



We will start momentarily

Synchronized IDN ccTLDs

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Overall Goal

To enable introduction of a limited number of a certain variant type of IDN ccTLDs, under specified requirements aimed at enabling a good user experience

Background

- Fast Track Process does not accommodate introduction of variant IDN ccTLDs
 - this is a problem for end-users in some of the “IDN communities”
 - to address the problem, the ICANN Board requested a process for limited introduction Synchronized IDN ccTLD during Nairobi
 - this does not include a DNS-technical solution
 - more work still needed for the broader solution to accommodate all types of variants TLDs
 - anticipated to include a DNS-technical solution

Rationale & Intent

- Synchronized IDN ccTLDs are defined by situations in Fast Track where:
 - very limited/interim process for IDN ccTLDs
 - more than one official language or script
 - the labels are considered equivalent
 - solve a significant problem for users
 - users expect domains will resolve to the same address or value
 - non-DNS technical, procedural only

What “Synchronized” Means?

- Terminology example:
 - synchronized; convergence; same address or value; and more
- In this context such terminology is:
 - not as a technical requirement of the DNS
 - solely to policy and procedural requirements
 - there is no DNS-technical mechanism by which synchronized IDN ccTLDs will be made to be identical at the DNS protocol level
 - synchronized IDN ccTLDs are provisioned in the DNS root zone as separate delegations

Proposed Implementation Plan



- Published for community feedback
 - extended through 17 April
 - webinars scheduled 15 April 01:00/14:00 UTC
 - clarifying Q&A posted to address concerns raised in the technical community
 - scheduled for Board consideration at 22 April 2010 ICANN Board meeting
 - if positive result then the process is expected to be launched shortly following the Board meeting

Proposed Process Overview - 1



1. Complete *Fast Track String Evaluation*
2. Review participation criteria
 - fx: all Fast Track rules must be fulfilled
3. Submit request for Sync IDN ccTLDs
 - through online system
 - includes:
 - Documentation of problem to be solved
 - documentation of convergence procedures, including TLD zone management, registration policy, compliance efforts, reporting mechanisms

Proposed Process Overview - 2



4. Sign required Terms and Conditions

5. Evaluation of received documentation

- verification of all requirements
- high threshold; may be reduced later when more experience is achieved

6. Upon successful evaluation:

- ICANN will publish result
- requester can initiate String Delegation
 - standard IANA function

Ongoing Work: IDN Variants

- Not a new topic – often relates to confusability
- Increased problem with increased # of chars
 - ASCII: 37/26 chars in domain names
 - IDNs → approx. 100.000 characters available
- Some problems solved in the IDN Guidelines
 - preventing mixing of scripts unless a linguistic need
 - require IDN Tables and public registration rules
- More work on the way defining and testing variant management options, including:
 - IETF DNSEXT work on sameness
 - DNAME, BNAME, Sync IDN ccTLDs

**Internationalization of the Internet
means that the Internet is equally
accessible from all languages and scripts**

Thank You

<http://icann.org/en/public-comment/#synch>

<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/>

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