Internationalised Domain Names

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The Internet & the post-WSIS environment: enhancing dialogue among the stakeholders
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Agenda

- The need for IDNs
- Internationalised Overview
- ICANN IDN Program Plan
- A range of other IDN relevant topics
What is an IDN?

- Internationalised Domain Name
- A recent technical development to allow non-ASCII characters in domain names
The need for IDNs

- The Internet in the past
The need for IDNs

- The Internet of today
The need for IDNs

- Geographic expansion of the Internet
- Corresponding increase by linguistic groups
- Content on the Internet reflects linguistic diversity
- Avoid fragmentation of the Internet
  - Diminish the need for alternate root system
  - Ensure global interoperability
Internationalised Overview

Before

26 letters used for English (a-z)
Primarily English content
example.test

After

Many of the world’s scripts
Information in local languages
실례.test
실례.테스트

Aim: An internationalised Internet.
It is not without challenges

paypal.com
It is not without challenges

paypal.com

Latin

Cyrillic

paypal.com ≠ paypal.com

caxap ≠ caxap

rīga ≠ riga
IDNs need significant attention

- The technology is increasingly become usable
- The policy implications are vast
- Mis-steps could set back the advancement of internationalisation.
Groups working on IDNs

- ICANN President’s Advisory Committee on IDNs (IDN PAC)
  - Formed on 23 November, 2005
  - Initially tasked with IDN top-level domain technical challenges
- IDN top-level domain registries
  - ccTLD and gTLD representatives focused on IDN guidelines
- IETF and IAB
- Browser Community
- GNSO, CCNSO, GAC, ALAC
- Regional Initiatives
ICANN’s IDN Program Plan

- encompasses all the actions & deliverables to ultimately deploy IDNs.

- Several projects - planned and managed somewhat independently:
  - Technical testing
  - Policy development
  - IDN Guidelines
  - IANA Processes
  - Outreach Planning
  - Communications Planning
Technical Testing

- **Goal**
  
  “Demonstrate that the insertion of IDN strings into the root has no appreciable negative impact on existing resolutions.”

- It is difficult to prove beyond doubt
  - Will aim to remove reasonable doubt

- Testing programme includes:
  - NS records - lab test, operational process test, live test
  - DNAME record analysis
IDN Guidelines Development

- Advice to registries on how to implement IDNs in their registries
  - Focus on IDN TLD principles and best practices
  - Binding on gTLDs (global policy), reference material for ccTLDs.
- Developed by representatives of gTLDs and ccTLDs:
  - Cary Karp (MuseDoma)
  - Pat Kane (VeriSign)
  - Ram Mohan (Afilias)
  - Hiro Hotta (JPRS)
  - Mohammed el Bashir (SIS)
IDN Policy Development

- Policy development is run by GNSO, CCNSO, GAC
- Multiple meetings during and in-between ICANN meetings
- Latest GNSO meeting in Amsterdam:
  - IDN policy issues will now be combined with plans for introduction of new gTLDs
  - IDN issues report is available online for comments
  - Proposes joint task force between GNSO, CCNSO, GAC that will prioritise issues and propose structure for further work
- Introduction of new gTLDs is focused on
  - Whether to introduce new gTLDs
  - Allocation methods
  - Selection Criteria
  - Contractual Conditions
Other IDN topics

- Review and revision of the technical “IDNA” protocol
- Impact of IDN changes to registrars, registries and registrants.
- IANA repository of IDN practices
- Language-script specific issues
- Dispute issues and rules (as they need to apply globally)
- Statistics on registration growth of IDNs

http://www.icann.org/topics/idn/
Finally...

- Discussions are open to all!
- Participate!
Thank you for your attention!

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