IDN Update

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What is an IDN?

- IDN stands for Internationalized Domain Name
- Domain labels that contain characters other tan Lette
  rs 'a' to 'z', Digits '0' to'9', and the Hyphen '-'
- IDNA protocol developed by IETF in 2002-2003
  - RFCs 3454, 3490, 3491, 3492
    - IDNs have existed at second level since 2003
    - There has been demand for IDNs at the top level => شركة.السعودية

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IDN Policy Process

County Code Top Level Domains	County Code Top Level Domains	Generic Top Level Domains
Fast Track	**Long Term**	**New gTLDs**
•Introduce limited number of non-contentious IDN ccTLDs within short timeframe •Non-Latin scripts only, matching ISO 3166 list •Policy is completed and implementation is underway	•Full policy that caters for all •Follows the ccNSO Policy Development Process •Launched in April 2009, and policy work is underway	•Including IDN TLDs •IDN technical requirements as in Fast Track •Focus on confusability, squatting, etc. •Policy is completed and implementation is yet to take place

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IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

- Process to introduce a limited number of IDN ccTLD strings
  - Associated with ISO3166-1 two-letter codes
  - Represent official languages not based on Latin
    - ISO 639 language codes (listed in UNGEGN manual) or government document
  - Represent country/territory names
    - Long or short name in UNGEGN manual or government document
    - Government and community support
  - Comply with technical standards (IDNA) and guidelines
    - 2 character minimum
    - IDN Tables

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United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Technical Reference Manual

ISO	COUNTRY- English (UN)	ISO code; Language	Short name	Formal name
SA	SAUDI ARABIA	ar: Arabic	ٱلسُّعُودِيَّة *As Suʻūdīyah*	ٱلْمَلْكَة ٱلْعَرَبِيَّة ٱلسُّعُودِيَّة *Al Mamlakah al ʻArabīyah as Suʻūdīyah*
SN	SENEGAL	fr: French	Sénégal	République du Sénégal
RS	SERBIA	sr: Serbian	Србија *Srbija*	Република Србија *Republika Srbija*
SC	SEYCHELLES	Creole (Seselwa) en: English fr: French	Sesel Seychelles Seychelles (les) (fem.)	Repiblik Sesel Republic of Seychelles République des Seychelles
SL	SIERRA LEONE	en: English	Sierra Leone	Republic of Sierra Leone
SG	SINGAPORE	en: English ms: Malay ta: Tamil zh: Chinese	Singapore Singapura சிங்கப்பூர் *Chiṅkappūr* 新加坡 *Xinjiapo*	Republic of Singapore Republik Singapura சிங்கப்பூர் குடியரசு *Chiṅkappūr Kuṭiyarachu* 新加坡共和国 *Xinjiapo Gongheguo*
SK	SLOVAKIA	sk: Slovak	Slovensko	Slovenská republika
SI	SLOVENIA	sl: Slovene	Slovenija	Republika Slovenija
SB	SOLOMON ISLANDS	en: English	Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands
SO	SOMALIA	ar: Arabic so: Somali	ٱلصُّومَال *Aṣ Ṣūmāl* Soomaaliya	جُمْهُورِيَّة ٱلصُّومَال ٱلدِّيمُقْرَاطِيَّة *Jumhūrīyat aṣ Ṣūmāl ad Dīmuqrāṭīyah* Jamhuuriyada Demuqraadiga Soomaaliyeed

Fast Track Process in Steps

- Step 1: Preparation
  - Build community consensus on
    - Which IDN string to apply for
    - How it will be run
    - Which organization will operate it
  - Prepare supporting documents
- Step 2: String evaluation
  - Submit the request online
  - Check request for completeness
  - Linguistic process check
  - DNS stability evaluation
- Step 3: Delegation
  - Determine the entity to manage the ccTLD
  - Follow the normal IANA delegation process
  - Submit an application to IANA root zone management

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Fast Track Process Status

- Process launched on 16 November 2009
- To date, 19 requests received representing 11 different languages
  - 4 requests completed string evaluation in January 2010
    - Egypt, Russia, Saudi Arabia, UAE
  - Another 8 requests completed the same step in March 2010
    - China, Hong Kong, Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia
    - China and Taiwan will proceed to "Synchronized IDN evaluation process"
    - The rest can proceed to delegation
- Fast Track process updates at: http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/

Variants

- Variant characters: characters with two or more representations that may appear confusingly to each other
- Variant TLDs: TLDs with variant characters
  - السعودية and السعودية
- No proven technical solution available
  - DNAME and BNAME (Internet draft)
- In the Fast Track context:
  - Applicants should identify variant strings for their TLDs
  - Meanwhile variant TLDs can be allocated but not delegated

Synchronized IDN ccTLDs

- During ICANN Nairobi meeting (7-12 March 2010) an Equivalent Strings Working Group (ES-WG) was formed by the ICANN Board to look into the issue of Synchronized IDN ccTLDs
- Synchronized IDN ccTLD are described by situation where:
  - IDN ccTLDs are requested in more than one official language/script per country/territory
  - The requests for corresponding multiple strings are considered equivalent
  - Delegation would solve a significant problem for end users
  - Users accessing domains under any of the equivalent IDN ccTLDs expect such domains to resolve to the same address
- A proposed implementation plan was posted for public comments (Due 17 April) before presented to ICANN Board in its next meeting (22 April): http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-22mar10-en.htm

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Synchronized IDN ccTLDs

- Two or more IDN ccTLDs are deemed equivalent in the sense that there is a user expectation that domains registered under each IDN ccTLD resolve to the same place => ensuring consistent user experience

- Synchronization is not a technical mechanism, but rather a policy implemented and maintained by the registry

- The requester (registry) must provide ICANN with details regarding mechanism in place to ensure synchronization, and must report to ICANN annually on experience, results, etc.

- For more information:
    - Q&A: http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/synchronized-idn-cctlds-faq-en.htm
    - Webinar: http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-08apr10-en.htm taking place on 15 April

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Thank You

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