



Report by the IDN Second Level Subgroup

ccNSO IDN WG
ICANN ccNSO Meeting
Lisbon, 27-Mar-07



Goals

- To document the issues and experience gathered from operating registries with second level IDN domains.
- To identify and to propose possible solutions for issues that might arise from the interaction between second level and the introduction of IDN TLD.



Issues Specific to Second Level

1. Language table on 2nd level, should there be sharing between language communities from different regions?

New IDN TLDs should reuse existing language tables with strong or proven community support whenever possible.



Issues Specific to Second Level (cont'd)

2. Definition of 2nd level strings, e.g. .co.uk - should there be sharing of common 2nd level concepts such as "com", "net", "org", "ac", "idv" when translated into multiple languages? Should ICANN (or IANA) coordinate such a "database" or provide a forum for language communities in different regions to share their view?

No. The registry should decide on the second level categories that suit the needs of the local community.



Issues Specific to Second Level (cont'd)

3. When a registry already has 2nd level IDN labels registered, is aliasing required/necessary/desired? If not, does existing users have prior rights?

No. This should be decided by the local community.



Issues Specific to Second Level (cont'd)

4. If restricted 2nd level IDN label (e.g. IDN.com[in Chinese].hk) is introduced along with existing unrestricted 2nd level IDN (eg. IDN.hk), how to prevent homographs and confusables?

Registries are recommended to consider and implement measures before they open up their second level IDN for public registrations.



Issues Specific to Second Level (cont'd)

5. IDN TLD Usability

Deployment of IDN at 2nd level with ASCII TLD poses usability issues - keyboard switching, RTL display issues. There is a real need for deployment of IDN at the top level.



Issues Specific to Second Level (cont'd)

6. ccTLD-specific experience with the operation of IDN on the second level? E.g. Should they store the Unicode / native string in registry database or just punycode version? Bundling?

Yes. The IDN WG as it is now may be a good vehicle for sharing experiences and knowledge on an ongoing basis.



Other Issue(s)

- The IETF Liaison should keep ccNSO informed of latest updates on IDNA



Discussions

The IDN 2LD Subgroup recognizes the need for more coordination with IDN ccTLD operators who possess experience with IDN at the second level or higher on policy / guidelines development on a global level.

Currently, fora for such coordination exist in disparate areas. E.g. CENTR for European region, Arabic Domain Names Pilot Project (www.arabic-domains.org), and CDNC.

Would ccNSO be the appropriate organization for hosting such a forum/communication channel with the following goals?

- Provide advice on Policy Development process related to IDN 2LD
- Share operational experiences from running IDN 2LD.
- Share script / language tables (possibly with bundling information)
- Share 2nd level restricted concepts (e.g. .co.uk) in local script