IDN update

Mar 27, 2006
ccNSO meeting

Hiro Hotta

Resources (1)

- Basic IETF RFCs   : March 2003
  - protocols
  - RFC3454 (STRINGPREP)
    - http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3454.txt
  - RFC3490 (IDNA)
    - http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3490.txt
  - RFC3491 (NAMEPREP)
    - http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3491.txt
  - RFC3492 (Punycode)
    - http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3492.txt

Resources (2)

- ICANN guidelines for IDN implementation
  - For registries
    - Mandate for gTLDs
    - Guidelines for ccTLDs
    - Guidelines for registrants who create IDN subdomain labels
  - Version1.0 : June 2003
    - http://www.icann.org/general/idn-guidelines-20jun03.htm
  - Version2.0 : November 2005
    - http://www.icann.org/general/idn-guidelines-14nov05.htm
  - Version2.1 : February 2006
    - http://www.icann.org/general/idn-guidelines-22feb06.htm

Resources (3)

- Unicode Technical Documents
  - Recommendations for IDN-related entities to avoid/reduce security problems caused by similar-looking characters
    - User Recommendations
    - 2.10.2 General Programmer Recommendations
    - 2.10.3 User Agent Recommendations
    - 2.10.4 Registry Recommendations
    - 2.10.5 Registrar Recommendations
  - UTR#36 (Unicode Security Considerations)   : latest - July 2005
    - http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr36/
  - UTS#39 (Unicode Security Mechanisms)   : latest - July 2005
    - http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr39/tr39-1.html

Resources (4)

- IAB
  - Review and Recommendations for Internationalized Domain Names (IDN)   : latest - February 2006
    - http://tools.ietf.org/group/iab/draft-iab-idn-nextsteps/draft-iab-idn-nextsteps-04.txt
  - Framework for next steps in IDN development
    - Issues within the scope of the IETF
      - Review of IDNA
      - Non-DNS and Above-DNS Internationalization Approaches
      - Security issues, certificates, etc.
      - Non US-ASCII in local part of email addresses
      - Use of the Unicode Character Set in the IETF
    - Issues that fall within the purview of ICANN
      - Dispute resolution
      - Policy at registries
      - IDN TLDs

Resources (5)

- IDN TLD discussion in ICANN
  - Timeline for Development of a Project for the Technical Test of Internationalized Top Level Labels   : March 2006
    - http://icann.org/announcements/announcement-14mar06.htm
  - *19-23 March 2006:* An initial presentation introduction was made to the SSAC and RSAC.
  - *April 2006:* Project plan for the technical test of internationalized labels will be released for public review and commentary.
  - *April - May 2006:* One-month public comment period.
  - *May 2006:* Comments will be reviewed by PAC and (revised) project plan will be sent to ICANN Board.
  - *June 2006:* PAC will submit the final plan to the ICANN staff and Board with recommendation to implement the project.
  - *June 2006:* Implementation of the project will be judged no later than the ICANN meeting in Marrakesh (26-30 June 2006).
  - *July 2006:* Request for applications for participation in the technical test will be announced.

IDN-related groups within ICANN

- Working group for the revision of the IDN Guidelines
  - formed in late August, 2005
  - to propose guidelines for registries
    - mandate for gTLD registries
    - expected to be more general - applicable to ccTLDs and IDN labels on 3rd and further levels in domain name structure
    - Reviewed by IDN-PAC, public commentary, further revised as needed - and endorsed by the Board
  - very small group (3 gTLD and 2 ccTLD registries + ICANN staff)
- President's Advisory Committee for IDNs (IDN-PAC)
  - formed in late December, 2005
  - about 20 members from various backgrounds
  - to identify issues and propose solutions to the following main areas
    - IDN TLD
    - IDN Technical Development
    - IDN Policy

Recent Topics (1)

- Introduction of IDN Top Level Labels
  - issues
    - Technical issues
    - Policy issues
  - discussion being held in IDN-PAC (President's Advisory Committee)
  - steps of introduction
    - Discussion of technical and policy issues in parallel? ---> Yes
    - ccTLDs first, then gTLDs? ---> ???
    - Whether ASCII-TLD and IDN-TLD are equivalent spaces or not ---> ???
  - Technical test plan was published on ICANN website
    - Details are still under discussion
  - Initial input to public, SSAC, and RSSAC for feedback
    - During Dallas IETF meeting (March 2006)

Recent Topics (2)

- IDN technical issues
  - revision of the IDN guidelines as needed
  - Reframing of the guidelines into BCP (in the IETF field)
  - security (e.g., anti-phishing)

- IDN policy issues
  - Language/script table development for languages/scripts
  - reserved domain names (e.g., government office names, geographical names)
  - trademarks protection (considering transliteration and translation)

Recent Topics (3)

- Application software
  - Readiness
    - Browsers
      - Many popular browses are already IDN-enabled
      - Internet Explorer 7 with IDN capability is coming later this year
    - e-mails
      - March 2006: IETF WG established
      - Investigation, I-D drafting, and discussion under way
      - March 2007: WG re-chartered for standards track
        :

How ccTLDs are related to these issues

- IDNs are
  - demanded by LIC?
  - If so, how?
- IDN registration services for the same languages as other TLDs' services ?
  - same user experience may be demanded
  - If so, how to cooperate?
- IDN TLD labels equivalent to ASCII ccTLD labels ?
  - Yes/No ?
  - If yes, IDN TLD and ASCII TLD are equivalent spaces or not ?
  - Who are the registries ?
  - Who decides the string(s) for each IDN ccTLD ?
- Demand for more IDN-aware applications ?
  - Cooperative acceleration of application protocol definition ?
  - Cooperative market stimulation ?

How ccTLDs behave (as a group)

- Lelvel of activities?
  - information sharing
  - discussion
    - just a discussion for getting hints ?
    - trying to make consensus among ccTLDs on some issues and publicize it ?
- Cooperation with others?
  - among ccTLDs
  - with gTLDs
  - with wider groups
  - If so, how and on what aspects?