German Script IDN Launch
ä,ö,ü (Umlaut) domains

ICANN IDN Workshop
21 July 2004
Kuala Lumpur
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Overview

- German script IDN registrations in .INFO commenced in the March 2004
  - Registration of umlauts only: ä, ö, and ü
- All registrations on a first come, first served basis
- .INFO IDN names be registered in accordance with IETF IDN standards (ie., Punycode only)
- Afilias maintained a separate list of “IDN registrars” on its website
  - Registrars interested in selling .INFO IDNs contacted the registry, for specialized support
Market Potential

- Germany is the #2 market for .INFO registrations
  - Over 265,000 registrations and 135,000 live, dedicated sites
- There are over 100 million German-speakers worldwide
  - 90% of German businesses are online and 56% of companies have their own Web site
  - It is estimated that in 2004, 62 million Germans will be online (7% of the world’s population)

1) [http://glreach.com/bgc/de/german.php3](http://glreach.com/bgc/de/german.php3)
2) [http://www.glreach.com/globstats/](http://www.glreach.com/globstats/)
Punycode Submissions Only

- Aug 2003 Afilias adopted ICANN IDN guidelines
  - [http://www.icann.org/general/idn-guidelines-20jun03.htm](http://www.icann.org/general/idn-guidelines-20jun03.htm)
  - All .INFO IDNs will be registered in Punycode only ("xn-names")

- Punycode is a simple and efficient transfer encoding syntax
  - Afilias provides an IDN RTK to registrars
  - The RTK allows registrars to submit Punycode format .INFO IDN names
  - Registrars must convert names into Punycode before sending to the Registry
Registrar may accept IDN registrations in their preferred encoding (e.g. UTF-8, ISO 8859-1, etc.) from their customers.

Upon receipt of the IDN registration request, the registrar must process it:

- Convert the submitted request to Unicode codepoints
- Normalize the submitted request based on Nameprep procedures
- Registrars must use the “ToASCII” procedure (provided in your RTK)
- Encode the processed request in Punycode form
- Declare this Punycode name as a German script IDN name
- Verify (using EPP_Check command) that this name is not already registered
- Submit this German-tagged Punycode IDN name to the .INFO Registry for creation (EPP_Create)
Registry will check the following conditions prior to successful creation:

- Is the name in “xn--” format
- Is the name tagged as “German”
- Is the name unique (ie. not exist in registry)
- Does the name contain a valid German script character
- All other normal domain name creation rules apply, such as:
  - Sufficient funds
  - Registrar accredited
  - Registrar account in good standing
Other Registry Considerations

- No extra connections for registrars planned for IDN registrations
- No queue system for registrations planned – first come first serve only (No Sunrise or Landrush)
- Names registered in first 30 days subject to Registry Lock & Server Hold status
- Dispute resolution via UDRP or local jurisdictional authorities
Whois

- IDN Domain name displayed in Punycode, Unicode Hex and Unicode HTML

- Registrars could integrate Unicode HTML output (existenzgründung.info) into their Web applications to display umlauts on web browsers (existenzgründung.info)

Both Port 43 and Web-based Whois will display the same information
IDN Display: Punycode Converter

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Punycode Converter

Use this tool to make conversions to and from the next Punycode IDN domain encoding.

For best results, enter a fully qualified domain name (www.example.info). Remember to include the domain ending when translating from Punycode.

Local Language to Punycode Converter

Note: Currently, only the German script is supported by .INFO.

Punycode: xn--existentgrundung-lmh.info

UTF-8: existenzgrundung.info

Accurate but meaningless

Meaningful but doesn't work in Internet Explorer, Email
Other Issues

**IDN EMAIL**
- Emails in `<ASCII@IDN.INFO>` format should work
- Emails in `<IDN@IDN.INFO>` format will probably not work
- ALL IDN EMAIL FUNCTIONALITY IS UP TO ISPs and other Email service providers

**Zone File**
- All IDN .INFO names will be in Zone File, in ASCII “xn--” format ONLY
- Binary forms of IDNs *may* be made available in a separate report
In order to facilitate Intellectual Property disputes, names registered from start of real-time registrations till 30 days after start of real-time registrations will be placed on REGISTRY LOCK.

ALL fields of names registered in first 30 days will be locked for a further 60 days:
- No updates to contact information or nameservers will be allowed until completion of additional 60 days.
- Allows a “stand-still” period for Intellectual Property disputes to be filed.
What have we learnt? Where do we go?

- IDN implementations are only technology implementations
  - The real challenges are in the intersection of technology with social, political & economic policy
  - IDN is not about geography … perhaps not even about language

- We ran into many temptations to “stray” along the way …
  - Mixed script registrations
  - Unilaterally claiming to “own” a language
  - Non-standard implementations
  - Pre-emptive client software

- Although IDN technology is complex, Afilias’ experience is proof that TLD operators can learn and implement IDNs quickly yet deliberately, flexibly yet in compliance with standards
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Questions?
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