ccPDP WG Discussion and review of proposed policy IDNccTLD string selection section 5-9

version 06

13 August 2021

Section 9. Miscellanous

From Section 2.1.4 , 2013 Report to the Board

A. Delegation of an IDN ccTLD must be in accordance with current policies, procedures and practices for delegation of ccTLDs

Once the IDN ccTLD string has been selected and the String Validation Stage has been successfully concluded, the delegation of an IDN ccTLD shall be according to the policy and practices for delegation of ccTLDs. This means that the practices for delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs apply to IDN ccTLDs.

WG Comments and Findings

No comments, accepted

B. Confidentiality of information during due diligence stage (read: validation Stage), unless otherwise foreseen.

It is recommended that the information and support documentation for the selection of an IDN ccTLD string is kept confidential by ICANN until it has been established that the selected string meets all criteria.

Wg Comments and Findings

Reason for including this originally: with the publication of the IDN ccTLD string, the selection process is concluded and the delegation can then be requested. During the validation parties involved in validation should be enabled to community confidentialy and ask questions on specifics and provide additional information and explanatations. The results of the process, and for example panel findings will be published, as such clear that the request has been made.

Question: when will it become public? Response: after validation has been completed.

The approach is very similar to current practices with around delegation and transfers etc. of (IDN)ccTLD, which were re-confirmed in the FoI. Publication is relevant from an accountability perspective.

WG agreed with proposal on 2 August meeting

C. Creation of list over time

Experience has shown that entries on the ISO 3166-1 table change over time. Such a change can directly impact the eligibility for an IDN ccTLD. In order to record these changes, it is recommended that a table will be created over time of validated IDN ccTLDs, its variants and the name of the territory in the Designated Language(s), both in the official and short form, in combination with the two-letter code and other relevant entries on the ISO 3166-1 list. The purpose of creating and maintaining such a table is to maintain an authoritative record of all relevant characteristics relating to the selected string and act appropriately if one of the characteristics changes over time.

C.1 Notes and comments

As noted above the ISO 3166-1 is not only relevant for the creation of a ccTLD. Once an entry is removed from the list of country names, the ccTLD entry in the root zone database may need to be adjusted/removed to maintain parity between the ISO 3166 list and the root-zone file[1].

Wg Comments and Findings

Staff Note: Creation of list over time
1. Historical reason to create list over time has disappeared. When proposal was developed in 2011 timeframe there was an intense discussion in ICANN community around the use of country and territory names as gTLDs. For an in depth overview the WG is referred to the sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Final report of the CCWG on use of Country and Territory Names (https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/ccwg-ctn-final-paper-15jun17-en.pdf) and results of the SubPro WT5 discussions concluded in October 2019 and included in the GNSO SubPro Final Report Annex J.
(https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/file/field-file-attach/final-report-newgtld-subsequent-procedures-pdp-18jan21-en.pdf)

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[1] See: http://www.iana.org/reports/2007/rs-yu-report-11sep2007.html

2. Existing lists. Currently various, authoritative lists are already available and in use in the context of IDNccTLDs. Each of the lists records aspects, but is not complete as they rely on the data provided by external (local) sources. The lists are:

- ISO 3166 standard part 1: list of countries, sub-divisions and other areas of geopolitical interest.
- ISO 3166 standard part 3: defines codes for country, sub-divisions and other areas of geopolitical interest which have been deleted from ISO3166 since its first publication in 1974.
- UNGEGN List of Country Names: List of Country names which includes the name of countries, with national official names and in the 6 official UN languages (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/docs/11th-uncsgn-docs/E_Conf.105_13_CRP.13_15_UNGEGN%20WG%20Country%20Names%20Document.pdf)
- ISO639-3 and related the Ethnologue, listing the living languages of the world: https://www.ethnologue.com/browse/names
- IANA Root Zone Database (https://www.iana.org/domains/root/db)

3. Added value of a new list. To ensure value of such a newly to be created list: its purpose and the rules need to be clearly defined. If purpose is not defined i.e the issue that needs to be addressed and the use of such a list. This can range from providing a non-authoritative overview to creating a list of reserved names and strings, which can be very large. Depending on its purpose defining the purpose and associated rules to include and maintain the entries is directly related to the purpose of such a list it may have direct impact on other non-ccNSO policies. As this is not in the mandate of the wg group, it should be raised with the ccNSO Council.

