

---

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

This is Claudia Ruiz speaking. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening everyone, welcome to the LACRALO Monthly Meeting on Monday, December 16th, 2019 at 2300 UTC. On the Spanish channel we have Sergio Salinas Porto, Harold Arcos, Alexis Anteliz, Raitme Citterio, Lilian Ivette De Luque, Gaby Gijon, Diego Acosta, Sylvia Herlein Leite, Antonio Medina Gomez, Humberto Carrasco, Vanda Scartezini, Richard Aguavil.

On the English channel we have Dev Anand Teelucksingh, Kerry Kerr. From Staff we have Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, Mark Segall, and myself, Claudia Ruiz, I will be managing the call today. Our interpreters today are, on the Spanish channel, Veronica and Marina, Bettina and Esperanza and the Portuguese channel, Jacques and Claire on French. Before we start I would like to remind all participants to please state your name at the time of taking the floor, not only for transcription, but also for the interpretation purposes. Thank you everyone, Sergio you have the floor.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Sergio Salinas Porto speaking, good morning, good afternoon, and good evening everyone. This is our last call for this year so I hope this is going to be a very fruitful meeting because we have plenty of topics to address in our agenda today. I would like to give the floor to Harold Arcos for Harold take the floor and proceed with the approval of the agenda and see if there is any other business that we need to address. And then we will begin with the presentation. Harold, please go ahead.

---

*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

HAROLD ARCOS: Harold speaking, thank you everyone.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Claudia speaking. Yes, we have some background noise, we can hear you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Harold Arcos speaking. Let's proceed with the agenda for today's call. The first item is on the agenda is Approval of the Agenda, then we will have an update by Mark Segall on the LACRALO Mail List Translation Tools. Item 5 is a webinar. Today we will have a webinar on Understanding Internationalized Domain Names from the Latin America perspective. Then we have a report about webinars, this will be delivered by Rodrigo Saucedo. Item 7 is the Comments by our ALAC Member, Humberto Carrasco.

Then we will begin with the different reports by the working group Chairs. We will have the IDN Report - Multilingualism, then Item 9, we will have the report by the Communications working group, Lilian De Luque. And then we will have the report on the Capacity Building working group by Adrián Carballo. After that we will have Heidi Ullrich speaking about the next steps for Fiscal Year 2020 and the deadline for the Additional Budget Requests. And on Item 12 we have update by Sergio Salinas Porto. I would like to invite all participants to speak now if there is any other business that you would like to add to this agenda. So, this is the time to speak or we can wait until we reach Item 13 Any

---

Other Business and then we will address that particular point or topic. After that, please take into account that before bringing this meeting to an end we will have to fill in a survey, an evaluation survey for the webinar of today. This is very important for us so as to have records on our webinars. So, we are now informing our participants in the chat about this. I see no hands up, so if there are no further comments, we will adopt the agenda for today and we can begin with the next item.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio Salinas Porto speaking. Thank you very much, Harold. As Harold said before, the next item on the agenda is the webinar on IDNs. This webinar will be delivered by...

HAROLD ARCOS: Harold Arcos speaking. Sergio, sorry for interrupting you. That is not the next item on the agenda, this is not the webinar. The next item on the agenda is Item 4, the Translation Tool Update by Mark Segall.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Okay, that was a change, sorry. Thank you very much Harold for that reminder. So, I would like to thank the technology working group for the update done on this LACRALO Mail List Translation Tool, because this gave us the opportunity to have more fluid communication.

I'm sure that Mark is going to deliver a very brief presentation and he is going to give us some background information, but I would like to thank Dev for his effort during this time, because he was the Chair of this

---

technology task force and he was the leader of these projects. So, I mentioned that to Mark and I am very happy to have him here on our call today. So, Mark Segall, please go ahead, and welcome to LACRALO.

MARK SEGALL:

This is Mark Segall. Thank you so much for having me, I'm happy to join the LACRALO today. I don't have any presentation, I know that it is a brief agenda topic with a lot of topics on your agenda today. I am pleased to announce that we launched on Thursday of last week a completely revamped version of what we call the trans bot which provides that translation between the mailing lists.

The biggest challenge we were facing prior to that launch was that there were numerous issues since its inception, because it was primarily built as more of a script and without a lot of the coding best practices you would normally see in the service that we want to deliver to the community.

And the biggest challenges we were facing with that when we have issues like we've experienced over the last couple years especially with the lost emails between the two lists, it was very challenging because it wasn't written in the best practices to be able to have logs and other tools that we could use to help troubleshoot these kind of issues.

I was actually very happy to see, I wasn't happy to see that there was a missed translation on Friday, but at the same time I was happy because the translation that was missed, it allowed us to really see the logging and use right away. We saw that one of the members had sent an email to the English list, that didn't make its way over to the Spanish, and we

---

quickly were able to rule out that it wasn't the translation tool but a configuration issue in mailman.

So, that's something we wouldn't have been able to do as of Wednesday of last week. So already we're starting to see the results of that work that went in by the team. I also want to thank Dev being a great partner who I've been working with since almost day one on the job for myself, and to be able to coordinate with him on these issues, it's been fantastic, it makes my life much easier for translating the issues and the enhancement requirements over to the team.

