



IDNs for Multi-Lingual, Shared-Script Countries

Managing the Complexity

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Overview

- Countries that are multi-lingual and have shared scripts have special needs
- India is probably the most complex IDN implementation that we're going to see
 - About 12 Indian languages are based on Devanagari script
 - 11 scripts define almost 40+ languages
 - These are languages, not dialects



India – Case In Point

- Total Population 1.002 billion (2001 Census)
- 18 Official Languages (Not Dialects)
 - Devanagari script based (North Indian):
 - Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Sindhi, Nepali, Manipuri
 - Dravidian script based (South Indian):
 - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Konkani
 - Arabic Script Based: Urdu
 - Other script basis: Bengali, Oriya, Gujarati, Punjabi, Assamese
- Worldwide Audience:
 - Hindi - 400 Million Speakers
 - Bengali - 200 Million Speakers
 - Tamil - 60 Million Speakers
 - Telugu - 70 Million Speakers
- Schools teach in 58 different languages
- Newspapers publish in 87 languages
- Radio programs broadcast in 71 languages
- Movies released in 15 languages



Issues

- Domain Name Registration – what are the allowed characteristics
- Does someone with an `ascii.ascii` or a `idn.ascii` get prior rights to `ascii.idn` or `idn.idn`
- How do you display Whois information?
- What kind of dispute resolution policies are required?
- Do “packages” of names have to be created, or should the same name in different scripts be allowed to go to different places?



Possible policies

- **How to select the TLD string**
 - Selection criteria need to be defined
 - “India” is not “India” in local scripts
 - Represented as “Bharat” in Hindi, or as “Bharatam” in Tamil
- **How to deal with contention between strings**
 - Allocation method, trademark law
- **Nature of agreement for using new TLD string**
 - e.g comply with IETF IDN standards



Outcomes

- **Timely benefit for Internet users**
- **Ensure user expectations are met**
- **Provide a good user experience**



Thank you

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