

# Internationalized Domain Names

-prepared for the At-Large Summit

Tina Dam

Director, IDN Program

Bart Boswinkel

Senior Policy Advisor, ccNSO

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# Agenda

- What is IDNs
- Where are we and where are we going
  - Two IDN TLD allocation processes
- IDNA protocol providing technical requirements
  - the very basic level of IDNs
- IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process
  - What is it and how did this start?
  - How does the process work?
  - Special Fast Track topics for this week:
    - Documentation of Responsibility (DoR), Financial Contributions & IDN Tables and Variants

# IDN Definitions

- Internationalized domain names are:
  - Names with characters other than the standard ASCII (a,b,...z), (0,1,...9), (-)
- Example:  
ñandú.cl → xn--and-6ma2c.cl
- IDNs are about localized solutions
  - But need to be ‘internationalized’ due to the global nature of the Internet

**Internationalization of the internet means  
that the internet is equally accessible from  
all languages and scripts**

# What we have / what we need

- IDNs have existed as second level since 2003
  - under web protocol standards (under revision)
  - email protocol standards are underway (IETF)
- We also need IDN TLDs
  - 北京.中国; [xn--1lq9oi. xn--fiqs8s]

Domain Availability Today



ASCII domain names (a, b,...,z), (0,1,...,9), (-)	domainname.TLD icann.org
IDN second level	실레.TLD -under various existing TLDs
IDN TLDs	실레. 테스트

Future Addition



# IDN TLD Processes

## Implementation of Country-code IDN TLDs – Fast Track

- implementation of recommendations of IDNC WG

Issues not addressed by IDNC WG:

- relationship between ICANN and IDN ccTLD manager
- financial contribution by IDN TLD managers
- review of technical requirements for IDN ccTLDs

## Country-code IDN TLDs – Long Term

- Full policy that caters for all
- Follows the full ccNSO Policy Development Process

## New Generic TLDs

- New ongoing policy for new gTLDs
- Includes internationalized domains
- Focus on non-ASCII squatting & confusingly similarity solutions

# IDNA Protocol Revision (IETF)

- IDNA provides technical requirement for IDN strings:
  - must be a valid IDN specified in technical standards <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/rfcs.htm>.
- Technical requirement is the same
  - IDN ccTLDs top and second level
  - IDN gTLDs top and second level
- Main positive revision results are:
  - Unicode version independent
  - Fixing problems with right-to-left script strings

# IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

- Introduction of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs
  - associated with the ISO3166-1 list
  - meeting near term demand for ready territories /countries
  - preserve stability of the DNS
  - not based on characters from the Latin script
  - Current Delegation practices for ccTLDs
- Revised Draft Implementation Plan released
  - Including two topic papers (DoR and IDN Tables)
  - Including staff considerations on received comments
  - Public comment period open through 6 April 2009
- Report published over interest received from ccTLD managers and relevant public authorities



