Policy for the Retirement of ccTLDs

DRAFT

ccNSO

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1 Background

Request For Comment[2] ("RFC") 1591[1] states:

> *4. Rights to Names*
>
> [...]
>
> > *2) Country Codes*
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> > *The IANA is not in the business of deciding what is and what is not a country. The selection of the ISO 3166 list as a basis for country code top-level domain names was made with the knowledge that ISO has a procedure for determining which entities should be and should not be on that list.*

In 2014 the ccNSO through its Framework of Interpretation confirmed that RFC 1591 applies to ccTLDs.

The ISO 3166-1 list is dynamic and country codes are added and removed[1] on a regular basis. When a new country code is added a ccTLD can be added via the standard delegation process by the IANA Naming Functions Operator (PTI). However, as was identified in 2011 by the ccNSO Delegation and Redelegation Working Group , there is no formal policy available for the removal of a ccTLD from the root when a country code is removed from the ISO 3166-1 list of country names.

2 Policy Objective

The objective of the policy is to provide clear, and predictable guidance and to document a process that is orderly and reasonable from the time a country code is removed

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[1]ISO 3166-1, Section 3.4

26 from the ISO 3166-1 list of country names[2] up and to, but excluding, the removal of a
27 ccTLD from the Root Zone[3].

3 Applicability of the policy

29 This policy is applicable to all ccTLDs which are managed by a functional manager
30 and whose country code is removed from the ISO 3166-1 list.

31 If a ccTLD's country code has been removed from the ISO 3166-1 list and it does not
32 have a functional manager the policy for the retirement of a ccTLD is not applicable
33 and PTI cannot transfer responsibility to a new manager according to its standard
34 process. This set of circumstances would create a deadlock situation which would
35 prevent PTI from ever removing the retiring ccTLD from the root. To avoid such a
36 deadlock, and only under these specific conditions, this policy allows PTI to proceed
37 with a transfer of responsibility for the retiring ccTLD to establish a functional man-
38 ager for the ccTLD for the purpose of retiring the ccTLD. Such a transfer should follow
39 the standard PTI process for such transfers where possible.

4 Retirement Process

4.1 Expectations

42 It is the expectation that there will be cooperation between PTI and the Manager of
43 the retiring ccTLD to ensure an orderly shutdown of the registry which takes into con-
44 sideration the interests of its registrants and the stability and security of the DNS.

4.2 Notice of Retirement

46 Once PTI has been informed, and confirmed, that a country code has been removed
47 from the ISO 3166-1 list and that PTI has also confirmed that the ccTLD has a functional
48 manager, it shall promptly notify the Manager of the ccTLD that the ccTLD shall be
49 removed from the Root 5 years from the date of this notice (Notice of Retirement) un-
50 less a retirement plan which is mutually agreed to by the Manager and PTI stipulates
51 otherwise and is in accordance with the retirement policy.

52 In conjunction with the Notice of Retirement PTI will inform the manager that it is
53 expected, but not mandatory, to produce a mutually agreeable retirement plan for
54 the ccTLD. PTI should include with the notice a document describing the reasonable
55 requirements it expects of a retirement plan and that PTI will make itself available to

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[2]The procedures and process related to the removal of a country code are excluded, as this is determined
by ISO.
[3]The removal of a (cc)TLD by PTI is excluded from the policy, as this outside the remit of the policy scope
of the ccNSO.

56 the Manager to assist in the development of such a plan should the Manager request
57 it.

58 • The Notice should also clearly state that:

59 – If the Manager does not produce a mutually acceptable retirement plan
60 within the prescribed time frame (described in the following sections) that
61 the ccTLD will be removed from the root 5 years from the date the Notice of
62 Retirement was sent by PTI to the manager of the retiring ccTLD

63 – If the Manager intends on producing a retirement plan it should formally
64 communicate this to PTI within 30 calendar days of PTI having sent the No-
65 tice of Retirement to the Manager of the retiring ccTLD.

66 4.3 Time span for retirement

67 • PTI cannot require that a retiring ccTLD be removed from the root less than 5
68 years from the time PTI has sent a Notice of Retirement to the retiring ccTLD
69 Manager.

70 • PTI must remove a retiring ccTLD from the Root no later than 10 years after
71 having sent a Notice of Retirement to the ccTLD manager.

72 – If according to PTI the retirement of the ccTLD within the 10 year limit
73 would pose a threat to the security and stability of the DNS PTI can request
74 an extension to the 10 year limit from the ICANN Board.

75 • A Retirement Plan that is mutually agreed to between the Manager of the retiring
76 ccTLD and PTI can specify any date for the removal of the ccTLD from the Root
77 if no later than 10 years from PTI having sent the Notice of Retirement to the
78 Manager. For further clarity:

79 – This includes periods of less than 5 years from the time PTI has sent the
80 Notice of Retirement to the Manager of the retiring ccTLD.

81 – PTI shall not withhold agreement of a date for the retirement of the ccTLD
82 (removal from the Root)of up to 10 years from the date it sent the Notice
83 of Retirement to the Manager of the ccTLD if supported by valid and docu-
84 mented reasons.

85 4.4 Retirement Plan

86 • If the Manager intends on producing a retirement plan it should formally com-
87 municate this to PTI within 30 calendar days of PTI having sent the Notice of
88 Retirement to the Manager of the Retiring ccTLD..

89 • A retirement plan should, as a minimum, include commitments to the following:

90 – Date the ccTLD will stop accepting new registrations

91   – Date the ccTLD will stop accepting the renewal of existing registrations

92   – Date the ccTLD will stop accepting the transfer of registrations

93   – Date the ccTLD will be removed from the Root Zone.

94   – Details of the communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement
95   of the ccTLD.

96   • A mutually agreeable retirement plan must be produced within 12 months of PTI
97   having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of the Retiring ccTLD. PTI
98   at its discretion can extend the 12 month limit to a maximum 24 months total. If
99   PTI grants such an extension it will promptly notify the Manager of this.

100 • If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD and PTI cannot achieve a mutually agreeable
101   retirement plan within 12 months, or up to a maximum of 24 months if PTI has
102   granted an extension, of PTI having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager
103   of the Retiring ccTLD then PTI should advise the Manager of the retiring ccTLD
104   that the ccTLD will be removed from the root 5 years from PTI having sent the
105   Notice of Retirement to the Manager of the retiring ccTLD.

106 4.5 Exception conditions

107 • Manager becomes non-functional after a retirement agreement is accepted – The
108   PTI can the same procedure outlined in the Requirements to transfer the ccTLD
109   to a new manager.

110   – Manager breaches the Retirement Agreement – The PTI should work with
111   the Manager with the objective of re-instating the Retirement agreement.
112   If this is not possible the PTI can advise it will return to the initial 5 year
113   retirement period.

114   – IDN ccTLD

115 5 Oversight

Glossary

RFC In information and communications technology, a Request for Comments (RFC) is a type of publication from the technology community. RFCs may come from many bodies including from the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), the Internet Architecture Board (IAB) or from independent authors.

References

[1] NETWORK WORKING GROUP: *RFC 1591*. https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc1591, Last Accessed: 2019-02-08

[2] WIKIPEDIA: *Request for Comments*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Request_for_Comments, Last Accessed: 2019-02-08