Internationalised Domain Names

Baltic Region and Eastern Europe International Seminar
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

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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   **After**

26 letters used   →   Many of the
for English (a-z)   world's scripts

Primarily English   →   Information in
content   local languages

example.test   →   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

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IDNs need significant attention

‣ The technology is increasingly become usable

‣ The policy implications are vast

‣ Mis-steps could set back the advancement of internationalisation.

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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

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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

  ‣ Communicatons 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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