

**JIG
TRANSCRIPTION
Tuesday 12 June 2012 at 1330 UTC**

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On page:<http://gnso.icann.org/calendar#jun>
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Attendees:

Jian Zhang, APTLD, Co-Chair
Chris Dillon
Daniel Kalchev
Mirjana Tasic
Sarmad Hussein

ICANN Staff:

Nadia Sokolova
Dennis Jennings
Bart Boswinkel
Nathalie Peregrine

Apologies:

Jonathan Shea
Fahd Batayneh, .jo
Rafik Dammak, NCSG
Avri Doria, NCSG (Observer)
Minjung Park

Nathalie Peregrine: Thank you very much Tonya. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening this is the JIG call on the 12th of June, 2012. On the call today we have Sarmad Hussein, Mirjana Tasic, Daniel Kalchev, Chris Dillon. From staff we have Nadia Sovokova, Bart Boswinkel, Dennis Jennings and myself
Nathalie Peregrine.

And we have an apology from Avri who will make it for the last 30 minutes of the call. Other apologies include Minjung Park, Jonathan Shea, Fahd Batayneh and Rafik Dammak.

I would like to remind you all, to please state your names before speaking for transcription purposes. Thank you very much and over to you.

Bart Boswinkel: Thank you Nathalie. As the proposed agenda I suggest -- and this is Bart speaking -- that Dennis will provide a brief update from the VIP project and what will happen in Prague and we go into Universal Acceptance in the presentation from (Nadia). If you agree, then over to you Dennis.

Dennis Jennings: Thank you very much indeed Bart -- Dennis Jennings here. We're actually going to be meeting later in the week to plan Prague in a little more detail. But at the moment our key meeting is scheduled for Thursday, the 28th of June at 11 o'clock when we have an update session in Room Congress 3 when you will be telling - giving people an update on the - on the program.

In addition, we've invited the various advisory groups and policy groups to or suggested to them that they might invite us to give a short presentation if that's of interest.

And at this time we have -- I understand a presentation scheduled to ALAC at 16:20 on Sunday the 24th and a presentation for the GAC on Tuesday the 26th of June at 11:30 in the morning.

We also have a Board Variant working group at the meeting on Wednesday morning which is a closed meeting. The Board Variant working group oversees the work of the IDN, the variant program.

Our goals for the -- and our objectives I suppose for Prague are to launch the program. As you will remember there's been at the first the program for public

comment and then revised based on - on - on the comments we received and we published.

So we're hoping to launch the program, provide an issued feedback on the public comments that we have received. We hope to announce the team and the experts that we have recruited to assist in the various projects.

We hope to launch the call for community participation and to announce the limited funding that will be available. It may not be enough to cover everybody who wants to participate, but there will be some funding to fund community member participation in various meetings.

And we'll be presenting the overall plan and timeline to the community and hoping to get feedback. We should get more detail the sooner at a very high level about when we hope to have the community experts recruited when we hope to have meetings in Marina Del Ray and other places.

So a fairly packed program and we have only an hour on the Thursday, so it's going to be a busy schedule - busy meeting. We're perfectly happy to meeting with other - other groups during the week and that's an open invitation to people to invite us if they want. Thanks for your time.

((Crosstalk))

Bart Boswinkel: From my understanding -- and this is Bart again -- from previous call that part of the (JIG) meeting - the (JIG) meeting is scheduled on Monday afternoon. I don't know the precise time but I believe that some people from the say ICANN staff will be present at the meeting to discuss possible cooperation.

Dennis Jennings: Absolutely -- Dennis here -- and I don't have that in my diary because I don't have a time yet. But as soon as I find it I'll put it in my ti- my diary and try and make sure that I am there.

Bart Boswinkel: What I'll do is after the meeting I'll send say an email just to confirm for the GCOR members the venue and time. And because I know it's on the schedule and as you had subscribed in the list you'll see it in advance.

Dennis Jennings: Thank you very much indeed.

Bart Boswinkel: Okay, thank you. Okay, thank you for your update. (Nygel), over to you on Universal Acceptance. Thank you for sending the presentation.

(Nygel): Sure Bart, thank you. First of all thank you for the opportunity. I think Universal Acceptance of all TLD's as an effort within ICANN is relevant to the -- what GCOR is working on because it covers IDN's as well as ASCE TLD's.

So I would like to -- the presentation that I sent earlier -- I would like to go through just an overview of the project and then maybe have a discussion. So if you have the presentation handy, I'll just go through slide by slide.

What is Universal Acceptance? The Universal Acceptance - the part of it that we are looking at is talking about the acceptance issues that are presented by the software use on the internet which restricts usage of certain domains because of the either hard coded restrictions or some other additional criteria which basically counts the number of characters that are present in the TLD.

And that's if the characters are -- if there are more than two or three characters regards that TLD as invalid, we are not talking in this project. We're not talking about policy. We did not discuss if there are certain policies in place in organizations or countries.