4. Maintenance of list over time. As noted the operational issues of maintenance may be prohibiting: the more information included the more resources are needed to maintain and the more detailed the rules have to be to avoid ambivalence. Related, the size of the list may be prohibitive: as said if the proposal is to include the names of Territories in all languages and their variants (per script), the number of entries will be in order of the millions. As a second order issue of such a large repository is correctness at a certain point tin time of the entries. This is specifically an issue if the requestors or ccTLD Manager of the selected IDNccTLD string will be required to provide updates to the entries, particularly if there is hardly any incentive for them to do so.

Section was introduced in 2011 as part of protection of country and territory names and related to the discussion at that time on use of countryand territory names as gTLD's.

Nowadays (2021) First question to ask if it still makes sense to create a new list over time?
Question: who maintains this list? Response: unclear
Maintenance is very important. The discussions in SubPro did not have much to do with country code, but more regarding politics. For example, all kind of claims were made about the ISO-list, which had nothing to do with the ISO 3166, and related it puts maintenance at risk. Therefore to avoid furuter issue the purpose of such a list should be well defined purpose and scope. If it is agreed to create a list as part of the process You need a supposedly neutral list. Purpose of such a list should be well-defined.

There is an additional issue which is related and that is the potential scale of such a list. One could end up with a list of millions of names. Currentluy roughly 250 country codes in the ISO list and each country code multiplied by all living languages, and then again with variants. Currently around 7000 living languages, and number of variants is unknown. It seems easy to include this as a requirement, but it is an immense task to maintain, and without any clear purpose and for what purpose.

Question: Who would create and maintain the list? If the 2-letter code ceases to exist in the iso list? Guess that is easy to track?

ISO 3166 part 3 includes the historical data.

Note: the proposal was made at the time when the discussion around the Applicant Guide Book (second round of new GTLDs) was not clear on whether country and territory names could be used as gTLDs. Following closure there were 2 WGs. A CCWG and SubPro WT5 to provide more clarity on the use of 2-letter codes and the use of country and territory names. The historical need for such a list has gone.

Quesdtion: does applicant or icann staff include entries? What is the relevance of this table?

Response: This is a proposal in the original 2013 policy. The list itself has never been created. It was a proposal at the very end of the process. This group is reviewing the 2013 proposals.

Note: If any changes are made to the ISO list, which triggers the retirement, that is something to record and keep for future reference. But not a table. To discuss later when we come to the selection of idn strings.

Response: this is good point. De-selection is already covered for ASCII ccTLDs.

Added Staff Note: Again what is purpose of maintaining of list of retired ccTLDs? Currently: in principle once a country code is removed from the ISO3166 list, for example as a result of siginicant rename of the country, then the original country code may be used again as a ccTLD.

Question: If there is a change to the delegated string, someone would complain, if it is an issue. Otherwise no benefit to this list There is a path for complaints?

Response: not really. If there is a significant name change, which results in a change in the string, the original ASCII cctld will disappear and a new ascii 2-letter code will be assigned by the ISO3166 MA.This would trigger the removal and retire process. The retirement is recorded in the iana reports, which are publicly available. Regarding variants: to be discussed once it is clear what triggers the de-selection. See retirement process: once you define the retirement trigger event, the idn cctld will be removed, together with its variants (staff observation)

Question: concern regarding not understanding line 25. what characteristics?

Response: not sure. Unclearity already 10 years ago. But senses this does not withstand the time.

Question: Assuming ISO3166 maintains its own change record. Is there a need to duplicate that effort?

Response: Assumption is correct history is recorded in part 3 of the standard. No point in maintaining the history of what is not authoritative.
Additoinal point made: just follow the standard, and create a layer on top of that?
Response: this again raises the question about maintenance etc. and purpose
Additional note: part 3 includes all the retired codes. The officially assigned codes, Reserved codes which are not official. Easy to find.

