Synchronized IDN ccTLDs

We will start momentarily

Tina Dam
Senior Director, IDNs
tina.dam@icann.org

ICANN Webinar
15 April 2010
01:00 UTC & 14:00 UTC
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 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
Rationale & Intent

- 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
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 \rightarrow 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/