

Statement of Interest for the IDN Variant TLDs Issues Project

1. **Your Name:** Bal Krishna Bal
2. **Current employer and position:**
Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Kathmandu University, Chief Technical Officer, Language Technology Kendra, Nepal.
3. **Type of work performed:** Project Manager (PAN Localization Project, Nepal Country Component <http://www.mpp.org.np/pannepal/index.php>, NepaLinux Project, <http://nepalinux.org> , Bhasha Sanchar Project, <http://bhashasanchar.org>), Research Lead (Nepali spellchecker, Nepali Computational Grammar Analyzer), Team Lead (Translation of gTLDs and ccTLDs in Nepali, Research on the Character Set and Encoding constraints for IDN in Nepali), Teaching Computer Science courses to Undergraduate and Graduate Level students.
4. **Identify any financial ownership and/or senior management/leadership that are interested parties in IDN Variant TLDs related topics:** Research Agencies like the International Development Research Center(IDRC) who have substantially supported the software localization in Asia and Africa through Projects like PAN L10n and AnLoc.
5. **Identify any type of commercial or non-commercial interest in IDN Variant TLDs related topics. Are you representing other parties? Describe any arrangements/agreements between you and any other group, constituency or person(s) regarding your nomination/selection as a team member:**

As the technology across the globe is getting more and more multi-lingual day by day, there is certainly an increased interest towards IDNs and IDNAs in both the commercial and non-commercial sector. After all, it is also the matter of identity and representation of a particular language community in terms of the global technology if IDNs and IDNAs are enabled for a given language. The inspiration or motivation for participating in this Project was partly triggered by the initial level of gTLD and ccTLD translation work as well as the Research on encoding constraints and IDNs in Nepali that the Nepal Country Component accomplished under the PAN Localization Project (<http://panl10n.net>).

6. IDN Variant Case Study Team members are expected to demonstrate knowledge or expertise in aspects related to the IDN Variants. Please, identify any knowledge, expertise or experience you have that would be relevant to the work on IDN Variant TLDs Issues Project:

In the case of the Nepali language, variants can occur in the following ways:

S.No.	Description of the occurrence of the Variants	Examples
1	Different ways of writing the same word using different letters	शहर,सहर वालकृष्ण वल, बालकृष्ण बल
2	Font specific display of the different glyphs for the same letter in words	Mangal font: अइँ, १ Kalimati font: अइँ, १ Madan2 font: अइँ, १
3	Different interpretations of the words according to their writing style	रसिलो – juicy रसीलो – very much juicy

7. Describe any tangible or intangible benefit that you receive from participation in such processes, for example, if you are an academic or NGO and use your position to advance your ability to participate, this should be a part of the statement of interest, just as should employment by an organization that has an interest in IDN Variant TLDs:

I summarize the possible benefits of the participation in such processes as follows:

- Exposure to experts in different levels – national, regional and international.
- Inclusion in the roster of experts or community representatives.
- Possibility of representing the community in forums and discussions worldwide.
- Establishing the identity of one's language community in language related implementations like IDNs and IDNAs.