Question: what if a designated language of a territory changes?
Response: not clear. This is part of the de-selection sub-group to discuss and check what the impact is.

Comment: maintain it, if it is useful for reference. So far we do not have an existing mechanism. Easy.
Response: what would be the difference between that list, and the existing iso3166? That one is maintained.
Additional comment: including reference to idn. Not sure iso3166 has that.

Response: risk of duplication. Possibility of confusion among stakeholders. Records should be clean, in one location, and useful to all.
Comment: proposal to create a list is Ill-defined. Not clear what it will be used for. List of IDNs exist; delegation are in the iana database.

Concluding comment: revisit this element during the next meeting. This was the 1st meeting. Arguments have been recorded.

Question: potentially you can create it from the iana list, correct? The proposed list does not have any additional characteristics?
Response: probably not.

Action item
secretariat to verify what is recorded and what is not. Elements not in ISO3166-list.

Section in document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review/ inclusion in list	Proposed next step	Adjust text?	Updated text/comments WG
2.1.4 C	Creation of list over time Experience has shown that entries on the ISO	The update frequency caused issues in the past. It might be advisable to review it.	Review and update/amend this section of the proposed		

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3166-1 table change over time. Such a change can directly impact the eligibility for an IDN ccTLD. In order to record these changes, it is recommended that a table will be created over time of validated IDN ccTLDs, its variants and the name of the territory in the Designated Language(s), both in the official and short form, in combination with the two--letter code and other relevant entries on the ISO 3166-1 list. The purpose of creating and maintaining such a table is to maintain an authoritative record of all relevant characteristics relating to the selected string and act	It is questionable whether this mechanism still makes sense in the current context. Who is responsible for creating the table and what is the frequency for updating it? What is purpose?	policy as part of a ccNSO PDP. Rationale: This element of the policy needs to be reviewed but was included at the suggestion of some GAC members at the time and adopted by the ccNSO members in 2013. Needs to be ensured that both GAC (members) and ccNSO	

	appropriately if one of the characteristics changes over time.				

D. Transitional arrangement regarding IDN ccTLD strings under the Fast Track IDN ccTLD Process

1. Closure of Fast Track Process. As of the moment the policy for the selection of IDN ccTLDs has been fully implemented by ICANN and has become operational, the Fast Track Process shall be closed for new requests of IDNccTLDs the process based on the IND ccTLD string selection policy shall be the only available to process to submit a request for an IDNccTLD string.

2. If the IDNccTLD request process based on the IND ccTLD string selection policy has become operational all IDN ccTLD string requests which are still in the Fast Track Process must be completed on the basis of the Fast Tarck Process and result either in pubclication of the string according to section 5.6.4 of the FIP, or, is withdrawn by the requestor or terminated by ICANN in accordance with section 5.4 of the Final Implementation Plan[2].

3. All IDNccTLD strings that have been validated under the Fast Track Process, wil be deemed to be validated under the IDNccTLD policy for the selction of IDNccTLD strings, and are grandfathered. The recommendations with respect to the de-selection of IDNccTLD strings apply accordingly as well.

4. Transitional arrangement with respect to variants will be proposed by the VM sub-group.

WG Comments and Findings

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[2] https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/idn-cctld-implementation-plan-28mar19-en.pdf . From the FIP: "*Several of the steps in the Request Submission for String Evaluation (Stage 2) allow for a requester to withdraw a request. It is also possible that ICANN will terminate a request if the request contains certain errors.* " In addition several circumstances are listed in the FIP, which trigger a termination by ICANN, for example, according to Section 5.6.3 "*If the requester has not notified ICANN within three (3) calendar months after the date of notification by ICANN of DNS Stability Panel findings, the Termination Process will be initiated. See section 5.4* "

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Note that to date over 60 IDN cctld strings that have been delegated as result of the fast track process. Clear that transitional arrangement is needed. This also needs to be updated with a section on the Variant Management. Just a transitional arrangement to ensure that those idn cctlds that have been delegated as a result of the Fast Track Process, are not affected by this policy. In addition, when this policy comes into effect, requests that are pending under the FTP, should run through that process (in case the procedures differ). Empty the FTP channel, and then close it.

