



Dear Domain Name Industry Stakeholder,

In 2020, ICANN org [communicated](#) that a significant amount of work has been done over the past few years on the technical design considerations and the linguistic details for Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) tables. The communication clarified that ICANN org now reviews IDN tables, using this knowledge gained over the last few years, during Registry Service Evaluation Policy (RSEP) and Material Subcontracting Arrangement (MSA) service requests. Over the last year the Global Domains & Strategy (GDS) team has been developing a more effective IDN table review process for registry operators that is consistent and transparent.

In the coming weeks, ICANN org will communicate updates to the submission and review process for IDN tables that will include a more streamlined method to add IDN tables to the IANA repository. Additionally, ICANN is pleased to introduce the IDN Table Review Tool. The IDN Table Review Tool will be used by ICANN org and will also be made available as a self-service and efficient way for registry operators to evaluate IDN tables before submitting to ICANN org. The tool is expected to be available in May 2021, and more details will be provided in the coming weeks.

These efforts are, in part, intended to address the issues raised by the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) in 2019 and their request for ICANN org to provide more transparency in the IDN table review process. Since the RySG communication, ICANN org has been updating its processes to review IDN tables while improving the security and stability of IDN implementation. These steps, once implemented, will leverage [Reference Label Generation Rules \(LGRs\)](#) with the IDN Table Review Tool to make the IDN table review process more consistent, transparent and efficient for registry operators.

Beginning in September of 2020, ICANN org took steps to ensure the [IANA Repository of IDN Practices with IDN tables](#) (“repository”) accurately reflects all of the contractually approved IDN tables for gTLDs. The repository is nearly complete and ICANN org would like to extend our thanks to the registry operators and registry service providers who supported this effort quickly and efficiently. ICANN org anticipates the process improvements mentioned above will help keep the repository current and well maintained.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about this approach, please feel free to reach out to ICANN org’s [Global Support Center](#).

Sincerely,
Russ Weinstein
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