



International Domain Name Committee

Final Proceedings Report

Bucharest, Romania June 2002

Table of Contents

- Creation of IDN Committee
- Members of the IDN Committee
- ICANN IDN Activities Timeline
- Key Issues under Consideration
- The IDN.IDN Keyword Issue
- The Permissible Code Point Issue
- A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs
- A Preliminary Registry Selection Policy
- IDN UDRP Review
- Recommendations to the ICANN Board

Creation of IDN Committee

At the September 10, 2001 meeting in Montevideo, the ICANN Board passed a resolution establishing a new IDN Committee "to serve as a general coordination body for the work on policy issues identified in the IDN Working Group Report and such other policy issues that the IDN Committee shall identify."



Members of the IDN Committee

- Vincent Wen-Sung CHEN
陳文生
(TWNIC)
- Mouhamet DIOP
(ICANN Address Council Observer)
- Patrik FÄLTSTRÖM
(IETF/IESG)
- Qiheng HU
胡启恒
(Internet Society of China)
- Masanobu KATOH
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(Committee Chair, ICANN Director)
- John KLENSIN
(Former IAB Chair)
- Sang-Hyon KYONG
(景商鉉)
(ICANN Director)
- Stuart LYNN
(ICANN President)
- Elisabeth PORTENEUVE
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(ICANN Names Council)
- Mohd Sharil TARMIZI
(GAC Vice Chair)

Administrative support was provided by:

- David G THOMPSON
- Andrew J McLAUGHLIN



ICANN IDN Activities Timeline

- March 2001- Creation of ICANN Board IDN Working Group (Melbourne)
- June 2001- IDN Working Group Status Report (Stockholm)
- September 2001- IDN Working Group Final Report (Montevideo)
- September 2001- Creation of IDN Committee (Montevideo)
- June 2002- Expected Completion Date for IDN Committee (Bucharest)

Key Issues under Consideration

- IDN.IDN Keywords
- Permissible Code Points
- Non ASCII TLDs
- Registrar Selection Process
- UDRP Review

The IDN.IDN Keyword Issue

- The IDN Committee strongly recommends against the introduction of Internet keyword services that utilize the period, or dot (".") or Unicode characters that can be mistaken for it, as the separator between the different name segments.
- This recommendation is particularly emphatic in the case of non-ASCII Internet keyword offerings.
- The IDN Committee recommends that ICANN and its Domain Name Supporting Organization (particularly the registries and registrars) consider how best to educate Internet users about the differences between DNS domain names and Internet keywords.

The Permissible Code Point Issue

- By 'permissible code point' issues, we refer to the problems that might arise from the use of certain non-ASCII characters included in the Unicode Standard within IDN domain name labels.
- At present, the DNS host name specifications limit permissible code points in domain name labels to a restricted subset of 7-bit ASCII.
- In addition to the characters of every language that could be identified and standardized by the Unicode Consortium, the Unicode Standard contains several sets of "characters" that do not, in fact, appear in any conventional human language.

The Permissible Code Point Issue (2)

- The IDN Committee has communicated a recommendation to the IETF that it should proceed conservatively, using an "inclusion-based" approach to the definition of "Internationalized Hostnames", so as to leave out – at least temporarily – the sets of potentially problematic characters, most notably:
 - line and symbol-drawing characters;
 - symbols and icons that are neither alphabetic nor ideographic language characters, such as typographical dingbats;
 - punctuation characters; and
 - spacing characters.
- These comments are currently under IESG review

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLD - Introductory Comments

A comprehensive selection and implementation process for non-ASCII TLDs would include a number of steps, including:

- Finalization of IDNA standard;
- The decision whether and when to proceed and adopt non-ASCII TLDs
- Root zone implementation testing;
- Selection of registry operators; and
- Registry-level testing and deployment.

The focus of the next four slides is a preliminary selection framework for non-ASCII TLDs themselves.

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs

Brief Explanation of the Six Categories

1. Semantic association with Geographic Units

A TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to a recognized geographic unit, as is the case with the existing ASCII ccTLDs.

2. Semantic association with Languages

A TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to the name of a language. For example, the Arabic word for "Arabic."

3. Semantic association with Cultural Groups or Ethnicities

A TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to a cultural group or ethnicity that is not defined by recognized national boundaries. For example, the Kurdish or Swahili peoples.

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs

Brief Explanation of the Six Categories (2)

4. Semantic association with Existing Sponsored TLDs

A non-ASCII TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to an existing ASCII sponsored TLD.

5. Semantic association with Existing Unsponsored TLDs

A non-ASCII TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to the existing unsponsored ASCII gTLDs, such as .com, .net, .org, .info, .biz, or .name.

