IDN-OSS Project

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• NeuLevel has recognized the need for application plug-ins to realize the benefit of IDN work by any registry
  – Web browsers, email clients, IM, etc.
• Need for a project to implement plug-ins that is
  – Open source, external to NeuLevel
  – Community controlled and developed
  – Standards compliant, not registry-specific
Chartering IDN-OSS

• NeuLevel collaboration with James Seng to begin IDN-OSS
  – Conceived at ICANN Montreal
  – Discussion between Richard Tindal and James Seng
• James Seng wrote business plan, kick-started the project.
• Advisory Council: Vint Cerf, Mark Davis, Martin Dürst, John Klensin, and Paul Hoffman
• Project is hosted by Internet Systems Consortium
IDN Open Source Software Project

• **Goals**
  – Develop open source, standards-compliant software to enable IDN functionality in applications
  – Target web browser initially – Internet Explorer
  – Provides a bridge until IDN functionality is native to applications

• **Timeline**
  – Summer 2003: Project begins
  – Fall 2003: ISC begins hosting project
  – Spring 2004: First IE plug-in released
  – Summer 2004: Internal code improvements
IDN-OSS Products

- **IDNTool**
  - Performs IDNA ToASCII and ToUnicode operations.
  - Useful for developers, domain administrators, etc.
  - Uses JPNIC idnkit library internally

- **Plug-in for Internet Explorer**
  - Allows users to navigate using IDN URLs – by typing into address bar or clicking on links.
  - New name: echIDNA
  - Uses JPNIC idnkit library internally

- **Both products released under BSD License**
IDN-OSS echIDNA Status

• Basic feature - 75% complete
• Planned features:
  – Less Punycode-leakage
  – UI improvements
  – Outlook Express support
  – Outlook support
  – Support for programs that embed the IE browser engine within it, e.g., WinAmp, Windows Media Player
  – Auto update
IDN-OSS What’s Next

• Expect
  – A more stable echIDNA
  – CVS repository
  – Shorter release cycle
  – Outlook & Outlook Express plug-in
  – Web site revamp (section for end users)
Joining the IDN-OSS Effort

• Project is open to all
• Get involved by:
  – Funding the project
  – Testing / patching the software
  – Documentation and translation
  – Feedback / Suggestions
  – Spreading the word
  – Design a Mascot (logo) for echIDNA
Contact details

Project web page: http://idn.isc.org/

Project convener: James Seng <james@seng.cc>

Financial & Legal: Paul Vixie <paul@vix.com>

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THANK YOU!