICANN should consult relevant language communities if in doubt



GNSO Response to ccNSO/GAC

- IDN ccTLDs should be introduced as soon as practicable
- Classification of TLDs should be determined
- IDN gTLDs / ccTLDs should not be delayed because of lack of readiness of one category, but steps should be taken so neither is advantaged or disadvantaged
- Procedures should be developed to avoid possible conflicts if g or cc is to be introduced first
- Support fast track based on ISO 3166-1 list
- IDN ccTLD string must represent entry in ISO 3166-1
- For purpose of benefiting language community in territory
- Meaningful and represent territory name



GNSO Response to ccNSO/GAC

- One IDN ccTLD string per ISO-3166-1 entry per relevant script
- Limit confusion and collisions due to variants
- Confusingly similar strings must be avoided (minority statement re: visually confusingly similar strings)
- Considerations for risks of spoofing using IDN homoglyphs
- Support variable TLD string length for IDN ccTLDs
- Clear procedures to prevent spoofing and visual confusion where script mixing occurs
- Required to follow IDN Guidelines
- ICANN should have a contract or some other form of agreement with IDN ccTLD operator



IDN ccTLDs: Concern from gTLDs

- Definition / Classification / Categorization of “IDN ccTLDs”
 - Will an “IDN ccTLD” happen to actually be a gTLD? Who determines?
- Significant number of new TLDs introduced
 - Number of territories x number of languages
- Secondary meaning of IDN ccTLDs
 - IDN ccTLDs becoming de facto gTLDs
 - .US → .美 (.beauty)



IDN ccTLDs: Concern from gTLDs

- Competition factor
 - ICANN fees / ICANN contract / Consensus policies
 - Especially if IDN ccTLD is run as a de facto gTLD
- Technical and Capability
 - IDN Guidelines, IDN technical standards, etc.
 - Ability for enforcement by ICANN if stability/security/interoperability of the Internet is threatened



Personal Thoughts on Fast Track

- String must represent Territory name
 - Secondary meanings avoided (could be basis of objection)
- Criteria should determined scope
 - Rather than arbitrary number of TLDs per Territory
- Script / Language should have official or similar status
 - Language used on legal tender or other similar restrictions
- Should have Objection mechanism
 - ccTLD, ccNSO, governments, GAC, GNSO (and its constituencies), ALAC, RALOs, SSAC, RSAC, etc.
- Should have contract or some form of executed



IDN gTLDs as new gTLD

- DotAsia perspective:
 - Acceptable for corresponding IDN TLD as new gTLD application (not preferred)
 - Confusingly similar TLDs must be avoided
 - Should encourage adoption of IDN
 - Aliasing should be encouraged

IDN gTLDs as new gTLD

- ICANN Fees may be prohibitive for aliasing
 - \$0.75 per domain per TLD
 - XYZ.Asia / XYZ.亚洲
 - XYZ.アジア / XYZ.아시아
 - = $\$0.75 \times 4 = \3
- Undetermined regarding Variants:
 - XYZ.亚洲 / XYZ.亞洲 / XYZ.亜洲
 - Independent Application fee?
 - ICANN fees?



Concluding Remarks

- Support for IDN ccTLDs and Fast Track
- Concerns with categorization
 - What is an IDN ccTLD?
 - Potential Secondary meanings
- Technical and Techno-policy Adherence
 - IDN Guidelines
 - Technical security, stability and interoperability
- IDN gTLD seems to be ready but there are unresolved problems
 - ICANN Fees / Aliasing / Variants / Confusingly Similar TLDs



Thank You

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