Internationalized Domain Names Expedited Policy Development Process

C1, C2

IDN-EPDP Team Meeting #40 | 30 June 2022

ICANN

Agenda

1. Roll Call & SOI Updates (2 min)

2. Welcome & Chair Updates (5 min)

   a. Update on Chinese and Arabic TLD RO survey

3. Second Reading: Review Revised Outcome Language for A7 and A10 (30 mins)

4. Charter Questions C1 & C2 (50 mins)

5. AOB (3 mins)

C1: Begin Discussion of "Same Entity" at Second-Level

Charter Question C1

C1: Both the SubPro PDP and the Staff Paper recommend that: 1) a given second-level label beneath each allocated variant TLD must have the "same entity"; and 2) all allocatable second-level IDN variant labels that arise from a registration based on a second-level IDN table must have the "same entity".

Should this recommendation be extended to existing second-level labels?

Context for Scenario 1 & Discussion

Scenario 1: A given second-level label beneath each allocated variant TLD must have the "same entity"

a certain second-level label under multiple variant IDN TLDs (e.g., s1 under {t1, t1v1, …}, e.g., s1.t1 and s1.t1v1)

SubPro Recommendation 25.6: A given second-level label under any allocated variant TLD must only be allocated to the same entity/registrant, or else withheld for possible allocation only to that entity (e.g., s1 under {t1, t1v1, …}, e.g., s1.t1 and s1.t1v1).

- *Rationale: In support of security and stability, and in light of the fact that variant TLDs are considered to essentially be identical*

Staff Paper Recommendation 3: Same second level label under IDN variant TLDs s1.{t1, t1v1, …} registered to the same entity. For each allocated IDN variant TLD, a given second level label beneath the TLD must only be allocated to the same entity/registrant, or else withheld for possible allocation only to that entity. In other words, s1 under {t1, t1v1, …}, e.g., s1.t1 and s1.t1v1, must be allocated to Entity Y or else withheld for possible allocation only to Entity Y.

Discussion Question:

Should a <u>future</u> second-level label under any <u>allocatable</u> variant label of an existing gTLD (i.e., Chinese or Arabic gTLD) be only allocated to the same entity, or else withheld for possible allocation only to that same entity?

Context for Scenario 2

Scenario 2: All allocatable second-level IDN variant labels that arise from a registration based on a second-level IDN table must have the "same entity"

variants at the second-level derived from the registry operator's approved IDN table
(e.g., all allocatable second-level labels {s1, s1v1, …} under all allocated variant TLD labels {t1, t1v1, …})

SubPro Recommendation 25.7: For second-level variant labels that arise from a registration based on a second-level IDN table, all allocatable variant labels in the set must only be allocated to the same entity or withheld for possible allocation only to that entity (e.g., all allocatable second-level labels {s1, s1v1, …} under all allocated variant TLD labels {t1, t1v1, …}).

- *Same rationale as Recommendation 25.6*

Staff Paper Recommendation 4: Second-level variant labels under IDN variant TLDs {s1, s1v1, …}.{t1, t1v1, …} registered to the same entity. According to the IDN Implementation Guidelines, for second-level IDN variant labels that arise from a registration based on a second-level IDN table, all allocatable IDN variant labels in the set must only be allocated to the same entity or withheld for possible allocation only to that entity. This implies that all allocatable second-level labels {s1, s1v1, …} under all allocated variant TLD labels {t1, t1v1, …} must be allocated to Entity Z or else withheld for possible allocation only to Entity Z.

Refresher on IDN Tables & IDNs at Second-Level

What: IDN tables define which labels can be registered for a particular language or script under a top-level domain (TLD). They validate a label, and generate the allocatable or blocked variant labels of a valid label. They include unicode code points, variants as well as linguistic and technical constraints to determine appropriate and secure domain labels

Why: Enable second-level domain names in the local languages and scripts used by the communities globally in a secure and stable manner

Who: IDN Tables are developed and used by the registries for the second level. Registries may refer to the Reference LGR when developing their IDN Table. IDN table should not have any security and stability issues

How: Allocatable variant labels can be activated if allowed by the registry policy and requested by the registrant

Discussion of Scenario 2

Questions to Start Discussion:

- If second-level IDN variant labels in the same set (as calculated by an IDN table) have already been registered but allocated to different entities, should the "same entity" requirement be applied retroactively for such second-level registrations?