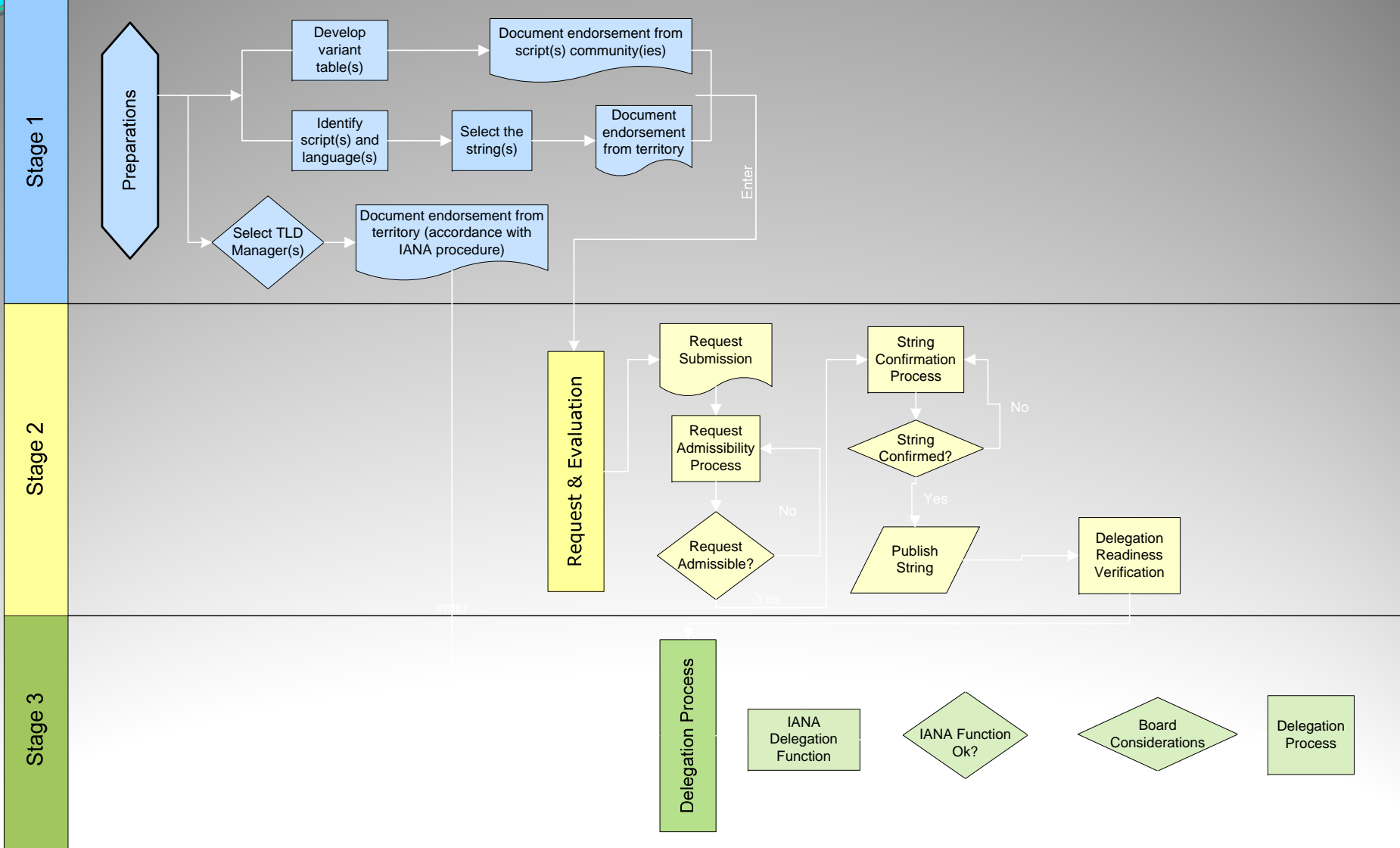
# Draft Implementation Plan

- Requested by the ICANN Board at the Paris meeting:
  - *Resolved (2008.06.26.05)...submit a detailed implementation report including a list of any outstanding issues to the Board in advance of the ICANN Cairo meeting in November 2008*
- Based on the recommendations provided by the IDNC WG Final Report
  - and on received public comments on this report
- Incl. elements not part of the recommendations from the IDNC WG
  - Decisions needed for the process to be implemented in a sustainable way

# Draft Implementation Plan Modules

- The draft plan is presented in modules to be detailed and finalized:
  - M1: General Introduction and Background Info
  - M2: Fast Track Eligibility Requirements
  - M3: TLD String Criteria and Requirements
  - M4: Technical Committee Considerations
  - M5: Fast Track Request and Evaluation Process
  - M6: TLD Delegation Process
  - M7: Discussion of Additional Topics

# IDN Fast Track Implementation Process



# Key Issues w/ Fast Track Process

- Presented in Module 7 and topic papers
- Lightweight agreement to
  - Ensure compliance with IDN technical standards
  - Document roles and responsibilities
  - Proposed as requirement
- Financial contribution discussion
  - Principle of required ongoing contribution
  - Fair and equitable share of costs
  - Different models
  - Further discussion needed
- Development of IDN Tables and variant management
- Prevention of contention w/existing & applied-for TLDs
- IDN ccTLD operator association to ICANN community

# Documentation of Responsibility

- Proposed standard arrangement between prospective IDN ccTLD managers and ICANN
- Draft DoR posted for public comments, based on:
  - the existing ccTLD Framework
  - compliance with provisions for technical aspects
    - IDNA protocol
    - IDN Guidelines
  - Received comment of previous Draft Impl. Plan
    - Broad variety for and against a required arrangement
- A separate paper posted for public comments

# Financial Model

- Received comments so far are split between
  - Cost-recovery (like gTLD Program)
  - No fees (like existing ccTLDs)
- Comparable activities aim at fair/equitable cost recovery
- ICANN standpoint:
  - new situation different from existing TLDs
  - requires some cost-recovery from the IDN TLD managers
- Additional details in Module 7
  - Requesting feedback on fee components and level

# IDN Tables & Variants

- IDN Tables inform users and reduce confusion
  - based on a language, script, or sets thereof
  - a registry can use more than one table
- Proposal urge coord. across language communities
- ICANN usage of tables at top level:
  - Variant strings are either delegated or blocked
    - Due to linguistic usage of scripts within country/territory
    - Matching current second level policies and procedures
  - RFI reply analysis shows @7 variant strings allocated
- A separate paper posted for comments

# Preventing Contention

- Prevention of contention between
  - Fast Track requested IDN ccTLD strings
  - Existing TLD strings
  - Proposed strings in new gTLD applications
- Proposed rule:
  - A gTLD application approved by the ICANN Board & a validated IDN ccTLD string is considered “existing TLD”
    - any other later application for the same string will be denied
    - Validated = meaningfulness confirmed, technical check passed
  - if contention is identified: new gTLD application is placed on hold, the IDN ccTLD request prevails (if passing validation)
  - if both parties have government assent, both applications is placed on hold until contention is resolved between them



# More IDN Material and Information:

<http://icann.org/topics/idn>

IDN Sessions this week in Mexico are mixed within:

- Sunday 16.00- :IDN basic introduction
- Joint SO/AC meeting Monday afternoon
- Constituency meetings
- GAC meeting
- ccNSO meeting
- gTLD sessions
- Monday, 11-12.30: IDN issues ahead