

IDN Service: Add, Modify, or Remove Guide



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1. Getting Started

This guide is intended to provide registry operators with information on how IDN Service requests are processed, to provide helpful tips for submitting requests, and to identify what documentation/supporting materials to include (e.g., format and content of IDN tables). Registry operators may consider contacting their respective Account Managers or email globalsupport@icann.org with any additional questions.

1.1 IDN Tables

A key component of an Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) service is its IDN tables. IDN tables represent permitted code points, variant code points, and applicable rules allowed for IDN registrations in a top-level domain (TLD) for a particular language or script. All relevant information related to the IDN table must be included within the IDN table itself. IDN tables are reviewed for Security and Stability considerations based on the information included within the IDN table.

1.1.1 IDN Table Review Tool

To provide more transparency and consistency in the review process, ICANN org has developed an [IDN Table Review Tool](#). Those who create and update tables are encouraged to utilize the tool before an IDN Service request is submitted. The tool reviews submitted tables and compares them to available and corresponding language or script reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs).

To streamline the review and approval process, it is encouraged to use this tool and address any issues raised (e.g., identified as ‘Review’ or ‘Manual Check’) prior to the submission. Where applicable, provide rationale for any remaining issues identified within the IDN tables. Please note that such rationale should either be included within the IDN tables as comments (preferred) or be provided as additional information within the submission.

1.1.2 Format

IDN tables should be formatted according to RFC 7940, although older formats (e.g. RFC 3743 and RFC 4290) are acceptable. The use of older formats may require significantly more time for a detailed manual review of scripts that require contextual rules (e.g., Hindi language, Thai language).

Please include the variant labels management information in each IDN table. It can be encoded in the variant type for the RFC 7940 format or added in the description section of the RFC 3743 and RFC 4290 formats.

In addition to the repertoire (e.g., code points), variant code points (as applicable), and rules for code points and labels (as applicable), IDN tables will include:

- Language
- Script
- Language tag: pursuant to the [Language subtag registry](#) based on [RFC 5646](#). Note, subtags may preface script with “und-” where the language is undetermined.
- Version: version number (must be incremented when table is modified).
- Contact details (e.g., registry, email and/or phone number).
- Effective date.

- Explanatory notes, additional references to RFC, Reference LGRs, and any supporting documentation for “Review” or “Manual Check” items identified by the [IDN Table Review Tool](#).

Please review [IANA IDN Repository Procedures](#) for further information and examples.

The following provides an overview of the service requests available within the Naming Services portal.

2. IDN Service: Add, Modify, or Remove

Registry operators can submit an IDN Service request within the [Naming Services portal](#) for one or more of their TLDs. The process is based on the Registry Service Evaluation Policy (RSEP) review process, but uses a new and distinct process to add, modify, or remove an IDN Service from Exhibit A of a Registry Agreement (RA). When a request is approved, ICANN org will provide written approval to the registry operator (e.g., Registry Agreement amendment) and facilitate publication of any required updates to the [IANA IDN Repository](#).



2.1 Request Submission

To submit an IDN Service request, registry operators should log in to the Naming Services portal, select the appropriate IDN Service request type: “add, modify, or remove” (see section 2.1.1. below for examples), and complete the request questionnaire. The IDN Service request questionnaire gathers pertinent information and supporting materials regarding the request, which ICANN org then uses for its review and processing. The questionnaire includes the following:

2.1.1 Select the Type of Request

- *Add an IDN Service*: when the registry operator is not currently approved to offer an IDN service for one or more TLDs.
- *Modify an existing IDN Service*: when the registry operator is modifying an existing IDN service (e.g., adding a language, removing a script, replacing the registry agreement authorization language option).
- *Remove an existing IDN Service*: when the registry operator is removing the IDN service in its entirety.

2.1.2 Provide IDN Tables

- Identify the name of the language or script, the type of table, as well as the version number.
- Attach IDN table files in the formats [listed above](#).
- See additional detail regarding [IDN Tables](#).

2.1.3 Select the Registry Agreement Authorization Language

An IDN service uses standardized language within Exhibit A.

- Requests to Add an IDN service will need to select from the two standardized language options:
 - a. Add an IDN Service and May Activate Variants, or
 - b. Add an IDN Service and Will Block Variants.

- Requests that modify an existing IDN service and replace its Exhibit A language option (with an option above) may have an effect on its IDN tables for a TLD. Please identify any affected IDN tables in the request.

For example, a request will replace the “Will Block Variant” standardized language option with the “May Activate Variant” language option in Exhibit A. The registry operator intends to offer a Arabic language table to reflect the change in availability, as well as impacting its Thai, Belarusian, and Greek tables.”

See [IDN Service](#) requests for the current standardized language available to be used in Exhibit A.

2.1.4 Identify Registry Service Provider Changes (if any)

- Identify if a change of any Registry Service Provider is intended. If so, a Material Subcontracting Arrangement (MSA) request must be submitted. More information is available at [Material Subcontracting Arrangement](#).
- Please note, the MSA change process must be completed before the approved service may be deployed.

2.1.5 Describe Impacts to Current Registrations (if any)

- Identify if there are impacted registrations (e.g., where there is a removal or modification to an existing IDN service).
- If current registrations are affected, a transition plan must be provided. For details, see Transition Plan.

2.1.5.1 Transition Plan

When current registrations are impacted by the removal or modification of an IDN service, ICANN org requires the registry operator to provide a transition plan that demonstrates how a registry operator will address potential security and stability concerns of current registrations. A transition plan must include:

- Overall timeline for the implementation of the requested change.
- List of the IDN tables affected by the change in service and the specific code points, variants, and rules being updated or removed.

- Identification of differences between the IDN tables to be replaced by newer versions for the same IDN languages/scripts, e.g., “The new IDN table for Spanish language does not support the LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH ACUTE (e.g. á, U+00E1).”
- Explanation of the potential scenarios or issues leading to this change, e.g., removal of insecure registrations or removal of unsupported registrations.
- Identification of registered domains affected by this change, including:
 - An explanation of how the registry operator will handle those impacted registrations.
 - The expected implementation completion date.
 - A communication plan to inform affected registrants.

A transition plan should be detailed and include the information to ensure affected registrations are considered and state how Security and Stability will be maintained within the TLD. ICANN org will review the transition plan and may follow up with clarifying questions as needed.

2.1.6 Provide Information on Competition

- ICANN org will evaluate service changes for potential competition issues in accordance with the Registry Service Evaluation Policy (RSEP).

2.1.7 Authorization for Publication of IDN Tables

- Registry operators must authorize ICANN org to facilitate the publication of all approved IDN tables and IDN registration rules in the [IANA Repository of IDN Practices](#).

2.1.8 Provide Signatory Information

- Signatory information is used when a request is approved and ICANN org processes an RA amendment.

2.2 Completeness Check

ICANN org will review the request to ensure the submitted information is complete and then publish it on the [RSEP Process webpage](#) for transparency.

2.3 ICANN Review

ICANN org will proceed to evaluate the proposed service request to determine if significant security, stability, or competition issues need to be raised with the registry operator.

2.4 Determination

ICANN org will inform the registry operator of its determination.

2.5 RA Amendment Execution (if applicable)

ICANN org will initiate the authorization process (e.g., execution of an RA amendment).

2.6 Final Processing

If ICANN org determines that the IDN service request is approved, ICANN org will facilitate the IDN table updates with IANA on the [IANA Repository of IDN Practices](#).