IDN Status from ICANN

Tina Dam
Senior Director, IDNs
27 June 2010
Overview

• TLD Variants
• IDN Usability
• TLD Processes
Variants - Activities

- IDN TLD Variants not supported in TLD Programs
- Important for IDN usability in certain regions
- Important to avoid confusability
- ICANN proposed project plan
  - Variant definitions and activities
  - To be developed for public comments
Variant Variance

- same language/script
  /meaning, look different

- same language/same script
  /meaning/look

- different language, same
  script/meaning/look

• Translations are not variants
Proposed Variants Policy Discussions

Variant Definitions Needed:

**AGB v4:**
- a single character has two or more graphic representations
- may/may not visually similar
- IDN tables identifies variants

**RFC3743:** (specific to CJK)…wherein one conceptual character can be identified with several different Code Points in character sets for computer use…

- different types of variants - different rules?
- diff functionality for diff variants?
- rules for generation of IDN tables?
- dispute mechanism for overlap of desired/un-desired variants?
- dispute mechanism/objection option for inconsistency in IDN Table content?

Terminology choice
Proposed Variant Technical Considerations

- Keeping dialogue with technical community
- Specifying desired functionality to technical community to enable informed dialogue
- Possible test scenarios:
  - DNAME – before testing we need a described functionality
  - BNAME – before testing, needs further development
  - Review experience with variants dealt with via registration policies and operational management
IDN & Usability

- What is needed from a usability standpoint?
  - more uniform implementation by app developers?
  - more apps to support IDNs and which ones?

- ICANN in apps events in FY2010-11
  - which events should we ensure domain name reps participation in?
  - how to determine what kind of information apps dev need and how to deliver it?
IDN ccTLD Fast Track

- **First IDN ccTLDs**: امارات, رف, السعودية, مصر, 中国, 中國, 香港, 台灣, 台湾

  - 31 requests and 19 languages, please send more :-)

- **Fast Track revision in November 2010**

- **Topics for considerations:**
  - transparency and timing
  - disputes and confusingly similarity
  - IDN ccTLD manager support and process
In Summary

• First Fast Track IDN ccTLDs live and working well
  - updates: http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/

• IDN gTLDs in the gTLD Program - to be launched

• Usability generally (including IDNs)

• TLD variants management project - to be initiated

• IDN Guidelines revision underway

• Internationalized Email Protocol underway (IETF)
Internationalization of the internet means that the internet is equally accessible from all languages and scripts

http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/
http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/