Other than that, I didn't really have much else that I wanted to update, just wanted to give us an opportunity for any kind of questions that might be out there, and I'm happy to answer them. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you, Mark. I have some questions for you but I don't know if there is any other participant who would like to take the floor and ask some questions. If not, I'm going to begin. I see Dev, so Dev, please, you have the floor, go ahead.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Dev Anand Teelucksingh speaking. Thank you, and thanks, Mark, for the summary. As Mark has outlined, the decision to develop the new tool to rewrite it from scratch, the decision made after ICANN65, I believe, I'm very happy to see how fast the tool was able to be rewritten and deployed so quickly.

---

One of the big benefits, as Mark has pointed out, is that there are a lot more error messages so that any issues that do come up should be more easily clearly identified as to where the problem lies. So, that's one thing I have noticed.

Some participants may have been subscribed to both lists to make sure that no messages were being missed, but just a reminder that you should post one email to the appropriate list. If you're writing in English post it to the LACRALO discuss English list, and if you're writing in Spanish post only to the LACRALO discuss Spanish list. Again, I'm very grateful that Mark was able to achieve this.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you very much, Dev. I'm going to ask you to put your hand down. I have a question. Can we start enjoying this tool? Is the tool already available for us? This is a question for Mark. Or, do we have to wait for using it? Is there any change? Because I haven't noticed any change. But can we start using the tool right now?

MARK SEGALL: This is Mark again. Yes, the tool is actually live as we speak. If you send emails, it has been since Thursday and I think if I look at the log, I think there are about 7 messages or 8 messages that have already went through the new translation. So yeah, it's up and running, no change from your end.

To Dev's point, if you do work on both lists, it's important to only send to one list at a time if you want the translation to occur. What will end

---

up happening if you send to both is that it will just send the message to both lists and there will be no translation. So, just keep that in mind, one list at a time when you send messages.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Mark, I have another question. Can the community contribute somehow to improve this experience by let's say watching out or paying attention to certain issues? Do you need our contribution?

MARK SEGALL: Hi, this is Mark again. Actually, included in the agenda there is a link to a wiki page that I think Dev created quite a ways back, and that's actually been a great source for my team to be able to understand what kind of enhancements and bugs we need to address. So I encourage anybody interested to go to that page and add their comments and we'll definitely take them into consideration for future releases.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you very much, Mark. I have two people on the list, they want to ask you some questions. One is Harold, and then Silvia Vivanco. Harold, please go ahead.

HAROLD ARCOS: Harold speaking. Thank you Sergio. Mark, thank you very much for this summary. I was able to listen to the presentation in the technology task force, but Mark, I would like to ask you if we need to take into account

---

any kind of particular special characteristics, do we have to take into account spaces or punctuation? Is there any particular characteristics that we should take into account to have fluency or keep fluency with each translation? Is there any detail that we should take into account?

And secondly, I would like to, as Sergio said before, we have the communications, the LACRALO communications working group. There are tests that should be made. There are many members of the communications working group that might contribute to these, and there is going to be a team willing to help you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you, Harold. Now Silvia, you have the floor, please go ahead.

SILVIA VIVANCO: This is Silvia Vivanco from Staff. I would like to thank Mark for his effort and I would like to thank his team, as well. Because this was a very successful task. And I would like to thank the LACRALO members who are participating and working with the LACRALO translation tool. We had a test email mailing list and we were testing this tool for several months, just to prove that the quality was okay.

I would like to make a recommendation and this is from my personal point of view because I was using this tool for quite a long time right now, and I see with pleasure there is great improvement. So, I believe that it could be good practice.



---

For example, in Spanish we have long sentences with many commas and the translation is not good into English, so we need to think about that, that when we are sending a message, this message is going to be automatically translated into English so we need to write short sentences, clear sentences, and perhaps we should avoid the use of metaphors or difficult language, because sometimes, I mean it's nice reading that in Spanish, but when that has to be translated into English there is no sense in the translation.

So that is just a point of clarification and some recommendations that I would like to express. Thank you once again, thanks to the LACRALO members and the members of the Staff for their efforts.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. I fully agree with you. I would like to thank Mark for participating in our meeting and for answering our questions. Now we have to go to the next item on the agenda. Mark, have you got any questions or any comment?

MARK SEGALL: Hi, this is Mark again. Just a quick response to Harold. I think it would be good to revisit the grammar guidelines because a lot of issues that plagued this service in the past don't seem to be issues today. When we were doing our testing in that separate list that Silvia had mentioned, we were noticing some of the challenges we had in the past are no longer there, like there was no space after the period, previously it would flat out fail the message, where now it's actually seeming to be

---

smart enough to identify this is the end of a sentence and actually puts a space in the translation.

Same thing with things like if you 3.4M for 3.4 million, that would be a challenge in the past, and we're not seeing that problem today, either. So I think it would be very good to continue visiting this topic as the service goes on, but it seems like we're in a better state than we were before, I'm happy to report.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Sergio speaking. Just wanted to thank Mark. And now we will move on to Item 5, but before that, let me welcome Jacqueline who is in our Zoom on audio, it's very good to see that she is here to make a contribution. So now we will go to Item 5, that's the webinar for today. Understanding Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) from the perspective of the Latin characters used in LACRALO. Bill Jouris will be the person from the Panel. He will talk about the Latin Labor Generation rules for the root zone. We have 40 minutes with him.

