

Internationalized Domain Names Expedited Policy Development Process

E3, E1, E3a



IDN-EPDP Team Meeting #29 | 7 April 2022

Agenda

1. Roll Call & SOI Updates (2 min)
2. Welcome & Chair Updates (5 min)
3. Introduction to Charter Question E3 (new gTLD aspects only) (40 min)
4. Introduction to Charter Question E1 - Part 1 (new gTLD aspects only) (20 min)
5. Introduction to Charter Question E3a (new gTLD aspects only) (20 min)
6. AOB (3 min)

E3 & E1 - Introduction

Charter Question E3 & E1 (Part 1)

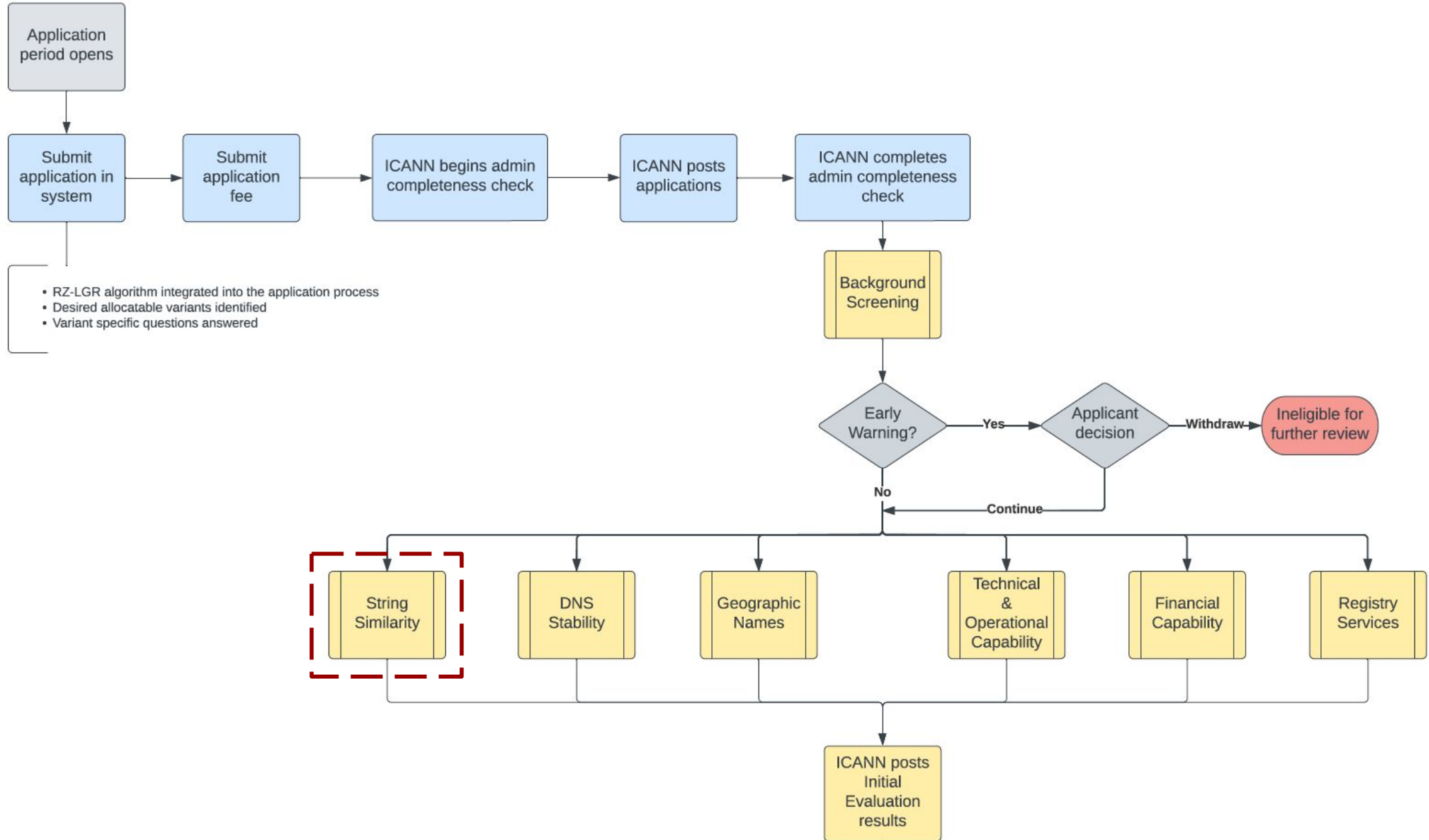
E3: The WG and the SubPro IRT to coordinate to **ensure consistency in the implementation of the string similarity review procedure for variant label applications of existing and future gTLDs.**

E1 (Part 1): What role, if any, do TLD labels “withheld for possible allocation” or “withheld for the same entity” play vis-a-vis string similarity review process?

Context

- Scope of discussion: Future new gTLD aspect only; not to amend the structure or framework of processes established by SubPro
- What is being asked:
 - Whether and how should the String Similarity Review be adjusted due to the implementation of variant labels?
 - Should the applied-for gTLD strings be compared against “withheld-same-entity” variant labels?

