

Statements of Interest for IDN Variant Issues Project

Updated: 15 September 2011

1. Your Name:

Jothan Frakes

2. Current employer and position:

A] I am a consultant to a company called Sedari which is Registry Services Management Platform, in the role of Senior Vice President of Channel Partnerships.

During my volunteer work for the Latin-VIP, I am recused from and excluded procedurally in aiding any of the numerous clients of Sedari that may have identified that they are applying for a Latin IDN string or seeking a Latin IDN variant of a TLD that would have a primary string within the LDH Set.

B] I am also a volunteer with the Mozilla Foundation working on the Public Suffix List. <http://publicsuffix.org>

3. Type of work performed:

A] Sedari is in the business of providing outsourced solutions with respect to operational service of running a Top Level Domain. The business is initially financial modeling, application development and process planning in support of the Applications for new Top Level Domains leading up to the open application window between January 12, 2012 and April 12, 2012. Following that time, Sedari will be aiding clients in the ongoing operation of their registr(y/ies) with services and operational support outsourcing. Sedari is not a Registry Services Provider in the sense of EPP/WHOIS/DNS systems. Sedari instead performs, manages and operates all other aspects of the TLD like support, billing, etc. that are complimentary to the technical services. As result, they are a popular referral to clients among the many service providers who offer those services because of the valuable and experienced management and execution of the many additional requirements of TLD operation.

In my the role with the team at Sedari, I am responsible for establishing and managing Channel Partnerships with vendors,

registry service providers, and registrars. These partners refer business to Sedari on behalf of multiple string applicants that are their service clients.

My role is to create and maintain a network of partnerships with Registries, Registrars, Service Providers, Legal Experts, and professional services of other companies that work collectively with Sedari on the Application for a new TLD, as well as the ongoing needs of running a delegated TLD.

B] In my volunteer role with Mozilla, 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:

Though I am the Senior Vice President at Sedari, and this is a senior management title, I have no ownership interest Sedari, save participation in an employee stock option pool which will be defined at a time after my participation in the IDN Variant work is concluded. I have no interest in the IDN Variant related topics during my time of contribution and participation in the Latin-VIP.

I shall update my SOI should this change during my tenure as Lead of the Latin-VIP team.

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.

As stated in my initial Statement of Interest in June, 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 its A-Label (ie those requiring a punycode representation).

Additionally, as I identified in my answer to question 2, I am procedurally restricted and self-recused from participating in any potential client strings of Sedari who are expressing intent

to apply for a Latin IDN either as primary or variant. Any work I'd do or knowledge of such a string on behalf of a client shall not take place during my time in the group.

Additionally, 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, as well as the ccTLDs for Palestine and Syria but I personally have had no involvement or input in that project. These are in both Latin and 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] I was engaged full-time by a consulting company at a late stage of the course of my work with the IDN Latin Variant Team. The company is called Sedari. They may, at a later date, contract a client for an IDN string, but during the course of my work, Sedari have kept any knowledge of a Latin IDN client string or any contractual relationships with clients, and I have made it clear that I must personally recuse from any such strings during the course of my volunteer work with the Latin Team. As of the date of this SoI, I am in no possession of knowledge of any client with intention to register a Latin IDN in the upcoming application round.

B] 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:

My exposure within the group as lead was an opportunity to illustrate my subject matter knowledge and contacts, as well as ability to manage a project with complex scope and multiple stakeholders.

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 ; padding out the CV.