But before we give the floor to Bill I want to thank the capacity building group because they have been coordinating work with the global strategy group in this cycle of bimonthly webinars, and I want to highlight the following. The groups that are working together, this is a process that promotes the region to encourage the active participation of each LACRALO member. Every opportunity we have to learn about something to reinforce knowledge that we have that should be strengthened, that is why we have this group which is always looking for new opportunities to reinforce knowledge.

---

On the other hand, the groups that are working on policies are also considered. In addition to developing expertise, we have grown when the time comes for discussing policy issues. So, this is a space for users and from the end user's point of view we should get involved even further in policy discussion with other participant. So, along this line we have with us today Bill Jouris and it is a pleasure to welcome him, so I will give him the floor now so that he will start the website. Good afternoon Bill, wherever you are and please go ahead.

BILL JOURIS:

Good afternoon, thank you for inviting me. This is Bill Jouris for the record. For the last three years I've been working on the Internationalization of domain name projects on the Latin Generation Panel. The idea is to expand the internet infrastructure beyond English. So I'm hoping to give you a little glimpse of what it is we're doing. Next slide, please.

In the beginning of the internet there were just the 26 letters that are used in English and conflicts were simply names that were the same. Now we're expanding into multiple languages with multiple character sets, and there are lots more conflicts, conflicts both between the character sets and also within any given character set. But the same two basic principles apply. First, you have to use a symbol which is valid in some language and second, you can't use something that conflicts with what someone else has already registered. It sounds straightforward, but it's not. Next slide, please.

---

The project for the internationalization of domain names is expanding our repertoire. Some of the scripts are probably familiar to you because they are used in languages that are used by large numbers of people or major economic countries, or just historically significant languages. Next slide, please.

But there are lots of other scripts which are the official language of a particular country, a province, state, or some other large group of people, even if you've never heard of them, let alone ever seen them. So, it's a huge undertaking to handle all of them. What we've done is split out separate generation panels for each of the various scripts. Next slide, please.

The Latin script frankly is a mess. Most languages are pretty constrained. For example the Armenian script is only use by the Armenian language. You can go get a grammar school text on how to read and write and it will give you the characters. But thanks to centuries of Christian missionaries, the Latin alphabet with variations is used by lots of languages on every continent. Still the same basic letters but they are also combined with a couple dozen diacritic marks on various letters to deal with sounds that were not available in the original. Next slide, please.

So for Latin American and Caribbean languages we have, of course, Spanish and Portuguese, but we also have several other languages. What we did for the Latin script, we took the official languages of countries and also the official languages of a state or province or region. In addition to that, we took languages which aren't an official language but are the native spoken language of over one million people. That's a

---

completely arbitrary number, but we could have ended up with twice as many languages, and that was more than we were willing to take on.

However, when we get to the public comment phase, we may get told we've missed something significant and we need to go back and look again. If for instance you know a language that you feel is significant and should have been included but isn't here, by all means the public comment phase will be next spring, write us and tell us we missed it and we will see what we can do about getting it included. Next slide, please.

The next problem we have is that unlike most scripts, Latin has a lot of different fonts, and those can make a difference because something can be a variant in one font, but not in another. The most obvious example being there at the bottom, the letter G in the Times New Roman font looks very different from the letter Q, but the letter G in the Arial font looks essentially indistinguishable from the letter Q. So, what we've got here on the bottom line is .gov which is one of the original top level domain names, and then just for contrast we have .qov. When it's underlined as domain names typically are, you can't really tell the difference. Next slide, please.

Here are the various diacritic marks, there are almost 20 of them, and in some cases, especially in Vietnamese, a letter can have more than one diacritic mark. In order to make these visible, I have not only put them in red, but also increased the size of the diacritic so that it's easier to see. And even so, you will notice that the differences between them are not always particularly visible. Next slide, please.

So, part of the problem is any given language only uses a few of the diacritic. English doesn't use any, Spanish uses 3 or 4, French uses 5, the problem comes when you see a diacritic mark that you've never encountered before. If you are expecting a tilde and you get a macron do you even notice? Similarly if you're expecting an acute above and what you get is a dot above, if you've never encountered a dot above it's very difficult to figure out what you're actually looking at. Next slide, please.

So just by way of example, let's just look at one letter. Admittedly it's the worst case but it's just one letter. This is the letter O. Some of these are pretty readily distinguishable, but others of them, especially if you're looking at it at a normal font size, are very difficult to tell apart.

The one that comes up most frequently is the O with the dieresis which is the last letter on the first line, and the O with a double acute, which is the fifth letter on the second line. If you've never heard of a double acute and I certainly hadn't before I got here, it would never occur to you that that wasn't just a dieresis in an unusual font. Next slide, please.

The problem is we need a mechanism so that saying what you see is what you get, that works when you actually are looking at something in the real world. As a user, you want to go where you expected to go when you clicked on the domain name. As someone who registered the domain name, you want your customers and your users to come to your site, not to go somewhere else. The term we use for different symbols which are very difficult to distinguish is variants. Next slide, please.

---

---

Actually we have several names. We have variants, we have things which are slightly more different but still hard to tell apart, which are confusables, and then we have things which are just different. A letter A is different from a letter B, nobody will ever have a problem with that. But some of them, we have a continuum. There are levels of how much difference there is.

If something is decided to be a variant when we're dealing with top level domain names, the plan is that when you try to register that new TLD, it will just automatically be blocked. There is a much larger list of things which are confusable, and those will have to be manually examined by a similarity review team to decide if people will be too confused or not. But that's just for the top level domain names. For second level domain names, we have a whole different situation and we'll get to that in a little bit. Next slide, please.

