Acceptance of IDN TLDs:
Proposed Recommendations for ICANN Actions

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16:00-17:00

Background of the JIG

- JIG (**Joint ccNSO-GNSO IDN Working Group**)
- Charter adopted by both the ccNSO and GNSO Councils:
  - http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/jiwg.htm
- The purpose of the JIG is to identify and explore issues and topics of common interest of relevance to both the ccNSO and GNSO and report on such an identified issues to the respective Councils and propose methodologies to address the issues

JIG Discussions

- Bi-Weekly Conference Calls (since March 2010)
  - Changed to Monthly Calls (since Prague: June 2012)
- Issues of Common Interest identified:
  1. Single Character IDN TLDs
  2. IDN TLD Variants
  3. Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs
- Face to face meetings
  - Brussels / Cartagena / San Francisco / Singapore / Dakar / Costa Rica / Prague / Toronto
  - Workshop on Single Character IDN TLD at Cartagena

Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs

Initial Report Published Jan 6, 2012

Stocktaking and Paper to Stimulate Discussions

Public Comment Period Completed

Draft Final Report being Published for Public Comments

Background & Related Works

- Introduction of New gTLDs longer than 3 characters in 2000 (and 2004)

- Introduction of IDN ccTLD Fast Track in 2010

- August 2003: SSAC Report
  - Support Of New Top-Level Domains By Internet Infrastructure Operators And Application Providers
  - http://forum.icann.org/mtg-cmts/stld-rfp-comments/general/doc00004.doc

SSAC Recommendations (2003):

1. ICANN should develop an advisory regarding support for new TLDs and GNSO constituencies should publicise this advisory.

2. Recommend that the IAB consider issuing an informational RFC advising of the issue.

3. Internet infrastructure providers should test the capability of the software to support new TLDs.

4. Internet software application developers should review and upgrade their software.

5. A central repository of known commonly used software that has compatibility problems.

6. ICANN should examine compatibility problems with the introduction of new TLDs in 2001 as a topic in its Proof of Concept study.

Background & Related Works

- Mozilla
  - Since 2006: better user experience of domain utilization on the browser for grouping, anticipating, analysing and sorting domain names and cookies
    https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=342314
  - Public Suffix List project (http://publicsuffix.org/)
- Wikipedia
  - Since 2004:
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains

Background & Related Works

- Mozilla IDN-Enabled TLD list project
  - http://www.mozilla.org/projects/security/tld-idn-policy-list.html
  - Mar 2005: https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=286534
  - as a response to concerns of homographic attacks such as phishing names utilizing IDNs
- Other Relevant Developments
  - ICANN IDN Guidelines: http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/implementation-guidelines.htm
  - W3C Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRI): http://www.w3.org/International/articles/idn-and-iri/
  - Internationalized Email Addresses (EAI): http://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/eai/charter/

Background & Related Works

- Unique Authoritative Root
  - IAB: Technical Comment on the Unique DNS Root RFC 2826: http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2826
  - ICANN: ICP3: A Unique, Authoritative Root for the DNS http://www.icann.org/en/icp/icp-3.htm
- JIG Discussion and Public Comments
  - Single Character IDN TLDs
  - IDN TLD Variants
- VIP Study Team Reports & User Experience Report

Areas of Policy and Coordination

1. Are there policy aspects to be considered and/or policies to be implemented at ICANN?

2. Which organizations should ICANN work with on the issue and how should ICANN identify such

3. Which areas should ICANN focus its efforts and exert its influence on?

4. What types of work should ICANN and the ICANN community place its efforts and priorities on?

Public Comments

- Initial Report on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs
  - http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/universal-acceptance-idn-tlds-06jan12-en.htm
  - Opened 6 January 2012
  - Closed 13 April 2012
- Report on Comments recevied:
  - http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/report-comments-universal-acceptance-idn-tlds-23may12-en.pdf

Proposed Recommendations

A. Recommend IDN TLD operators (including IDN ccTLD, IDN gTLD and IDN gTLD Accredited Registrars) to support **Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs in their own systems**

B. Allocate **specific resources for the advocacy** of Universal Acceptance beyond the development of informational materials and toolkits

C. Development of **informative reference materials for new IDN TLDs** (including gTLD and ccTLD) to handle issues of Universal Acceptance

D. Direct efforts, lead by staff, with the participation from the community, for further studies to investigate the scope of the issue and what other services or actions could be taken by **ICANN to support the Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs beyond outreach and awareness campaigns**

Get Our Own Act Together

Recommendation A

Recommendation A

- Recommend IDN TLD operators (including IDN ccTLD, IDN gTLD and IDN gTLD Accredited Registrars) to support Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs in their own systems
  - IDN gTLDs and IDN ccTLDs
  - IDN gTLD Accredited Registrars
  - Name servers, email addresses, etc.
- Proposed Implementation:
  - Updating of ICANN IDN Guidelines

Identify as a Strategic Initiative for ICANN

Recommendation B

Recommendation B

- Allocate specific resources for the advocacy of Universal Acceptance beyond the development of informational materials and toolkits
  - a critical factor to foster and ensure competion, consumer trust and choice in the DNS marketplace
  - Common interest between gTLDs & ccTLDs
- Proposed Implementation:
  - ICANN board and staff to take into consideration and identify as an item in budget & strategic plan

Support for New IDN TLDs

Recommendation C

Recommendation C

- Development of informative reference materials for new IDN TLDs (including gTLD and ccTLD) to handle issues of Universal Acceptance
  - draw on and consolidate the experience from earlier launches of TLDs (including gTLDs and ccTLDs) to produce a set of informative reference materials to assist new TLD operators
- Proposed Implementation:
  - Work through Staff Universal TLD Acceptance Team

Beyond Outreach & Awareness

Recommendation D

Recommendation D

- Direct efforts, lead by staff, with the participation from the community, for further studies to investigate the scope of the issue and what other services or actions could be taken by ICANN to support the Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs beyond outreach and awareness campaigns
  - Engaging with community beyond ICANN
  - Establishing Liaisons with emerging industry standards
  - Consider additional services (e.g. 2LDs under TLD)
  - Proactive Advocacy & Surveys
- Proposed Implementation
  - Through ICANN staff team with support from community

Next Steps

- Completion of final report
  - Public Comments: After Beijing (Apr 2013)
  - Finalization of report: June 2013
  - Presentation to respective councils: Durban (Jul 2013)

- JIG members expressed preparedness to support staff through the implementation

Thank You

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