



INTERNATIONALIZED DOMAIN NAMES

Now web domains speak your favorite language

Internationalized domain names will be available through ICANN's New generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program. For the first time, Internet names at every level may also incorporate character sets such as Chinese, Arabic, Cyrillic or any non-Latin alphabet. Imagine the opportunities and benefits for the 70 percent of Internet users around the world who are non-English speakers.

What is a gTLD?

If you've heard of .com, .org or .net, then you know what a top-level domain or TLD is—a domain name extension. When you combine one of these with a second-level name, such as the name of your organization, you see the familiar structure of a Web address - yourorg.com.

What will IDNs change?

Before IDNs were rolled out on a large scale, you might see non-Latin characters only at the second, third or even fourth level. Here is an example of Thai script appearing in the fourth level:

<http:///ไทย.idn.icann.org/>

Through the new gTLD program, IDNs will be more widely available in the top-level name space. This will allow users to register and use domain names based on their local languages and scripts, including those, such as Arabic, that are read right-to-left, as well as non-alphabetic languages, like Mandarin Chinese. Such domain names also could contain Latin characters with diacritical marks, like the accent, cedilla or umlaut, as required by many European languages.

<http://مثال.إختبار>
<http://例子.测试/首页>
<http://пример.испытание>

Learn More:

If you are interested in running a registry and applying for an IDN through the new gTLD program, a comprehensive Applicant Guidebook is available online in six languages, with information on how the process works, how applications will be evaluated, procedures for objections and dispute resolution, and how the new gTLD will be delegated to a successful applicant.

For more information, visit <http://icann.org/newgTLDs> or <http://icann.org/en/topics/idn/>.

About ICANN

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) was formed in 1998 to coordinate the Internet's unique identifiers around the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. It is a not-for-profit, public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.