Okay, consider this domain name, look at it closely. Do you notice that the K is not actually just a K? Do you notice that the J isn't actually a J at all? It turns out that the K is actually a K with a horn, which occurs in Hausa, if you don't have a familiarity with East African languages, you've never seen it before. What looks like J is actually the letter I with a diacritic called an ogonek, which only occurs in Lithuania. Again, if you've never seen it before, it's hard to tell. Next slide, please.

Now if we make it bigger and we get rid of the underlining it's possible to tell that the two are different. The problem is when you're clicking on a link on a website or email, you don't get to compare side by side, you don't eliminate the underlining, you don't expand it up to be a centimeter high and you have to decide are you seeing what you think

you're seeing. And on the Latin generation panel we have a problem. We know too much. When we started out, those of who us who are not linguists, including me, had not encountered most of these diacritic lines.

But by now we've spent three years, we all know what they are, we all know what they look like, so it's very difficult for us to look at something like this and say a normal user will be able to tell the difference or will not. In these two cases, we decided no, a normal user will not notice, we need to do something about it. But it was a 4/3 decision. It was very narrowly decided that normal people couldn't tell the difference. That's how accustomed we are to seeing all these diacritics. Next slide, please.

As I said, there's a range of variation and our supposed standard is would a reasonably careful user be able to tell the difference. It isn't clear whether that's 10% of the population, 1% of the population, or 0.10% of the population, so we were to some degree making it up as we go along. But here are a bunch of variations or sort of variations on the most common top level domain name.com.

The second one is in all capital letters, which all the browsers will automatically convert to lower case before going to the domain name server to look it up. So users have two decades of not knowing that domain names are lowercase only. So they will assume if they see uppercase that it's going to work fine, and indeed it will. The next one is all lowercase but it's Cyrillic.

---



---

Now identify you look at the M it doesn't look like a lowercase M in the Latin alphabet, but unfortunately the whole thing looks like all uppercase, so if you see that you won't notice that you're going to a whole different domain than you expected to. We go on with a bunch of different diacritics. When you get down to the O with the circumflex N tilde, yes probably you would notice even if you don't know what those diacritics are, there's enough stuff there that most people would look at it and go, right, that's not .com, that's something different.

And finally we had the other challenge that depending on the font, sometimes things run together. The last one isn't .com, it's .corn, but if you're reading fast, would you know that's something from the International Association of Maize Producers or would you just assume it was .com and move forward? Next slide, please.

There are a number of related languages, related through Latin. They're related because all of them are descending from old Phoenician a couple thousand years ago. The result of that is all four languages have letters which look very similar and that can cause confusion. We've got some examples from Cyrillic, from Greek, and from Armenian, so we had to go through all those languages to compare, as well. Next slide, please.

On top of that, there are some symbols that are so generic that they occur in a lot of totally unrelated languages. A simple vertical line, circle, a crescent, crescents opening in either direction. So you can have languages that are totally unrelated to each other, which all have the same symbol in it. I would point out that perhaps mistakenly in the last round of new TLDs ICANN approved the TLD of .ooo. As you can see,

---

you can create the same thing in 7 different languages just using those generic symbols. So, that made for some fun, as well. Next slide, please.

And then there are the in-script variants. Latin actually only has one where two different symbols are in fact identical. That's the schwa and the turned e. But there are a large number of characters where the difference is small and may or may not be big enough for anyone to tell, as we saw when we were looking at the .joke example earlier. Next slide, please.

The other challenge we have is underlining. As I mentioned, browser software and word processing software routinely will automatically underline a domain name for you. Which is fine, except if you have a diacritic mark below the letter, the underline can totally obscure it. In the second and third cases the dot below and the macron totally disappear in the underlining. In the fourth case, if you look really closely, there is a comma under the S and you can see about 1 pixel extending below it.

The next example, if you look under the L, you can see 2 pixels. Both of those we decided are hard enough to see that they should be variants, although again, it was a very narrow decision. But in the last line you have M with a cedilla under it and the conclusion, again very narrowly, was that's not a variant. We officially decided a reasonably careful user will notice that. Next slide, please.

So, as I mentioned, what we really need is help, and that's part of the reason I asked to give this presentation, because we really, really do

---

need help. We know too much and we need a lot of people who are not trained linguists to come and look at the decisions we've made on what is so similar that nobody will tell the difference and write comments in the public comment period so that we can correct something if we are making a really dumb mistake. The public comment period is probably going to come up in the early spring. My best guess would be March, but I will have to get back to Silvia to put something out on the mailing list to let you know when we actually have gotten that far. Next slide, please.

So, there are some other things awaiting us in the future. As I mentioned in passing, all work we're doing is simply for the top level domain names. The second level domain names are entirely at the discretion of the particular registry. They can decide if they want to do variance, they can decide if they want to put restrictions on variants.

Some of them will be I think public spirited enough to exercise some restraint, but unfortunately for registry there is a huge economic incentive to simply say you can register anything and then go to the people trying to register the domain name and say you might want to register all these variations on your name, because otherwise your customers may end up getting sent to some alternate domain name that you've never heard of. Next slide, please.

Here are some examples of the differences on variations on three letters, T, C, and I. The ones that are surrounded in red are variations that we decided should be variants, nobody can tell the difference. There ones that are surrounded in yellow we decided are merely

---

---

confusables, and whether anybody will be able to tell the difference is a matter of argument.

