
Implementation Status: Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN58 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Implementation Review Team (IRT) is hosting a face-to-face session on Wednesday, 15 March (Day 5) at 9:00-10:00 to discuss its work in relation to the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information (T/T) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG)'s recommendations.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

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 transliterate contact information into one common language or script. In December 2013, the GNSO T/T PDP Working Group (WG) was formed to provide an answer to this question as well as to who would carry the burden if mandatory translation or transliteration of contact information were recommended.

In its Final Report, the PDP WG does not recommend to mandate the translation or transliteration of contact information data. Instead, the WG recommends that registrants are able to submit contact data in any language and script supported by their registrar; ideally the registrant's native one. The WG expressed in its Final Report that data submitted in a script and language 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.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT AND WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The ICANN Board [adopted](#) the recommendations of the PDP Working Group in September 2015.

As of February 2017, the IRT has been engaged in discussions around language and script tags for data entered into registration directory services. The team is discussing the necessity of such tags, and how to gather data to provision language and script information for those tags should they be deemed a necessity in terms of implementing the T/T PDP WG's recommendations. Discussions around potential policy language pertaining to these tags will be the subject of upcoming IRT meetings.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The IRT is composed of members of the PDP Working Group. Newcomers and interested parties are welcome to join as observers. Send an email indicating your interest to the GNSO Secretariat at gnso-secs@ICANN.org.

MORE INFORMATION

- PDP WG Final Report: goo.gl/MgZ42S
- ICANN Board adopting the recommendations contained in the PDP WG Final Report: icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2015-09-28

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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 information’ 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.