6. Everything else

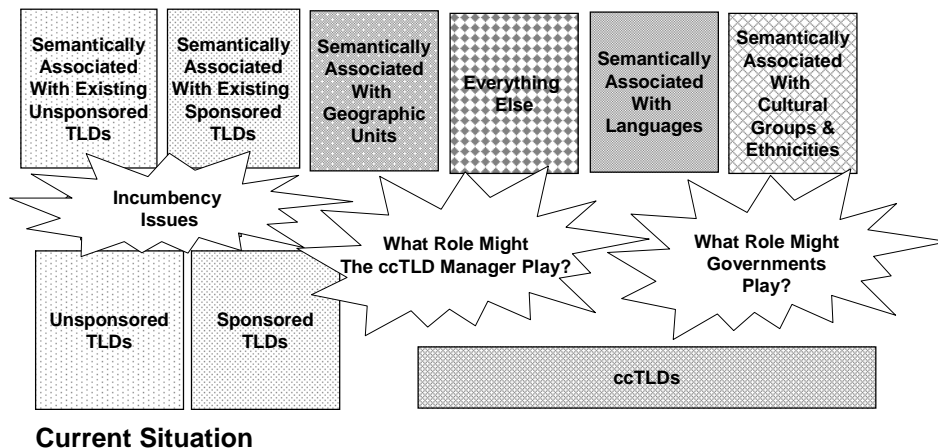
In this category, we mean to include every word, abbreviation or other string that is not semantically associated with one of the previous five categories.

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs Summary Matrix Chart

Proposed non ASCII TLD Category	Proposed Policy Reference
Semantic association with Geographic Units	ISO 3166-1 Country Code list
Semantic association with Languages	Not yet defined
Semantic association with Cultural Groups or Ethnicities	Not yet identified
Semantic association with Existing Sponsored TLDs	Relevant Sponsoring Group
Semantic association with Existing Unsponsored TLDs	Not yet identified
Everything else	Not yet identified

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs Summary Diagrammatic View

Preliminary Potential non ASCII TLDs

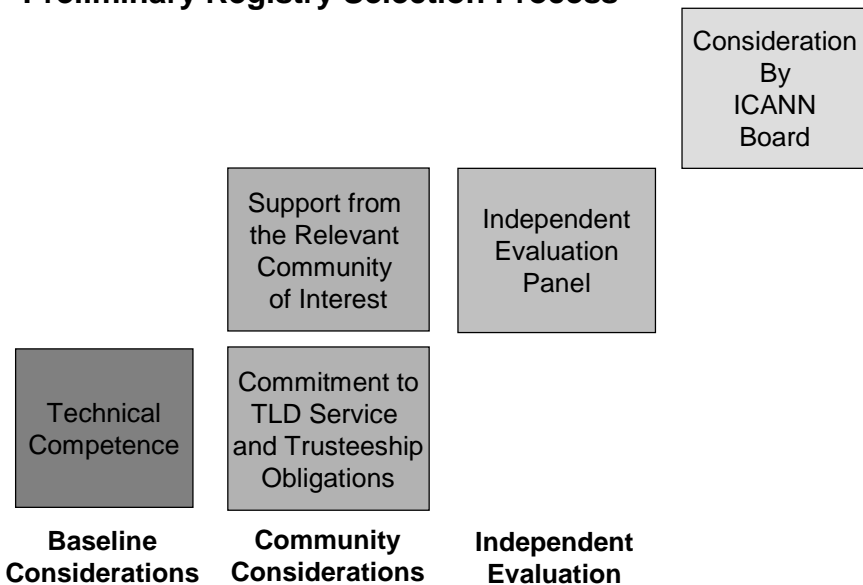


Current Situation

Summary of ICANN Community Feedback

- A wide range of feedback was received that might be categorized as follows:
 - General Comment
 - Specific Comments with respect individual Issues
 - Feedback to Structured Questions posed in Committee Discussion Papers
- A Summary of will be available at the following URL
<<http://www.icann.org/committees/idn/>>

Preliminary Registry Selection Process



Preliminary Registry Selection Policy

Technical Competence

1. IDNA competence
2. Capability relating to (IDN) DNS zone file generation and publication, and registration interfaces with a view to contributing to overall Internet stability.

Preliminary Registry Selection Policy (2)

Relevant Community Support

1. The committee believes that this principle is a useful and valid one, and should be adapted to the area of non-ASCII TLDs.

Preliminary Registry Selection Policy (3)

Commitment to TLD Service and Trusteeship Obligations

1. The committee also believes that this principle is a useful and valid one, and should be adapted to the area of non-ASCII TLDs.

Preliminary Registry Selection Policy (4)

Independent Evaluation Panels

1. One way to achieve greater legitimacy in evaluating non-ASCII TLD proposals against the stated criterion of support from the relevant community of interest is to use independent experts.
2. Such a review mechanism would relieve the ICANN Board and staff from making judgments about, for example, language communities whose language they do not speak.

UDRP Review

1. Internationalized domain names is highly likely to dramatically increase the opportunities for cybersquatting.

2. The IDN Committee continues to urge the UDRP Review Working Group to consider IDN issues as it performs its review

Recommendations to the ICANN Board

- A The ICANN Board should continue to take a conservative approach to IDN policy issues

- B ICANN's ongoing policy development and co-ordination role should be facilitated by a yet to be established Expert Group that "(continues) to serve as a general advisory body for the work on policy issues identified in the IDN Working Group Report, this Committee's Report, and such other relevant Internationalization policy issues that the ICANN Board might identify"

Questions