So there are perhaps 3 variations on the letter T, that would be a problem. Eight variations on the letter I and the letter C. If you add confusables, we're up to a larger number. Notice that last item under the letter T is actually not a letter T at all, it's a letter L with a slash, just as a reminder of how confusing this can all get. Next slide, please.

So, let's consider just one domain name, I'm not trying to pick on Citibank here, I've never worked there, I don't know anybody who works there. It's just that they a nice short domain name. So how many defensive registrations do you need just for variants? If you have a C with a cedilla can you tell the difference? If you have an I with an acute rather than a dot over it, can you tell?

If you just looked at the variants there are 48 different domain names that under our definition of variant says nobody can tell. If you counted the confusables that most people can't tell, you're up to almost 400 names. If the registry is being restrictive that might not be a problem. But certainly the opportunity is there for them to sell you lots and lots of domain names. And the longer the domain name is, the more variation opportunities there are. Next slide, please.

This isn't a new problem. There was a report from some years ago which we have a link to at the beginning, but there was a case that was brought up in Montreal which is interesting. There is an airline called Easyjet and they had a problem because somebody registered Easyiet instead of Easyjet, and proceeded to run a scam which defrauded a

---

bunch of would be Easyjet customers from quite a bit of money. Why do we care about this?

Because currently if someone wants to come up with something like this for fraud, they have to figure out what's going to successfully confuse a user. But as part of the internationalization of domain name projects, we're publishing lists of what letters and symbols are variants, which ones are confusing, so they can just go now and look it up. So that may make things interesting in the future. Next slide, please.

So, if any of that concerns you, you may want to go to your company and explain the problem to them, and suggest that they become an active stakeholder. There are a few companies that send people to ICANN and they effectively have a voice. But if you're not there, your voice doesn't get heard. One of the other things that can be done at least in theory is to modify the contracts that ICANN has with the various registries. Put a definition of variants in, ask for restrictions on variants. To the best of my knowledge, ICANN is not currently intending to do that, but that's something that at least in theory could be done.

And the final thing you may want to do is talk to your bank and to your stockbroker if you have one, because as a matter of self defense, they might want to get involved, as well. To sum up, as I mentioned earlier, we really, really need your help. The document we're producing will get put up for public comment I'm guessing March, and it would be really, really helpful if we have a number of people come in and comment.

I would suggest if you're making a comment, make them as small as possible. If you find five things that you think should be changed, write

---

a separate comment for each of them. If you have details about something you're commenting on, put each one in a separate comment. The reason for that is comments have to be responded to, but if you have one large comment you can get a response to just one point, that checks the box that it's been comment to, and the rest can get ignored. If you've got them split up into a bunch of comments there has to be some kind of response to each of them. Thank you very much, I would be happy to take questions if anyone has them.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you very much. It was an excellent presentation. I should say that there are many questions on the chat, I'm going to read the questions for you to answer, I'm going to read them one by one. I read the question, you answer that question, and then I will continue. So, the first question is what makes a language to be significant?

BILL JOURIS: We had two criteria. One was is it an official language somewhere, that is a national government, state or provincial government will do business in. They will accept documents that are written in that language, they will provide documents written in that language. The other criteria we used was basically even if it's not an official language, are there lots and lots of native speakers.

We took as a rule of thumb one million native speakers; it could equally easily have been 800 thousand, it could have been 1.2 million, we picked 1 million entirely arbitrarily. So if you know a language that you

---

think we should have considered and it has got 800 thousand speakers, by all means get out in the comment area and push. I would note that how urgent that is depends on whether that language uses a symbol which isn't already in our repertoire.

One of the first things to check, we have a table in our document which lists 200+ symbols that are in use. If the symbol is already there, the fact that we didn't look at a language isn't really critical. It's one of those yes, we should have done it, but in the event we didn't miss anything. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Sergio speaking. Thank you very much, Bill. I think, Alexis, Bill has already answered your question. So, as that is the case, I'm going to give the floor to the next speaker, but if your question is not answered, I'm going to read your question. Alexis, can you people confirm that your question is already answered?

Alexis has another question. What happens when we have to consider languages with no script?

BILL JOURIS:

If the language doesn't have a script then there is no way to put a domain name in to the domain name server, so essentially that language doesn't get domain names. I'm not sure if someone wants to take a whole new effort to make the domain name server respond phonetic to the spoken word, but to the best of my knowledge the architecture simply isn't there, if there isn't a script, it doesn't happen.

---

At least I assume that's what you were asking about rather than the languages like Chinese which don't have an alphabet, they merely have an enormous character set. Those we deal with. Does that answer your question?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Okay, thank you. I'm going to give the floor to members of our region for them to continue with questions. The first person is Gaby Gijon, so I'm going to give the floor. Gaby, please go ahead.

GABY GIJON: Gaby speaking from Argentina. I would like to thank Bill for his presentation and thank you for your presentation and for your effort. There are questions that come to my mind. I have a technical background. Basically I would like to ask the following. I want to understand some of the concepts and objectives of the panel.

From the concept point of view I would like to understand the difference between script, I understand that script has to do with the language, but when we speak about Unicode points or code points, what are you referring to? Are they the characters that are being analyzed within the language? So that would be one point of clarification that I need. From the objective point of view and according to the presentation and the information that I read before the presentation, I understand that the main idea is to establish rules for those who would like to apply for an IDN.



