The Middle East Space
Online Virtual Meeting on Monday 25 October 2021

Open Data
Statement

We, the Middle East (ME) community members, participating in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN72) Middle East Space session, addressed the issue of Open Data Platform (ODP) to provide the community access to specific datasets that has been raised in previous discussions several times in ICANN meetings and other gatherings, and came up with this statement.

The ME community applauds the ICANN initiative to collect and integrate data in a federated, timely and comprehensive platform to keep the community informed about the evolution of ICANN activities based on objective metrics. After analyzing the current version of the Open data platform, we submit some recommendations to evolve the open datasets and the API use. We also provide some proposals related to capacity building activities that will improve the use of the platform by the community.

Analysis of the Current Version

Datasets

The current version of the open data platform includes 31 datasets. After analyzing these datasets, we note the following issues:

- The Identifier Technologies Health Indicators (ITHI) provides one dataset about the DNS Root Traffic Analysis (Metric 3). No dataset for the others metrics (M1: Inaccuracy of WHOIS Data, M2: Domain Name Abuse, M4: DNS Recursive Server Analysis, M5: Recursive Resolver Integrity, M6: IANA registries for DNS parameters, M7: DNSSEC Deployment, M8: DNS Authoritative Servers Analysis). Is there a plan to add a dataset for each metric?

- Registry Functions Activity Report provides one dataset with data starting from 2013 only. However, a concern remains as to the absence of data on previous years - specifically as to whether the migration activities take into account the reports of the other years?

- Per-Registrar Transactions Report per year provides ten datasets. The choice to aggregate each year's transactions in a dataset will provide more visibility for the data per year but it will become complicated to combine global data and to have a summary view.

Search Engine

Both advanced search and simple search are provided by the platform but only the start page includes the advanced search function. In order to use the simple research function, the user has to choose to filter by a term or by clicking on the search button. This functionality is very useful for advanced users but for a new user, it likely appears complicated to make use of.

We suggest that the simple research be provided in the start page, where it is most accessible, rather than the advanced search.

The search engine did not provide some advanced search functionality such as search within full text (pdf, txt..) which could be particularly significant for academic users.

APIs

The APIs provided by the Open Data platform should ensure the interoperability of datasets, unfortunately these APIs are not documented for external use, the secure access protocol is not defined and the provided documentation refer to the open-data soft API documentation. Additionally, there is no information provided about the new V2.0 of the API.

Recommendations

The Platform and the search engine are only available in English. To ensure good progress towards enhancing the community's ability to understand and utilize the data published, we recommend to enable the multilingual capacity of the platform and the search engine.

In order to enrich provided datasets, the ME community considers that the following Datasets are very useful for community members:

- ccTLD Activities reports dataset per year to be provided by each ccTLD registry. It will be very useful for community members **to track the DNS market activities for each country**;

- ICANN Financial report per year based on ICANN Financial and Planning Information: Such dataset will reinforce the **openness and the transparency of the** ICANN financial activities;

- Community members' activities (including SO/AC) report per country/region/year: Such dataset will track the activities of community members, will be shared widely and will also provide some indicators about the evolution of community activities;

The ME community also recommends that an initiative may be started with the community in order to develop some **Software Development Kit's (SDK)**, using most used programming languages (Python, Java), for community members to start coding using ICANN open data API.

We also propose the following topics for **potential outreaching and capacity buildings activities** in order to give the opportunity to the community to know more about the valuable services of the platform:

- Domain Name Marketplace Indicators datasets in the ICANN open data platform,
- Using ICANN Open data search engine,
- Using ICANN Open API vs Export Data

As ICANN coordinates the 3 critical technical resources of the internet (Domains, IP's, Protocols), it will be more beneficial to include data about these resources at one-place for easy use.

Finally, The ME Space community believes that with such specific capacity building activities, the community will acquire sufficient skills to use and to contribute to the evolution of the ICANN open data platform. Hence, we urge the open data teams to initiate and organize such activities. We also call on the community for the massive use of metrics and indicators provided by the platform in their contributions (studies, survey, reports, comments.) since these indicators and metrics bring more credibility and objectivity to these contributions while simultaneously contextualizing the data sets for every user.