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

10   *The IANA is not in the business of deciding what is and what is not a coun-*
11   *try. The selection of the ISO 3166 list as a basis for country code top-level*
12   *domain names was made with the knowledge that ISO has a procedure for*
13   *determining which entities should be and should not be on that list.*

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

16 The ISO 3166-1 list is dynamic and country codes are added and removed[1] on a regu-
17 lar basis. When a new country code is added a ccTLD can be added via the standard
18 delegation process by the IANA Naming Functions Operator[2] (IFO). However, as was
19 identified in 2011 by the ccNSO Delegation and Redelegation Working Group, there
20 is no formal policy available for the removal of a ccTLD from the root when a country
21 code is removed from the ISO 3166-1 list of country names.

22 2 Policy Objective

23 The objective of the policy is to provide clear, and predictable guidance and to doc-
24 ument a process that is orderly and reasonable from the time a country code is re-

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[1]ISO 3166-1, Section 3.4
[2]Currently operated by PTI

25 moved from the ISO 3166-1 list of country names[3] up and to, but excluding, the
26 removal of a ccTLD from the Root Zone[4].

27 # 3 Applicability of the Policy

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

31 For the purposes of this document a functional manager is the manager of the ccTLD
32 as listed in the IANA root database, who is active with respect to the management
33 of the ccTLD and with whom the IFO can officially and effectively communicate.

34 If a ccTLD's country code has been removed from the ISO 3166-1 list and it does
35 not have a functional manager the policy for the retirement of a ccTLD is not appli-
36 cable and the IFO cannot transfer responsibility to a new manager according to its
37 standard process. This set of circumstances would create a deadlock situation which
38 would prevent the IFO from ever removing the retiring ccTLD from the root. To avoid

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

39 such a deadlock, and only under these specific conditions, this policy allows the IFO
40 to proceed with a transfer of responsibility for the retiring ccTLD to establish a func-
41 tional manager for the ccTLD for the purpose of retiring the ccTLD. Such a transfer
42 should follow the standard the IFO process for such transfers where possible.

43 **4 Retirement Process**

44 **4.1 Expectations**

45 There is a good faith obligation for both the the IFO and the Manager of the retiring
46 ccTLD to ensure an orderly shutdown of the retiring ccTLD which takes into consid-
47 eration the interests of its registrants and the stability and security of the DNS.

48 Note: Given the importance and exceptional nature of the ccTLD retirement process
49 the IFO, prior to sending a Notice of Retirement, should contact the ccTLD Manager
50 and confirm who the IFO should be dealing with regarding the retirement process.
51 The person or role identified by the ccTLD manager to deal with the retirement pro-
52 cess is referred to as the Manager in the remainder of this document.

4.2 Notice of Retirement

Once the IFO has been informed, and confirmed, that a country code has been removed from the ISO 3166-1 list and that the IFO has also confirmed that the ccTLD has a functional manager, it shall promptly notify the Manager of the ccTLD that the ccTLD shall be removed from the Root 5 years from the date of this notice (Notice of Retirement) unless a retirement plan (see following sections for details) which is mutually agreed[5] to by the Manager and the IFO stipulates otherwise and is in accordance with this Retirement Policy.

The IFO shall include with the Notice of Retirement a document describing the Reasonable Requirements it expects of a retirement plan and that the IFO will make itself available to the Manager to assist in the development of such a plan should the Manager request it.

4.3 Time Span for Retirement

- The IFO cannot require that a retiring ccTLD be removed from the root less than 5 years from the time the IFO has sent a Notice of Retirement to the retiring ccTLD Manager unless this is mutually agreed by the ccTLD Manager and the IFO.

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[5]Failure to reach mutual agreement on a Retirement Plan as specified in the policy automatically implies that the ccTLD will be removed from the Root 5 years from the date of the Notice of Retirement

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

71 • Extending the removal of the ccTLD beyond 5 years:

72   – An extension to the 5 year retirement period is possible but is at the discretion
73   of the IFO and shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Reasonable Require-
74   ments document that the IFO will have included with the Notice of Retirement
75   will describe the factors it will consider when evaluating a request for an ex-
76   tension to the initial 5 year period.