---

The idea is to decide how these rules are going to be expressed in order to apply for the TLD and how variants going to be managed. These are the rules for the registration of domain names and I understand that the idea, I mean, I want to understand this. The idea is to analyze the different combinations of variants. We might be able to combine the different languages so as to find confusable characters.

And my third comment or question is these objectives might be to automatize these in a set of rules so that when we have a new TLD this is something automatic. I understand that we are trying to have a universal format, if you will, so I understand that the idea is this, to automatize everything. I don't know if I'm being clear with my comment.

BILL JOURIS:

Okay, let me see if I can get through all of those. I didn't want to get too far into the weeds on Unicode but those of you who aren't familiar with it, there is a large table of four hexadecimal digit codes which attempts to cover all of the various scripts and the official definition is of what is a variant is saying that this four digit Unicode item and this other four digit Unicode item are variance.

There are some challenges because for some combinations of letter in the diacritic there is a separate Unicode and then with a Tilde, that's got a separate Unicode code from any letter in but there are other cases of a letter in a diacritic where there isn't a pre-combined Unicode, so we have to use a sequence where the letter and followed by the diacritic. It's a bit of a technical mess but we have an arrangement to code them.

---

The plans for how variance get managed, are first off, the intention is if you want to register a new top level domain name, a new TLD, you can submit the one you want to register and there will be software that automatically looks at that and says -- compares it to the various TLDs that are already registered and if finds something that only differs by one or more variance, then it will simply bounce it automatically.

If you get past that step, then there will be a similarity review panel, which has not yet been set up, let alone staffed but there is intended to be one, which will go through manually, look at the proposed TLD and say, "That looks an awful lot like these others, this other TLD that already exists." As I say, that panel hasn't been set up yet, it hasn't worked out its procedures. At the moment, that's an intention for the future.

I would like to comment on one other thing you mentioned, which is, what happens if you mix characters from different scripts? The current intention is, if you have a top-level domain name, it's all got to be in the same script, you can't take Cyrillic letter and Greek letter and a Hebrew letter and mash them together and make a new TLD. I think that mostly is a matter of saving everybody's sanity.

Does that answer your questions? I'm not sure it's an expert system but it -- because I don't think it's going to be doing any learning but it will certainly be set up to have a huge number of rules and tables to reference for the rules. Does that answer your questions Gaby?

---

GABY GIJON: Yes. My question wasn't when proposing a new TLD but the comparisons.

BILL JOURIS: Okay, and the comparisons will either be automated for the -- will be a two-stage process. Automated for the first stage and then manually compared for the second stage. Next questions.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: There is another question from one of colleges and after him I will close the que. If you have any more questions for Bill, I will kindly ask you to send them over by email to Bill with a copy on our email list so that we can learn. Raitme, you have the floor.

RAITME CITTERIO: I was wondering about the technical aspect, there are parameters, both technical and cultural, depending on the type of language. My proposal is how to develop the characters at the time of registering a name. I wanted to share this proposal of a new set of characters.

SERGIO SALINAS: Is Bill going to make a comment?

BILL JOURIS: I wanted to make sure that we had gotten to the end of the question. I'm not entirely sure I understand the question but let me try and answer and then we'll see. There are a variety of cultural and language

---

specific rules about how words can be put together. There are some symbols which in a particular language can never be the first letter in a word, just for one example. But, as far as a top-level domain name is concerned, there really aren't any restrictions about that kind.

There are restrictions on what letters, what symbols you can use, we have our own repertoire of a couple of hundred symbols for the Latin alphabet. There are others for Cyrillic alphabet, for Arabic, for Hindi, there are tens of thousands for Chinese, so you can use anything that shows up in the repertoire to put a domain name together, there is no requirement that it be a real word. It could be an acronym, something like IDM or for that matter ICANN or could be a word if somebody hasn't gotten to it first.

It could be the name of your company. Somebody suggested, while you could have a domain name that is your last name spelt backwards, I don't know why anyone would want to but we don't have any restrictions on how those are put together. Does that come somewhere close to answering your question? [AUDIO BREAK]

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Hi Bill, sorry for the interruption. It appears that the Spanish line lost connection for some reason, we're trying to get it back. One moment. [AUDIO BREAK]

Okay Bill, we resolved the issue, please continue.

---

BILL JOURIS: Did I succeed in answering that last question or did I totally misunderstand what the question was? [AUDIO BREAK]

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Unfortunately, we cannot hear the interpreters on Spanish, one moment. I'm so sorry about this, one moment. [AUDIO BREAK]

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I see the interpreter now connected to the channel.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Can you please confirm that we are receiving interpretation?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Yes, we have interpretation on the English Channel.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: If you are on the English Channel, we cannot begin with Humberto's report, so that we can proceed because we have only 10 minutes to the end of this call and we have plenty of reports. Silvia or Claudia, can you please confirm that you are hearing interpretation and if interpreters can give us some extra minutes? [AUDIO BREAK]

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Can you hear the interpreters, can you hear interpreters in Zoom? [AUDIO BREAK]

SILVIA VIVANCO: Can you please confirm that we can hear --?

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: Can you hear me?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Please proceed with your comment.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: I'm going to be very brief because we are running out of time. We had a vote. We have to vote on the GNSO and some red cross names. In ALAC we are voting on the particular item. We also other topics that are being put forth, public comment, one of them has to do with DNS Abuse. If you get into the public comment web page you will be able to read the whole discussion. Eventually we're working on a comment on the ISOC and the .ORG issue. We are discussing consensus at ALAC.