- For allocatable second-level variant labels that have not yet been registered, should such labels in the same set only be allocated to the same entity or withheld for possible allocation only to that entity?

- If so, how to implement the "same entity" requirement for the remaining allocatable variant labels if two variant labels in the same set have already been registered to different registrants?

C2: Begin Discussion of Activating Variants at Second-Level

Charter Question C2

C2: Currently Registry Operators may activate the IDN variant labels at the second-level when requested by the sponsoring Registrar of the canonical name as described in the IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules. Both the SubPro PDP and the Staff Paper recommend that at the second-level, the same entity definition can be achieved by ensuring that the registrant is the same.

Should this recommendation be extended to the already activated IDN variant labels at the second-level? How does the "same entity" requirement impact the current rules for Registry Operators for activating IDN variant labels?

Context: Definition of "Same Entity" at Second-Level

SubPro Recommendation 25.6-25.8 Rationale: For similar reasons as indicated in the rationale for Recommendation 25.5 (i.e., security and stability, that variant TLDs should be considered as identical), the Working Group believes that second-level variants labels should only be allocated (or reserved for allocation) to the same registrant…

Staff Paper Recommendation 3: Same second level label under IDN variant TLDs s1.{t1, t1v1, …} registered to the same entity. For each allocated IDN variant TLD, a given second level label beneath the TLD must only be allocated to the same entity/registrant, or else withheld for possible allocation only to that entity. In other words, s1 under {t1, t1v1, …}, e.g., s1.t1 and s1.t1v1, must be allocated to Entity Y or else withheld for possible allocation only to Entity Y.

IDN Implementation Guideline v.4.0 #11: IDN Variant Labels generated by an IDN Table must be either (a) allocatable only to the same registrant as the primary IDN label, or (b) blocked from registration. Also see 18(b).

IDN Implementation Guideline v4.0 Guideline #18(b): TLD Registries should publish IDN policies or guidance related to registration of IDN labels at publicly accessible location on the TLD Registry's website. In addition to general policies or guidance on IDN registrations, these should include the…IDN Variant Label allocation policy, if applicable

Context: Variant Activation on Standard RA Amendment Language

Registry operators may offer IDNs provided the IDN service is reflected in Exhibit A of its Registry Agreement. ICANN org has created an IDN Service request process for registry operators to add, modify, or remove an IDN service (e.g., languages and scripts offered) to or from its RA.

"[#]. Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

Registry Operator may offer registration of IDNs at the second and lower levels provided that Registry Operator complies with the following requirements:

[#.1]. Registry Operator must offer Registrars support for handling IDN registrations in EPP.

[#.2]. Registry Operator must handle variant IDNs as follows:

[#.2.1]. By default variant IDNs (as defined in the Registry Operator's IDN tables and IDN Registration Rules) must be blocked from registration.

[#.2.2]. Variant IDNs may be activated when requested by the sponsoring Registrar of the canonical name as described in the IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules.

[#.2.3]. Active variant IDNs must be provisioned in the TLD's DNS zone file as zone cuts using the same NS resource records as the canonical name.

[#.3]. Registry Operator may offer registration of IDNs in the following languages/scripts (IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules will be published by the Registry Operator as specified in the ICANN IDN Implementation Guidelines):

[#.#.#] [Language/Script 1]

[#.#.#] [Language/Script 2]"

Context: Variant Activation on IDN Implementation Guidelines v4.0

Guideline #12: TLD Registries may activate an IDN Variant Label, provided that

    i) such IDN Variant Label is requested by the same registrant or corresponding registrar as the Primary IDN Label,

    ii) such IDN Variant Label is registered to the registrant of the Primary IDN Label, and

    iii) such IDN Variant Label conforms with the registry policy and IDN Tables.

In exceptional cases,

    i) to support a widely acceptable practice within Internet users of a language or script community, or

    ii) to abide by language or script established conventions,

a TLD Registry may opt to activate a limited number of IDN Variant Labels at its discretion, according to its policies. In such cases, the TLD Registry must have mechanism to limit automatic activation of IDN Variant Labels to a minimum.

Also see 18(c) and Additional Note I.

Guideline #18(c): TLD Registries should publish IDN policies or guidance related to registration of IDN labels at publicly accessible location on the TLD Registry's website. In addition to general policies or guidance on IDN registrations, these should include the…IDN Variant Label automatic activation policy, if applicable.

Additional Note I: For example, automatic activation may be considered acceptable practice for Chinese language.