

Statements of Interest for IDN Variant Issues Project

28 June 2011

1. Your Name:
 - a. **Jothan Frakes**

2. Current employer and position:
 - a. **My primary focus has been a voluntary position at the Mozilla Foundation working on the Public Suffix List.**

Otherwise, I am self employed as a consultant to a number of ccTLDs and startup companies outside the domain name industry, some of whom have interests in applying for new TLDs.

None of these are applying for an IDN string or seeking a variant.

3. Type of work performed:
 - a. **In my volunteer role, I perform curation of the “Public Suffix List” [<http://PublicSuffix.org>] and “Mozilla IDN Whitelist” [<http://www.mozilla.org/projects/security/tld-idn-policy-list.html>], validating requests and processing community submitted changes for approval by other volunteers; Additional roles include managing the inbound list industry liaison with IANA Listed or Fast-Track IDN ccTLD administrators.**

4. Identify any financial ownership or senior management/leadership interest in that are interested parties in IDN Variant related topics:
 - a. **None at this time, I shall update my SOI should this change during the course of our work.**
I am in frequent contact with a number of parties with

publicly disclosed and undisclosed strings that they intend to apply for who are soliciting my services as a consultant.

It is my intention to not take on any TLDs as clients before the end of 2011 that intend to apply for an IDN TLD comprised of Latin which would have a U-Label that would differ from it's A-Label (ie those requiring a punycode representation).

This has no conflict with our work but I will expose that Since 2007 I am listed as a consulting member of CoCCA [<http://cocca.cx>]. I hold no financial interest. CoCCA provides technical registry services to DotMasr, the IDN ccTLD for Egypt, but have had no involvement or input in that project. The DotMasr IDN TLD is in Arabic script.

5. *Identify any type of commercial or non-commercial interest in IDN Variant 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 work team member:*

- a. **In the scope of the volunteer work that I perform with the Mozilla Foundation on helping them with their IDN Whitelist, we work to ensure a better internet user experience by minimizing the amount of confusingly similar domains via IDN.**

Typically this is in the form of exposing confusingly similar variants and insisting that the registry have clearly documented code points and policies that outline protections against registrations of homograph characters or strings.

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 of the IDN Variants.*

a. I am co-inventor on three patents now held by VeriSign related to the registration, resolution, and use of IDN

i. “Multilingual Domain Name Registration”

US 2010/0299409 A1

<http://www.google.com/patents?id=hbHdAAAAEBAJ&zoom=4&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

ii. “Multilingual Domain Name Resolution”

US 2010/0299410 A1

<http://www.google.com/patents?id=hrHdAAAAEBAJ&zoom=4&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

iii. “Registering and using multilingual domain names”

US 2004/0015584 A1

<http://www.google.com/patents?id=UOCJAAAAEBAJ&zoom=4&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

b. I am a contributing volunteer with the Mozilla Foundation working with the project that protects users from confusingly similar variant domain names.

c. From 1997 to 2001 I operated the .CC ccTLD as the Chief Technical Officer, where we launched a robust IDN program using the technologies listed in the patents above. I was deeply involved in this initiative.

d. Since 2001 I have participated in numerous ccTLD and gTLD IDN introductions and am deeply familiar with all of the provisioning protocols, user experience elements, and channel issues.

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 Working Group outcomes:

a. My primary benefit is to the community through my efforts with the Mozilla Foundation, where I can contribute my knowledge and experience towards the evolution of

standards and user experience.

I reckon the largest intangible benefits from participation with the work in the group are

- 1. the privilege of working with other passionate experts in the field of IDN;**
- 2. expanding my knowledge and experience as it keeps my knowledge current as technology is always advancing;**
- 3. and also that my participation would elevate and attract gainful employment opportunities at a later date.**