Finally, there are comments on a platform, the At-Large Policy Platform. This is what we -- in the past knew as hot topics, this is a leading document and this document is going to be updated. This is just in a nutshell what is going on at ALAC. There are plenty of other topics being discussed but I would like to finish my presentation here, just for the sake of time.

---

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much, Humberto. There is one point I would like to mention, this is the PIR issue and the .ORG issue. I think that we have to have a position on this.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: Yes, this is a topic that is being discussed. Our chair, Maureen, circulated a very energetic email and we are addressing the issue in ALAC and we are thinking about taking action.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Perhaps we can create a small subcommittee with members from the region in order to contribute to drafting a declaration or statement on this topic? I have my point of view regarding the management of .ORG and I believe that the [inaudible] is something that is overwhelming for all of us.

So I would like to see in our regions some comments or a statement. This should perhaps be taken by José Arce from the Domain Names Working Group. Perhaps José should address topic together with the ALAC members, so as to see if we can deliver a statement so that we can provide our Latin American position on this particular issue.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: From my personal point of view, I am willing to work and help you.

---

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I don't know if José has joined the call, otherwise Silvia, I would kindly suggest that you write down an action item on this issue. I would like to José to take over this issue so that we can start working on a document by our region. You are free to join. I believe that this is something very important regardless of our participation in the two-mailing working group and in the impact of domain names on users.

I believe that this is a very good opportunity for us to be able to start engaging in topics that are being at ICANN, so please let's take into account that there have been great process in our region on many topics and I believe that we now have many members participating in many working groups and I am very happy to see that but of course, we have to keep on working and making the difference because our region has to be very active. So, please let's move ahead with our ALAC members.

Now, I'm going to continue with the agenda if you don't mind. Is there any comment that you would like to make? If not, I'm going to continue with the agenda.

Now we have a report by the working group chairs. Now I'm going to ask a very briefly. I see a question by -- let me read that question by Jacqueline. Do we have a unified LAC position? I don't really know Jacqueline. I don't know if there is a unified LAC position, that's what why we are creating that working group.

If you would like to take your position and see if everybody else agrees with you, that's okay but I believe that is the way to move forward. We



---

have to be very positive on that. If we have one particular point of view, we need to go to the working group and we need to present that position, if it is adopted by consensus that we'll do, if not, we can just see if there is a majority position but I would like to see as many as members as possible working on different projects and document of the region.

With that, we're going to continue with the next item on the agenda and this is the IDN Multilingualism. Sylvia, you have six minutes, you have one minute now.

SYLVIA HERLEIN:

I'm very happy with Bill's presentation, this is the topic which we are working on and thank you Gaby for all the questions that you've asked to Bill for us to be able to further understand this topic. This is a very complex topic for all of us, with many variants and we have to keep on exploring. We have many members participating and we have our doors open for people to participate and engage.

We are now drafting the idea of a project, we have an idea of working with LACTLD. We are going to discuss on the document and we're going to work on the document and once this is done, we're going to send this to the LACTLD Board, for them to be able to proof this document. We want them to be a gateway for us to reach different members and ask them what happens with second domain names, second level domain names and why there are some characters that are being added and why some others are not.

---

When it comes to universal acceptance, we are just working on that, we are working on a draft document and we are going to send our proposal, the universal acceptance working group is willing to receive this document. We are going to send that document to the working group with our ideas, this is going to be a local initiative. In ALAC we are the only RALO working on universal acceptance. This is what we are doing right now. Then the group is going to review the document and approve the document. That's all on my part. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Sylvia. I don't know if Adrian Carballo is available? Again, just to one minute because I have to give the floor to Rodrigo Saucedo who's been waiting.

ADRIAN CARBALLO: Thank you, Sergio. Very quickly, let me tell you. We are still working within the framework of the capacity building strategy. We are specifically working on a project for capacity building in Spanish, we will soon give you further news with already developed content. I will give you further information later on. Together with the GSC group, Rodrigo Saucedo's, with online, I wanted to thank him and ask him if we can be joining their What's Up group so that we can be on the same page. I have no further comments and if you have questions, here I am.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thanks, Adrian. I will now give the floor to Rodrigo. Rodrigo, you have the floor and I apologize for taking so long.

RODRIGO SAUCEDO:

Don't worry, Sergio. I will be very brief. I hope you can hear me very well. Three years ago, we've been working on the regional strategy for capacity building. We have organized webinars to develop awareness on major topics. In recent years, it was mostly gTLDs. This year, with Harold, Sergio, and now with the support of Adrian, who is the person responsible for capacity building, we have been focused on the development of webinars. The first on EPDP, then PDP 3.0, then the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, then the DOH, DNS over HTTPS and DNS over TLS, and then we had another one on Universal Acceptance, the study conducted by Mark Segal. And then you had the sixth webinar given by Bill Jouris on IDNs.

This is a capacity building project, but for the past three years, we have been asking ourselves how we can incentivize community participation, and so another project in the strategy to support this. This will be the third year. The first year, I don't remember how many webinars we had, it think it was six, among those who took five of the six webinars, were participants in a draw and the winner had a chance to visit the regional office of ICANN, La Casa de Internet, so that they could see how the organization worked and we can enhance knowledge on ICANN.

