Life of ISO 3166 Code (Excerpts)

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Maintenance Agency

- Body which maintains the "ephemeral" part of a standard

- In Internet terms: a registry for a ISO standard (or part of)

- Maintenance of contents of ISO 3166 and editorial changes
  - Saves lengthy change process
  - Online database of some tables
    - Subscriptions available

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Focus on Part1 Country Codes

- Alpha-2 and alpha-3 codes assigned together
  - Same eligible entities

- Lot's of uses of both
  - alpha-2 *Electronic* readable travel documents
  - alpha-3 *Machine* readable OCR travel documents
  - With variations and additions: FIFA, IOC etc.

- Alpha-3 Not mentioned in RFC 1591
- Code format: QQ, QQQ

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Uses of alpha-2 Codes

- Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs)
- Travel documents
  - ICAO DOC 9303 (*electronically* readable passports)
- International Transport (freight containers)
- Finance related
  - ISO 4127 (Currency codes)
  - IBAN (International bank number)
  - Swift or BIC codes
  - ISO 6166 (International Securities Identifying Number (ISIN)).

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Code Types
(ISO 3166-1, alpha-2)

- Officially assigned (249)

- User assigned (40)

- Other Codes (407)

  - Reserved codes

    - Exceptionally reserved (12)

    - Transitional reserved (7)

    - Indeterminately reserved (30)

  - Formerly used (22)

  - Unassigned (336)

  - Escape code (1)

Addition, Change and Removal of Codes

- Major name change (RH)

- Countries merge (DD, VD)

- Countries do split (CS 2x)

- Territories change

  - Changes in Statehood (NL, AN)

  - Still in "limbo" (Kosovo)

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Name Change

- Zaire is now Congo, (the Democratic Republic of the)

  – ZR: Transitional reserved, alpha-4 code: ZRCD

- Upper Volta is now Burkina Faso

  – HV: Unassigned, alpha-4 code: HVBF

- Southern Rhodesia is now Zimbabwe

  – RH: Indeterminately reserved for Haiti (UN Road sign convention)

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Merging countries

- ## German Democratic Republic

  - Now Part of entry Germany

  - DD is Unassigned, alpha-4 code: DDDE

- ## Viet-Nam, Democratic Republic of

  - Now Part of entry Viet Nam

  - VD is Unassigned, alpha-4 code: VDVN

"Splitting" Countries

- Pacific Islands split into Marshall Islands (MH), Micronesia (FM), Northern Mariana Islands (MP), Palau (PW)

  - PC: Unassigned, alpha-4 code: PCHH

- Gilbert and Ellis Islands (GE) is now Kiribati (KI) and Tuvalu (TV)

  - GE: Assigned to Georgia, alpha-4 code: GEHH

- Canton and Enderbury Islands now part of Kiribati

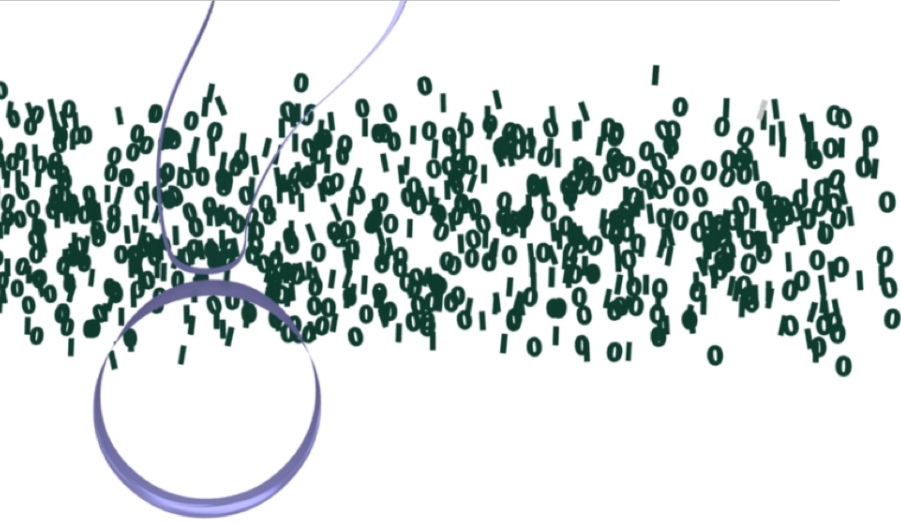 - CT: Formerly used, alpha-4 code: CTKI

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Possible Future changes in 3166 Part 1

- Name change

- Disappearing country (territory)

  – Pending in the UN

- "Official" script change

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Impact Possible changes

- ## Name change

  - should the code change as well?

    - Will be costly because of other uses need to change as well

  - Some Code change request still pending

- ## "Official" script change

  - country has two languages, for one is a change of script proposed.

  - Will change the name (spelling) somewhat

    - Will that change the ISO code?

      - Asked for a User Assigned code

    - Wil the IDN need to change? Remove the current IDN?

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Questions?

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