We choose to restrict certain domains. We are not covering that area. The acceptability issues that we are talking about for example, issues as in certain software program.

When you type a URL without the URL prefix like http, typically if it's a dot.com - if it's a dot.com link or some other common TLD, it's usually translates the link into a URL.

But in the situation with the IDN's or the most recent three character gTLD it looks like even if you do type the http, the URL prefix, it does not read the submitted URL as - as an actual link as opposed to some other common TL-ccTLD's or gTLD's that have been introduced to them into the internet a long time ago.

The same issue that we just observed was with the Google Chrome. When you type in the URL field you type in the newly delegated ccTLD which is only two characters long ASCE TLD in this case.

The search engine does not recognize it and it goes back to the search, give the search results. And it gives several options and then it suggests that maybe you actually meant to go to URL which is exactly what we are trying to do.

Additionally, an example of acceptability issues is when you go to certain applications and you are being presented with a form which has only a limited number of TLD's as they think are valid and logic that is used for presenting only those TLD's is unknown basically.

If you look at the -- another example they have about 10 - 15 TLD's listed here on a form while we have more than 300 currently in the root. So there are several examples of causes that we are looking at improper logic in software for checking valid domains which is what I touched on earlier.

We were talking about either hard coding lists and then not updating it regularly or relying on just a lens parameter. So saying that valid TLD is only two or three characters long which has not been the case for the past almost decade.

In regards to IDN there is a lack of IDN's support or either usage of the older IDN unit protocol. Some users and some developers use old software that is not upgraded, so in certain cases simply upgrading software may help resolve the issue.

It is possible that some issues are caused by public suffix list maintained by Mozilla and the list that they provide is also - it's a hard coded -- well, it's not a hard coded but it's a - it's a list of domains which implies that unless you provide your domain so domain is added to the list whoever's using that list may look at any other domains as invalid.

Some of the examples of hard coded list that we've observed include domains that have not been valid. They have been taken out of the root for years now and they also include some domains that were never delegated in the root in the first place.

So again the logic that is used when software's being written is we don't know on what authoritative data they're relying here. Example of stream winds check, there is a regular expression formula that is used in order to locate email addresses. And again the logic that is used here relies on the length of the TLD and it implies that - that TLD is either two or four characters long.

So wh- how does one Universal Accept domains? We -- there is certain suggestions and information that we provide and the question is, do you need to check domain validity?

If there is no need to check domain validity, there's no need to do that. And it may remove restrictions that are artificially imposed by the additional check in prior to sending the DNS query.

If you have an online application and you have access to the internet, direct DNS query will provide valid result. And if for example there are situations

when internet connection is not always available. There is a way to use the fixed space of TLD's but software developers need to be sure that the TLD at least is updated regularly.

When talking about IDN's we hope that there is information out there that people understand that there are multiple representations to solve the same domain.

And in certain scripts the URL is presented by writing right to left like Arabic and we're talking about the specifics not only in the domain name but in email addresses and web addresses and etc.

And here is an example which you all know about the multiple representations for the IDN in the U label and A label. Now we have a brief overview of the work that was done so far. And it includes asset accommodations and ID informational RST that were done in 2003 and 2004.

As a result of those activities ICANN created a discussion forum where users were able to provide their feedback on the acceptability issues that they were experiencing at that time.

And that mostly related to the gTLD's, ASCE gTLD's that were introduced. We also put together a dedicated webpage where we provide general information as well as recommendations on what can be done in cases of acceptability issues.

We put together a TLD verification tool and we posted it on get hub, so this is -- the libraries that we have available are published under open source license and anyone interested can go in and just use this library as a base for whatever you need to be doing.

But the TLD verification tool that we are suggesting to use is using the logics that basically will ensure that there are no constraints in validating TLD's. We

are also working on technical recommendations and updating the tool that we have.

GCOR, you guys put together the reports which was very helpful and informative. We also conducted consultations with current TLD registry operators including IDN's, ccTLD's and gTLD's.

Based on the results of those consultations we also organized a roundtable discussion in Costa Rica where we invited different experts from ASCE gTLD's and IDN ccTLD's and we collected their feedback input and they shared their experience with the issues they've encountered.

So based on all that information we are currently working on an outreach campaign as we realized that more information is to be available and more education is to be done out there in order to help raise awareness about acceptability issues.

We are also working on updating the TLD verification libraries and possibly writing a couple more in other languages. And we're continuing our work in informational and educational materials.

We are also looking into organizing presentations during Prague. And so far we have confirmation from ALAC and CCNSO and we will have - we will be sharing information at their sessions on Sunday at the ALAC session and then on a Tuesday at CCNSO sessions. So please check the schedule if you're interested in listening in, attending or providing your input.

The suggestions that we have for everyone especially software developers or online businesses is to ensure that they're software properly supports old domains.

So if we're talking about IDN's there has to be IDN supports in the software. If we're talking about ASCE TLD's, there has to be support for that. If someone

of is aware that there is an application that is not validating domains or using outdated logic, it is - we suggest - we -- it would be great if everyone can inform and share information on what can be done and how it can be improved.

