We will start momentarily

Synchronized IDN ccTLDs

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Overall Goal

To enable introduction of a limited number of a certain variant type of IDN ccTLDs, under specified requirements aimed at enabling a good user experience.
Background

- Fast Track Process does not accommodate introduction of variant IDN ccTLDs
  - this is a problem for end-users in some of the “IDN communities”
  - to address the problem, the ICANN Board requested a process for limited introduction of Synchronized IDN ccTLD during Nairobi
    - this does not include a DNS-technical solution
  - more work still needed for the broader solution to accommodate all types of variants TLDs
    - anticipated to include a DNS-technical solution
• Synchronized IDN ccTLDs are defined by situations in Fast Track where:
  – very limited/interim process for IDN ccTLDs
  – more than one official language or script
  – the labels are considered equivalent
  – solve a significant problem for users
  – users expect domains will resolve to the same address or value
  – non-DNS technical, procedural only
What “Synchronized” Means?

• Terminology example:
  – synchronized; convergence; same address or value; and more

• In this context such terminology is:
  – not as a technical requirement of the DNS
  – solely to policy and procedural requirements

  • there is no DNS-technical mechanism by which synchronized IDN ccTLDs will be made to be identical at the DNS protocol level
  • synchronized IDN ccTLDs are provisioned in the DNS root zone as separate delegations
Proposed Implementation Plan

• Published for community feedback
  – extended through 17 April
  – webinars scheduled 15 April 01:00/14:00 UTC
  – clarifying Q&A posted to address concerns raised in the technical community
  – scheduled for Board consideration at 22 April 2010 ICANN Board meeting
• if positive result then the process is expected to be launched shortly following the Board meeting
Proposed Process Overview - 1

1. Complete *Fast Track String Evaluation*

2. Review participation criteria
   - fx: all Fast Track rules must be fulfilled

3. Submit request for Sync IDN ccTLDs
   - through online system
   - includes:
     - Documentation of problem to be solved
     - documentation of convergence procedures, including TLD zone management, registration policy, compliance efforts, reporting mechanisms
Proposed Process Overview - 2

4. Sign required Terms and Conditions

5. Evaluation of received documentation
   - verification of all requirements
   - high threshold; may be reduced later when more experience is achieved

6. Upon successful evaluation:
   - ICANN will publish result
   - requester can initiate String Delegation
     - standard IANA function
Ongoing Work: IDN Variants

- Not a new topic – often relates to confusability
- Increased problem with increased # of chars
  - ASCII: 37/26 chars in domain names
  - IDNs → approx. 100,000 characters available
- Some problems solved in the IDN Guidelines
  - preventing mixing of scripts unless a linguistic need
  - require IDN Tables and public registration rules
- More work on the way defining and testing variant management options, including:
  - IETF DNSEXT work on sameness
  - DNAME, BNAME, Sync IDN ccTLDs
Internationalization of the Internet means that the Internet is equally accessible from all languages and scripts.

Thank You

http://icann.org/en/public-comment/#synch
http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/
http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/