77   – If the Manager wishes to request an extension to the initial 5 year retirement
78   period it should do so in a Retirement Plan. The request for the extension
79   shall clearly state:

80   * The length of the extension requested (a maximum 5 additional years)

81   * The reasons for requesting an extension

82   * An impact analysis which supports the reasons for making the request.

83   – The IFO shall provide a definitive response to the Manager within 60 days of
84   such a request being received by the IFO. The response by the IFO ,if posi-
85   tive, shall state the length of the extension which has been granted. If the

86 response is negative, the IFO shall include the specific reasoning for the re-
87 fusal[6].

88 • A Retirement Plan that is mutually agreed between the Manager of the retiring
89 ccTLD and the IFO can specify any date for the removal of the ccTLD from the
90 Root if no later than 10 years from the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement
91 to the Manager. For further clarity this includes periods of less than 5 years from
92 the time the IFO has sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of the retiring
93 ccTLD.

94 4.4 Retirement Plan

95 • If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD does not wish an extension beyond the 5
96 year period stated in the Notice of Retirement it is expected, but not mandatory,
97 that the Manager produce retirement plan for the ccTLD which would typically
98 include:

99 – Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop taking registrations that exceed
100 the date of removal from the root zone.

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[6]If the request for an extension is rejected and the ccTLD Manager feels that the rejection is incon-
sistent with the rules it can appeal the decision via ICANN's IRP process

- Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the renewal of existing registrations that exceed the date of removal from the root zone.

- Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the transfer of registrations that exceed the date of removal from the root zone.

- Date the ccTLD is expected to be removed from the Root Zone.

- Details of the communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement of the ccTLD.

• If the manager of the retiring ccTLD wishes the IFO to grant it an extension beyond the 5 year period stated in the Notice of Retirement it must produce a Retirement Plan which is acceptable to the IFO. The Retirement Plan shall include:

- The length of the extension requested (a maximum 5 additional years)

- The reasons for requesting an extension

- An impact analysis which supports the reasons for making the extension request.

- Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop taking registrations that exceed the date of removal from the root zone.

- Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the renewal of existing registrations that exceed the date of removal from the root zone.

119   – Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the transfer of regis-
120   trations that exceed the date of removal from the root zone.

121   – Date the ccTLD is expected to be removed from the Root Zone.

122   – Details of the communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement of
123   the ccTLD.

124 • If the ccTLD Manager wishes to produce a Retirement Plan it must do so within
125   12 months of the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of
126   the retiring ccTLD. The IFO at its discretion can extend the 12 month limit to a
127   maximum 24 months total. If the IFO grants such an extension it shall promptly
128   notify the Manager of this.

129 • If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD and the IFO cannot agree on retirement plan
130   within 12 months, or up to a maximum of 24 months if the IFO has granted an
131   extension, of the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager then
132   the IFO shall advise the Manager that the ccTLD shall be removed from the Root
133   5 years from the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of the
134   retiring ccTLD.

4.5 Exception Conditions

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136   • If the Manager becomes non-functional after a Retirement Plan is accepted the
137   IFO can use the same procedure outlined in the Requirements section to transfer
138   the ccTLD to a new manager.

139   • If the Manager breaches the Retirement Plan the IFO should work with the Man-
140   ager with the objective of re-instating the Retirement Plan. If this is not possible
141   the IFO can advise it will return to the initial 5 year retirement period.

142   • IDN ccTLDs

143   • ISO3166-1 Exceptionally Reserved entries

144   • Applicability to non-ccNSO members

5 Oversight

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146 # References

147 [1] NETWORK WORKING GROUP: *RFC 1591*. `https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/`
148 `rfc1591`, Last Accessed: 2019-02-08

149 [2] WIKIPEDIA: *Request for Comments*. `https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/`
150 `Request_for_Comments`, Last Accessed: 2019-02-08