Application Process Flow in 2012 Round



String Similarity Review in 2012 Round

What: Assess whether a proposed gTLD string creates a probability of user confusion due to similarity with any reserved name, any existing TLD, any requested IDN ccTLD, or any new gTLD string applied for in the same application round

Why: Prevent user confusion and loss of confidence in the DNS resulting from delegation of many similar strings

When: Occurs during Initial Evaluation

Who: Conducted by an independent String Similarity Panel

How:

- **Standard for String Confusion** – String confusion exists where a string so nearly resembles another visually that it is likely to deceive or cause confusion. For the likelihood of confusion to exist, it must be probable, not merely possible that confusion will arise in the mind of the average, reasonable Internet user. Mere association, in the sense that the string brings another string to mind, is insufficient to find a likelihood of confusion.

String Similarity Review in 2012 Round (cont.)

How (cont.):

- **Compare applied-for gTLD strings against:**
 - Existing TLDs
 - Reserved names
 - Other applied-for gTLD strings in the same application round (contention sets used in later stages of evaluation)
 - Strings requested as IDN ccTLDs
- **Compare applied-for 2-character IDN gTLD strings against:**
 - Any one-character label (in any script)
 - Any other 2-character ASCII string (to protect possible future ccTLD delegations)
- **Variants:**
 - Took into account variant characters as defined in any relevant IDN table
 - Self identified variant TLD strings subject to string similarity analysis; treated essentially the same as Reserved Names

Staff Paper Proposal

Maximally conservative approach:

The string similarity process to compare applied-for string against **ALL variant labels**, including **withheld-same-entity** and **blocked variant labels**, of:

- Existing gTLDs and ccTLDs
- Other applied-for gTLDs in the same round
- String requested as ccTLDs
- Reserved Names, including all two letter ASCII strings

Examples to explain rationale:

- If string A is withheld-same-entity and string B is visually similar, then allocating the string B undermines the predictability of the outcome of variant processing from the RZ-LGR
- If a string C is blocked under the RZ-LGR, but a visually similar string D is allocatable, then the string D might become a “work around” for the blocked string C

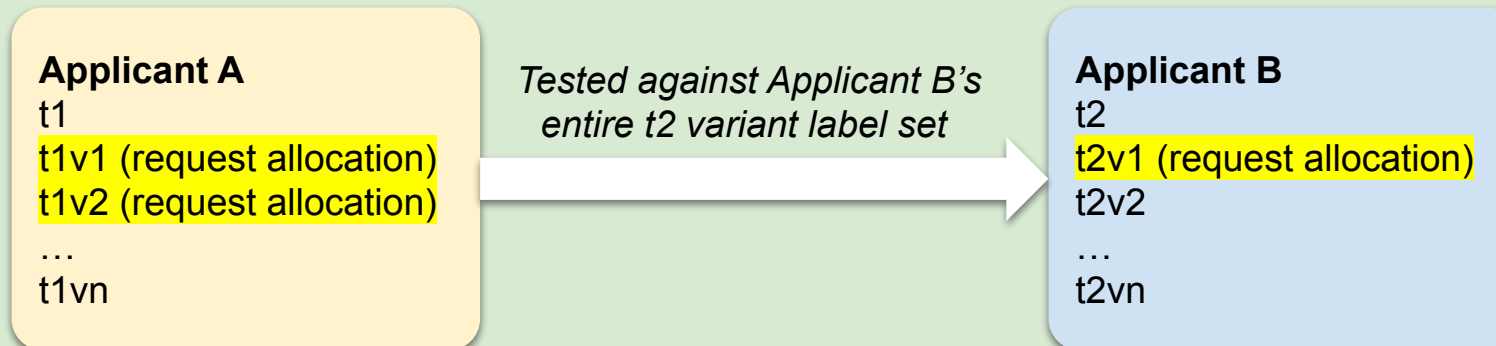
Possible consequences:

- Expands considerably the number of strings that might need to be considered
- The entire similarity review process will become more expensive to operate

Staff Paper Proposal (cont.)

Contention Sets

- A contention set may occur in cases where two or more strings applied by different entities are:
 - (a) visually similar to one another;
 - (b) variants of each other; or
 - (c) both visually similar and variants of each other
- When two or more applied-for variant strings are visually similar, they may only be allocated **if they are associated with the same variant set and are being requested by the same entity**
- The **entire set of variant labels gets processed as one contention set**; if one of the labels in the set is already allocated, the **contention is resolved in favor of the current operator**
- Perform the visual similarity checks for **every requested-to-be-allocated variant against all the possible variants in every other set**; if any labels are found to be visually similar, **their entire variant label set must be placed into the Contention Set**



E3a - Introduction

Charter Question E3a & Context

E3a: After a requested variant string is rejected as a result of a string similarity review, should the other variant strings in the same variant set remain allocatable? Should individual labels be allowed to have different outcomes/actions (e.g., some labels be blocked and some be allowed to continue with an application process)?

Context

- Scope of discussion: Future new gTLD aspect only
- For an applied-for variant string that is rejected as a result of a contention resolution, which one of the outcomes is appropriate?
 - **Only the applied-for variant string is rejected** while the other allocatable variant labels continue to remain allocatable; OR
 - **The entire variant set including the applied-for variant string is rejected**