

gTLD Registry Responsibility for Language Table Development

- Work collaboratively with relevant and interested stakeholders
- Develop language-specific registration policies (including, where the registry determines appropriate, character variant tables),
- Objective of achieving consistent approaches to IDN implementation for the benefit of DNS users worldwide.
- Work collaboratively with each other to address common issues, through, for example, ad hoc groups, regional groups, and global fora, such as the ICANN IDN Registry Implementation Committee

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IDN Whois Issues: Convergence with Important Global Priorities

- Data mining of contact information
 - Many commercial Whois systems already limit continuous data mining
 - Support software (like log file analysis programs to detect violators) has to become IDN-aware
- Preserve data privacy
 - If contact data is allowed in non-English, then need to ensure that data represented in non-English is equally protected as in English
- Ensure accuracy
 - How does a registry (or a registrar) ensure accuracy in an IDN world?
 - ccTLDs that adopt a "Verify All Records" model now face a dramatically higher cost of verification
 - gTLDs theoretically would have to verify in all languages!

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IDN Whois Thoughts

- This is a complex issue
- This is not a technical issue
 - Technically, IDNs are already being deployed, with non-standard Whois output
 - A new technical standard (IRIS) is being worked on in the IETF (Cross Registry Internet Service Protocol) supports non-ASCII data
- IDNs, and Display of IDNs is more than a national sovereignty issue
- Whois Display may undo any Digital Divide assistance that IDNs may provide

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IDN Whois Thoughts

- Waiting is not going to make this better
- When governments and countries decide to support IDNs, their techno-policy decisions may cause political-linguistic aftershocks
- Not thinking ahead about how Whois data for IDNs should be represented will result in incoherent displays that may confuse more people than you intend

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What Afilias has achieved...

- .INFO was the first gTLD to implement Punycode-standards based 2nd level IDNs (German) in 2004
- As registry service provider for .ORG, implemented 9 scripts for 2nd level IDNs (2005)
- Implemented Tamil script for .SG in 2005

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What we're doing...

- Working on Tamil-Malayalam variants deployment for .IN, 1Q 2006
- Working closely with language authorities for Indic scripts
 - Possibly the most complex IDN design & implementation ever
 - Includes 11 major scripts, drawn from 3 main groups:
 - Devanagiri (Hindi, Marathi, etc)
 - Dravidian (Tamil, Malayalam, etc)
 - Arabic (Urdu, Pashto, etc)

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IDN TLDs – where is it headed

- DNAME (alias) solution seems to be dead ... root servers unable to support quickly
- Adding new IDN TLDs to the root likely
- ICANN plans to conduct an extensive test for IDN TLDs in a testbed to ensure that regular internet and applications don't break
- gTLDs and ccTLDs united in perspective that they are the natural home for the IDN TLD equivalents to the ASCII domains they are currently assigned

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