

String Confusion Notes

GNSO Consensus Policy Recommendations

Final Report August 2007 (http://gns0.icann.org/en/issues/new-gtlds/pdp-dec05-fr-part-08aug07.htm#_Toc43798015) – Approved by GNSO September 6, 2007

1. **Recommendation 1:** ICANN must implement a process that allows the introduction of new top-level domains. The evaluation and selection procedure for new gTLD registries should respect the principles of fairness, transparency and non-discrimination. All applicants for a new gTLD registry should therefore be evaluated against transparent and predictable criteria, fully available to the applicants prior to the initiation of the process. Normally, therefore, no subsequent additional selection criteria should be used in the selection process.
2. **Recommendation 2:** Strings must not be confusingly similar to an existing top-level domain or a Reserved Name.
3. **Recommendation 9:** There must be a clear and pre-published application process using objective and measurable criteria.

Objector Prevailed

1. .sport v .sports
2. .com v .cam (against United Holdings)
3. .com v .ecom
4. .shop (ASCII) v .通販 (online shopping in Chinese)
5. .tour v .tours

Applicant Prevailed

1. .immo v .immobilien
2. .hotel v .hoteles
3. .hotel v hoteis
4. Post v. epost
5. Net v. new
6. .Com v .bom
7. .Net v .nec
8. .Net v .pet (Afilias)
9. .Net v .pet (Charleston Rd)
10. .com v .cam (AC Webconnecting Holding B.V.)
11. .com v .cam (Dot Agency Ltd)
12. .Com v .company
13. .Car v .cars (Koko Castle)
14. .net v .vet
15. .hotel v .hotels
16. .Biz v .gbiz

17. .Tv v .tvs
18. .Tv v .itv
19. .shop v (.购物 - .shop in Chinese)
20. .Shop v .buy
21. .shop v .ecom (Ecommerce Inc.)
22. .shop v .一号店 (numberonestore Chinese)
23. .shop v .sale
24. .Merck v .Emerck
25. .me v .meme

Withdrawn

6 withdrawn or Default

Not decided Yet

31 still left

Anomalies

1. *Same String-Different Results* – 2 com/cam in favor of applicants; 1 in favor of objector (resulting in the 1 application being ineligible for contention while 2 others are)
2. *Plurals* – 2 plural cases in favor of Objector (Tour/Tours & Sport/Sports); 3 in favor of Applicant (hotel/hotels, tv/tvs & car/cars)
3. *IDN Anomaly- Exact Translation of IDN found to not be confusing, but non-exact translations ARE confusing????*
 - a. shop (ASCII) v 通販 (online shopping in Chinese) in favor of Objector
 - b. shop v .购物 (.shop in Chinese)
 - c. shop v 一号店 (numberonestore Chinese)
4. *One letter difference?*
 - a. Com v. ecom in favor of objector
 - b. Post v. epost in favor of applicant
 - c. Biz v. gbiz in favor of applicant
 - d. Merck v. EMerck in favor of applicant
5. Still to come include:
 - a. The second car v cars
 - b. Home v. Homes
 - c. Game v. Games
 - d. 2 Web v. Webs cases
 - e. 3 Mobi v Mobile cases
 - f. Pet v. Pets
 - g. .shop v shopping, etc.

Quote from Akram Atallah in DomainIncite.com (<http://domainincite.com/14208-interview-atallah-on-new-gtld-objection-losers>)

“If we do get a case where we have a situation where a singular and a plural string — or any two strings actually — are found to be similar, the best outcome might be to go back to the GNSO or to the community and get their read on that,” he said. “That might be what the board might request us to do.”