



IDN

3-Character Requirement and Variant Management

25 June 2009

3-Character Requirement for an IDN gTLD

- Practice & RFC 1591 currently requires that all two character codes be interpreted as ISO 3166-1 country codes and reserved for ccTLD use
- Many languages exist where meaningful words can be represented in less than three characters, which would pose a restriction for IDN gTLDs under current rules
- Objective: determine a set of rules (an exception) so that gTLD strings of less than three characters can be registered in some cases, without interfering with the rules reserving two-character codes as specified in RFC 1591

Variant Characters and TLDs

- Variant characters occur where a single character has two or more representations, which may or may not look visually similar
- Variant TLDs are those which contain one or more characters that have variant characters
- Allowing variant TLDs may result in user confusion, while excluding them may 'disenfranchise' cultures that use the characters in the excluded TLD strings

Objectives for Addressing both Issues

- Staff to form a working team, with appropriate linguistic expertise and technical support to engage with relevant language communities to:
 - ↕ Develop recommendations to address the three-character requirement and management of variants in TLDs described earlier
 - ↕ Report back with recommendations to Board and community in time for the Seoul meeting

Working Team Charter: Handling IDN TLD Variants

- Develop definition of variants as used in IDNs, i.e., what does “variant” mean as used in IDN tables (for gTLDs and ccTLDs)
- Determine whether blocking or reservation of variant TLDs is necessary to prevent user confusion
- When delegated, the user experience when using variant TLDs must be at least as good as when using TLDs without variants.
 - Determine under what circumstances TLD variants might be delegated
 - Determine responsibilities of TLD operator to whom TLD and variant(s) might be delegated