
Implementation Status: Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN57 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The implementation review team is hosting a face-to-face on 8 Nov, 15:15 – 16:15 to discuss its work in relation to the translation and transliteration of contact information recommendations.

CURRENT STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

The ICANN Board **adopted** the recommendations of the PDP Working Group in September 2015. The Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information (T/T) Implementation Review Team (IRT) continues to engage in discussions around language and script tags, which appear to be a central requirement to meet the standards set by the T/T Working Group’s recommendations. Discussions around potential policy language pertaining to these tags will be subject of upcoming IRT calls.

The implementation was put on hold in September 2016 while ICANN’s Global Domains Division team and the IRT for the “Thick WHOIS: Consistent Labeling and Display” project discussed a Request for Reconsideration regarding the inclusion of the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) as a requirement in the Consistent Labeling and Display policy. In order to be implemented, the T/T Working Group’s recommendations require RDAP (or similar system) that can accept, store, and display non-ASCII characters. The Global Domains Division is working to keep the T/T project synced with the development of RDAP given their inter-relationship.

FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

In its Final Report, the Working Group does not recommend to mandate the translation/ transliteration of contact information data. Instead, the Group recommends that registrants are able to submit contact data in any language/ script supported by their registrar; ideally the registrant’s native one. The Group expressed in its Final Report that data submitted in a script native to the registrant is most likely to be accurate and that the costs of translating and/or transliterating all Contact Information data would be disproportionate to any potential benefits.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The Implementation Review Team (IRT) is usually composed of members of the Working Group, however, newcomers to this issue are also free to join.

MORE INFORMATION

- Final Report: [gnso.ICANN.org/en/issues/gtlds/translation-transliteration-contact-final-12jun15.pdf](https://www.gnso.icann.org/en/issues/gtlds/translation-transliteration-contact-final-12jun15.pdf)
- Public Comment Forum: [ICANN.org/public-comments/transliteration](https://www.icann.org/public-comments/transliteration)
- ICANN Board adopting the recommendations contained in the Final Report: [ICANN.org/resources/board-material/resolutions](https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions)

BACKGROUND

The continued internationalization of the domain name system (DNS) means registrations from registrants unfamiliar with Latin script are increasing. In October 2012 the GNSO Council requested an Issue Report to address whether it is desirable to translate or transliterate¹ contact information² into one common language or script. In December 2013 a GNSO PDP Working Group (WG) was formed to provide an answer to this question as well as to who would carry the financial burden if mandatory translation or transliteration of contact information were recommended.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Brian Aitchison

¹ 'Translation' is defined as the translation of a text into another language whereas 'transliteration' is the writing of a word using the closest corresponding letters of a different alphabet.

² Contact information¹ is a subset of Domain Name Registration Data and thus the information that enables someone using a Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service (such as WHOIS) to contact the domain name registration holder.