International Domain Name Committee

Proceedings Report

Shanghai, China

October, 2002
Members of the IDN Committee

- Vincent Wen-Sung CHEN 陈文生 (TWNIC)
- Mouhamet DIOP (ICANN Address Council Observer, ICANN Director elect)
- Patrik FÄLTSTRÖM (IETF/IESG)
- Qiheng HU 胡启恒 (Internet Society of China)
- Masanobu KATOH 加藤 幹之 (かとう まさのぶ) (Committee Chair, ICANN Director)
- John KLENSIN (Former IAB Chair)
- Sang-Hyon KYONG 경상현 (景商鉉) (ICANN Director)
- Stuart LYNN (ICANN President)
- Elisabeth PORTENEUVE Elżbieta PORTENEUVE (ICANN Names Council)
- Mohd Sharil TARMIZI محمد شحریل ترمیزي (GAC Vice Chair)
- Andrew J McLAUGHLIN

Administrative support was provided by:

- David G THOMPSON
- Andrew J McLAUGHLIN
ICANN IDN Activities Timeline

- March 2001- Creation of ICANN Board IDN Working Group (Melbourne)
- June 2001- IDN Working Group Status Report (Stockholm)
- September 2001- IDN Working Group Final Report (Montevideo)
- September 2001- Creation of IDN Committee (Montevideo)
- June 2002- Final Proceeding Report of IDN Committee (Bucharest)
- June 2002- Extension of IDN Committee until Shanghai (Bucharest)
Key Issues Considered before Bucharest

- IDN.IDN Keywords
- Permissible Code Points
- Non ASCII TLDs
- Registrar Selection Process
- UDRP Review
The Permissible Code Point Issue

• By ‘permissible code point’ issues, we refer to the problems that might arise from the use of certain non-ASCII characters included in the Unicode Standard within IDN domain name labels.

• At present, the DNS host name specifications limit permissible code points in domain name labels to a restricted subset of 7-bit ASCII.

• In addition to the characters of every language that could be identified and standardized by the Unicode Consortium, the Unicode Standard contains several sets of "characters" that do not, in fact, appear in any conventional human language.
The Permissible Code Point Issue (2)

- The IDN Committee has communicated a recommendation to the IETF that it should proceed conservatively, using an "inclusion-based" approach to the definition of "Internationalized Hostnames", so as to leave out – at least temporarily – the sets of potentially problematic characters, most notably:
  - line and symbol-drawing characters;
  - symbols and icons that are neither alphabetic nor ideographic language characters, such as typographical dingbats;
  - punctuation characters; and
  - spacing characters.
- These comments were submitted for IESG review
IETF (IESG) approval of Internet-Drafts, Oct. 24, 2002

- Internationalizing Domain Names In Applications (IDNA)  

- Nameprep: A Stringprep Profile for Internationalized Domain Names  
  <draft-ietf-idn-nameprep-11.txt>

- Punycode: An encoding of Unicode for use with IDNA  
  <draft-ietf-idn-punycode-03.txt>
Issues for Further Consideration

• Permissible Code Point Issue – e.g. CJK (Chinese-Japanese-Korean) issue -- Registration and Administrative Guidelines (?)
• Second-level IDNA Implementation – Need to slow down (?)
• Whether and when to proceed and adopt non-ASCII TLDs – Need to wait and see (?)
• Need dialogue and coordination among registries doing SLD/IDN implementation?
• User Interface Issues (?)
Recommendations

- Public Awareness and Education
- Continue ICANN IDN Committee – (1) to serve as a general coordination body for the work on policy issues, and (2) to advise the Board as needed in the area of IDN