The first winner of this prize was Harold Arcos, he was our visitor in 2018, and this year the second winner was Dev Anand, but unfortunately, because of personal reasons, Dev didn't have the time to travel. So, he couldn't travel this year and we will see when he will have the time in the future to collect the prize.

---

---

Now, out of the six webinars given this year, we will have the draw among all those who participated in five of the six and the draw will be made in January. There will be a note republic involved with all the names of the people attending five of the webinars and the winner will visit La Casa de Internet, The Internet House, in 2020. This is what I wanted to say to you today. Thank you very much. I know we are about to close. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Rodrigo. We thank you extremely for how patient you've been today to take the floor in our meeting. A very significant announcement you've made.

I think we should be reporting that there are some new topics being developed in LACRALO and probably in the new capacity building webinar series. We will take the topics developed by the ALAC, that will be given out in February. Adrian will be working Rodrigo on this.

Now I will move to the next item of the agenda. I will give the floor to Heidi, she will talk about additional budget request. Heidi, you have the floor.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you very much everyone. I wanted to let you know about two upcoming opportunities for funding. The first one is the annual additional budget request for ABR's. These are for funding for regional activities, you might want to do capacity building, ALS read out, printing of brochures, printing of other documents or even regional travel. I'm

---

putting in the workspace into the chat. At-Large has a separate process, not just the ICANN process.

There is a timeline on this workspace, the key date for you in the region is the sixth of January, that is when you need to have your proposal submitted to the RALO leadership. Again, there's a new step, all proposals from the regions need to go through their regional leadership, so please do that by the sixth of January. After that, if the region approves it, it will go up to the ALAC finance and budget subcommittee, who will then review it and if there are comments on it, then it will be sent to you for revision.

The final deadline for submission of these requests is the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and this is actually done by At-Large staff, so please do not submit requests yourself. This is again starting for fiscal year 21 that begins the first of July 2020 and ends the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2021. Keep in mind, this is when your general assembly, this is within the period of your general assembly in Cancun not this March 2020 but March 2021, so you may wish to think about if you would like to have some funding around that GA, that general assembly.

The other event, this is the other opportunity, it's new, this is for fiscal year 20, the current fiscal year. Again, that is from now until the end of June. This is a workspace; I'm putting it into the chat. This is what Goran Marby, the CEO, has offered the SO AC chairs, this is for funding that is not be something that you did not get in last year's process, the additional budget request, this is for something additional for At-Large.

---

Maureen Hilyard has noted that in addition to the criteria here, it should be perhaps for the regions or related to post ATLAS III activities. Please take a look at this. The full details are on this wiki page and this workspace is actually a work in progress and more information will be added to this shortly. Thank you very much.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Heidi, for this report. When I was reading through, I do not know why and I apologize to my dear Lilian because I skipped her, so Lilian, you have the floor. Again, I apologize because I was pressed by time and missed the line where your name was. Lilian, you have the floor. [AUDIO BREAK]

Lilian?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Claudia, is Lilian on the line?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I do not see her.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Well, she was but maybe she dropped.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Okay, so while she reconnects, I will make a very, very short report. We have made some progress on the development on the rules of

---

procedure, we have completed all the sections and we are now making some tidying up. Very soon we will be sending them after the working group discusses the items, we will be posting it on the mailing list for the entire region. This is a brief updated on my side. If Lilian is not yet with us, we can go to the feedback survey.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, please. Claudia, let's go with the webinar feedback while we bring Lilian back.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: We currently ask you to fill in this survey. The first question is, how is the technology used for this webinar? Please make a choice. The second, did the speaker demonstrate mastery of the topic? The next question is, are you satisfied with the webinar? The fourth question is, how many years of experience do you have in the ICANN community? The last question is, what topics would you like us to cover for the future webinars? Here you should write your answers in the chat, so please do that. Thank you very much.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you. Is Lilian with us?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: No, not yet.

---

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: So, we will have to close this call now. If anyone wants to make a question, you have a few minutes. Silvia please go ahead.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Just to thank you, to thank LACRALO leadership, Sergio, the new directors, the new chair elect and secretary elect who have just started their work. The best wishes and our appreciation for their commitment and it is wished for LACRALO to grow and all LACRALO members for their commitment and active engagement in At-Large activities. We wish you happy holidays and the best 2020, with deep affections.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Silvia. I have to bring a couple news before leaving, which I think are very important. First, Lilian was appointed vice chair of the universal acceptance group, which is an indication that LACRALO is working and alive. Those of you who've been in ATLAS III, all ATLAS III participants have taken on the commitment to implement what we learned there in Montreal. It is my personal commitment and Harold's commitment, the chair elect and the secretary elect, to accompany this process which is an inflection point for ALAC for our region. We will be working on that.

Finally, happy holidays, Merry Christmas and I hope all your wishes are fulfilled, your families, your friends and the organizations you represent.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Can I say a few words?



SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yes, of course. And finally, I wish that in these holidays we have the best. I know we are thinking of the internet as one internet, one world.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Just to say that I will be sending by email to all of you, the link for you to give a comment on the draft report of the ATRT3 with a general review of all ICANN issues. Our community's opinion on that is very important. Thank you and happy holidays and the best success for next year.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Bye everyone and thank you, Vanda, for your wishes. Please read what Alejandro Pisante has said about the migration requirements for the Cancun meeting; please take that into account. Bye-bye.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**