So if you're aware of that, there is a software dev- software somewhere that is saying that there's ten valid TLD's instead of 300 plus. So go ahead reach out to them and tell them that - that is information is largely outdated.

If you have any suggestions or feedback or you have some different ideas of what you think needs to be done on this topic, please contact us at tld-acceptance@icann.org. So thank you and if you have any questions or Bart how would like to guide for the discussion here?

Bart Boswinkel: Yes, excuse me -- I think the first phase, are there any members of the GCOR who have questions for (Nygel)? No, then (Nygel) I have one question maybe.

You referred to the GCOR report -- I'll say the GCOR interim report and as you may have noted in the GCOR report a couple of issues or a set of issues was identified.

And if you look at say the - the -- that at what your team is doing, do you see any issues that are addressed by the - by the team - the issues identified by the GCOR?

(Nygel): Yes, I think the reports - report that was put together had several - several suggestions, good suggestions and recommendations. And for example there was in part - part three or four - there was a recommendation on budget consideration for the - for the Universal Acceptance of IDN TLD that's stated in the report.

So we submitted a proposal for FY'13 budget to include some funds for this project in order to ensure Universal Acceptance and that we are working on raising awareness, so that was done.

There were some areas that were identified in the reports as the areas where ICANN should focus its efforts and the types of organization that ICANN should be working with.

So out of those groups I think that the organizations were not - not too many examples if I may say were presented. The organizations were swayed into cer- they were swayed into groups by industry, organization, regional organizations and IT related organizations.

And so I think that was helpful as it stated the types of organizations that ICANN should be working with and so we are reaching out to various organizations and looking into cooperation with them and spread information.

So that was helpful and I think one of the additional thoughts would be if there are considerations in continue working on this or how we can work together, it would be very helpful especially when talking about geographic regions identifying organizations which if ICANN were to reach out to them, would make a difference in - in achieving our goal.

So there was also a section on saying what type of work ICANN and communities should do exactly and any insight and suggestions from GCOR would be very welcomed on this.

Because the general information that was provided was insightful however it did not quite provide the detailed foundation or the exact -- enough information that if you were to say that ICANN should be doing that, then probably I'd say that it has to do be a little bit more specific.

Also, talking about collaboration and, you know, trying to look into what it is that we can do together as there are certain areas and in particular talking about IDN, ccTLD's and IDN gTLD's that will be coming in the near future.

So there has to be some work and collaborative work that needs to be done in making sure that we are working on decreasing acceptability issues and so the IDN area is mutual interest for - for GCOR and ICANN obviously.

So if there are any suggestions on the event or certain organizations that GCOR thinks that ICANN should be reaching out to, that would be very helpful. So I don't know Bart if that answers the question.

Bart Boswinkel: Okay, it does answer and maybe this is a suggestion for the Prague meeting, say one of the major items for the GCOR will face in - in - in Prague is obviously the IDN variant topic.

But the second one is -- because that's on the agenda as well is Universal Acceptance -- is somebody from staff could attend this and that we go into more detail of say, of this -- into the areas you just identified to see how the GCOR and the - the ICANN staff team can reinforce each other.

(Nygel): Yes.

Bart Boswinkel: So I think this says -- your presentation provides an overview of your focus area but especially where it is overlapped. And - and to identify the policy issues so the GCOR can focus on that. I think that would be very helpful.

(Nygel): Okay.

Bart Boswinkel: Any suggestions from the members of the GCOR? No? Okay, thank you. I guess - I think we -- I thank you again for your presentation (Nygel). I think we set the stage more or less for the - for the GCOR meeting in - in Prague. And I hope Edmond and John will - will be able to - to chair that meeting.

And we -- I will ask them to send out a - an agenda for the meeting. And I have nothing more to put on the - to discuss. Are there any questions, remarks from other - from the members of the GCOR?

No? Okay, I thank you very much for...

Dennis Jennings: Bart I think we had a question. Bart, Dennis here, I think I heard a voice.

Bart Boswinkel: Yes. I didn't, I just heard sighing.

Dennis Jennings: No, I think somebody said hello and I think they were going to ask a question, Dennis here.

Woman: No, no, you misunderstood me I said, "No, I have no questions." (Mehdia) from Serbia speaking. I'm just introducing myself in the problem and issue, so I'm a quiet participant, that's it.

Dennis Jennings: Sorry about that.

Woman: That's okay, it's okay.

Bart Boswinkel: At least you've got good ears Dennis, I don't anymore.

Dennis Jennings: All right.

Bart Boswinkel: I listened to Rock and Roll at an early age.

Dennis Jennings: Oh, yes, yes.

Bart Boswinkel: I'm one of those. So I thank you all very much for attending and I think this was a short but very learned some call. Thank you all very much. Bye, bye.

Woman: Thank you.

Man: Bye, bye.

Man: Good bye.

Woman: Good bye.

Nathalie Peregrine: Thank you (Tanya).

END