What to do with variants for the existing IDN ccTLDs? To be discussed by VM-sub group.

Note: this clause as is does not put a time-bound on the applicant. Not clear if the transition can apply for 1 or even 10 years. Applications can take multiple years.

Response: good point. Perhaps we should leave this to implementation? To be included as an element for further discussion.

Comment: section D will not impact already delegated idn cctld strings, nor the currently pending applications. Include both. New application and cctld string which is already delegated. This sentence needs to be rephrased. "Applications" or "under application". Let's limit the scope.

Bart: section to be revisited. With the following scenarios in mind:

- Scenario 1: Transitional arrangement. Regarding idn cctlds still under FTP
- Scenario 2: idn cctld strings that were granted under FTP, and that have been delegated. Not affected by overall policy. Grandfathered
- Scenario 3: what to do with variants?

Comment: variants delegated under the FTP. not mentioned here

Response: No variants have been delegated under FTP rules

E. Review of policy for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings

It is recommended that the policy will be reviewed within five years after implementation or at such an earlier time warranted by extraordinary circumstances. It is also recommended that the ICANN Board of Directors should initiate such a review including consulting the ALAC, ccNSO and GAC on the Terms of Reference for the review.

In the event such a review results in a recommendation to amend the policy, the rules relating to the country code Policy Development Process as defined in the ICANN Bylaws should apply.

Section in document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review/ inclusion in list	Proposed next step	Adjust text?	Updated text/comments WG
2.1.4 E	**Review of policy for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings** It is recommended that the policy will be reviewed within five years after implementation or at such an earlier time warranted by extraordinary circumstances […].	It would be advisable to review the policy whenever deemed appropriate. Considering the dynamic internet landscape, should any significant scenario change and/or arise, it would be quite challenging to wait 5 years to review the policy. Is review warranted every 5 years? What should be the scope of such a review? Should timing be better defined?. Is this a normal behavior in any ICANN policy or it is a new mechanism for IDN	Review and update/amend this section of the proposed policy as part of a ccNSO PDP. Rationale: Adopted by the ccNSO Members in 2013.		

		policy, if it is specific to IDNs, 5 years may be too long, especially in the beginning.			

F. Verification of Implementation

It is anticipated that some parts of the recommendations and process steps will need to be further refined and interpreted by ICANN staff before they will be implemented. It is further anticipated that this will be done through an implementation plan or similar planning document. It is therefore recommended that the ccNSO monitors and evaluates the planned implementation of recommendations and the ccNSO Council reviews and approves the final planning document, before implementation by staff.

G. Permanent IDN ccTLD Advisory Panel

Due to the complex nature of IDN's and the sensitivities and interest involved in the selection of IDN ccTLD strings, it is recommended that under the overall policy a Permanent IDN ccTLD Advisory Panel is appointed to assist and provide guidance to ICANN staff and the Board on the interpretation of the overall policy in the event the overall policy does not provide sufficient guidance and/or the impact of the policy is considered to be unreasonable or unfair for a particular class of cases.

The IDN ccTLD Advisory Panel members should consist of one member from ALAC, two members from the ccNSO, two members of the GAC, one member of SSAC. The ICANN Board should appoint the members of the Panel nominated by the related Supporting Organisation and Advisory Committees

Section in document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review/ inclusion in list	Proposed next step	Adjust text?	Updated text/comments WG

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| 2.1.4 G | Permanent IDN ccTLD Advisory Panel Due to the complex nature of IDN's and the sensitivities and interest involved in the selection of IDN ccTLD strings, it is recommended that under the overall policy a Permanent IDN ccTLD Advisory Panel is appointed to assist and provide guidance to ICANN staff and the Board on the interpretation of the overall policy in the event the overall policy does not provide sufficient guidance and/or the impact of the policy is considered to be unreasonable or unfair for a particular class of cases. […]. | An advisory panel might have a role if it is made of true IDN experts within and outside the ICANN constituency community. Considering how challenging this could be, it would be recommendable to seek alternative channels to advise on possible issues and changes relating to the policy.

