GNSO IDN work

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Some Wishes

• Existing gTLD operator wishes to introduce an IDN based string that relates to the existing gTLD
• Existing ccTLD operator wishes to introduce an IDN based string that relates to the existing ccTLD
• A party wishes to introduce a new IDN string with no relationship to an existing TLD – essentially a new gTLD
• All new TLDs
Policy Development Process (PDP)

- Request issues report
- Issues Report
- Initiate PDP with terms of reference
  - Public comment
- Preliminary Task Force Report or Initial Report
  - Public comment
- Final Report for Council vote
- Board Report
  - GAC advice to Board
- Board vote
IDN gTLDs - timeline

• Draft Issues Report – available now
• GNSO formed a working group to consider the draft and identify what issues should be considered within the GNSO PDP
• Liaising with ccNSO and GAC
• Issues Report – July 06
• Decision to initiate a PDP – July 06
GNSO Framework

- GNSO working group recommends studying new IDN gTLDs using same framework as used for the new gTLD policy development process
- IDNs highlight some of the complexities around introducing new gTLDs
Selection criteria

• Selection of appropriate IDN strings
• Selection of an appropriate organization to operate a TLD with a particular string
Selection criteria

• What requirements must an organization meet to be allocated an IDN TLD?

• If strings are differentiated with respect to purpose
  – Maybe hard to tell when dealing with different scripts and different languages

• How many strings are appropriate for a particular TLD purpose?

• ccTLDs restricted to ISO3166 table. What IDN strings should be allowed for ccTLDs?

• gTLD operators may be prevented from using an IDN string that could be confused with a country name in a particular script and language
Allocation problems

• How to resolve allocation of a string between two parties that both want a particular string?
• The same string may have different meanings for people in different parts of the world
• Two strings that are technically different may visually look similar
Contractual Conditions

• E.g require an IDN operator to comply with IETF standards as well as ICANN IDN guidelines
Other issues

• For two TLD strings for the same purpose, should the same second level strings in these TLDs resolve to the same Internet location?
• Should the script used in a string at the second level match the script used in the string at the top level?
• Should there be competition between two operators of strings for the same purpose?
• UDRP becomes more complex for trademark dispute resolution when add additional scripts
• Scope for confusing the human user increases, which leads to additional opportunities for phishing, SPAM etc
Next steps for GNSO

• Update issues report
• Identify scope of policy work within the GNSO
• Clearly identify policy work that will be done elsewhere – e.g within the ccNSO or GAC