Current practice around implementation includes public comments etc. In addition creating such a permanent advisory panel, could be prove not to be feasible in light of current workload and priorities of the ccNSO and other communities | Review and update/amend this section of the proposed policy as part of a ccNSO PDP.

Rationale: Proposed panel was adopted by the ccNSO Members in 2013. | | |
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TABLE 6: Other, additional topics

Section in document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review/ inclusion in list	Proposed next step	Adjust Text?	Updated text/comments WG
NA	Retirement of IDN ccTLD	The retirement of ASCII ccTLD is triggered by the removal of the country code form the ISO 3166-1 list. This may be caused by a significant change of name of the country or territory, which results in a need to change the two-letter code and removal of the former. Looking at the selection criteria, the question is which, if any, of the listed criteria, may/should cause the retirement of an IDN ccTLD, and cause the retirement policy to become applicable.	The ccNSO PDP on IDN ccTLD should be amended to include what will cause the retirement of an IDN ccTLD. Rationale: The retirement process will be defined through ccNSO PDP 3 will be applicable to both IDNccTLD and ASCII ccTLDs. The event leading up to the retirement of ASCII ccTLD is derived from RFC 1591 (removal of the country code form the ISO 3166-1 list of country & territory names). The overall policy on the selection of IDN ccTLD strings includes the criteria for selection of an IDN		

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			ccTLD string. The delegation, transfer and revocation are defined through RFC 1591 and interpreted through the FoI are applicable by the overall principles.		

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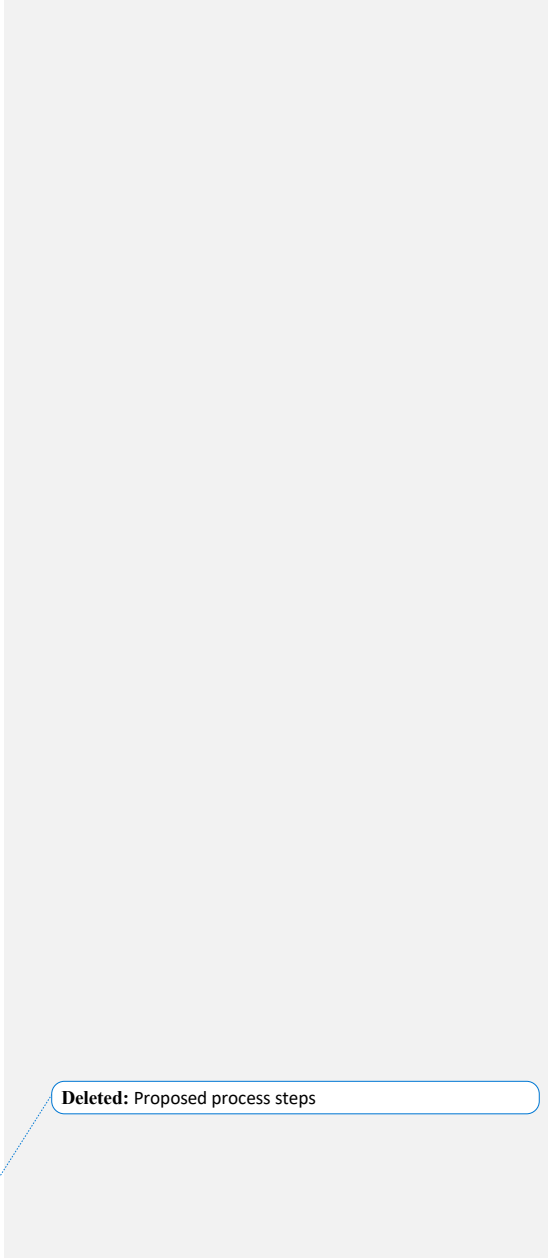
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