Some possible variant help from the DNS

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CNAME

- Defined as part of the original DNS specification
- Redirects *that name* and nothing else
  - Names can be below e.g.

    cname.example.org CNAME realname.org

    othername.cname.example.org A 192.0.2.1

    is just fine
- Not allowed at a node with anything else

DNAME

- Defined by RFC 2672
  - Update pending in draft-ietf-dnsext-rfc2672bis-dname-24 (please review! http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-dnsext-rfc2672bis-dname-24)
- Allowed at a node with anything else (except, of course, CNAME)
- CNAME synthesized for backward compatibility

DNAME (2)

- Redirects *below* the name and not the name itself:

  dname.example.org DNAME realname.org

   A? othername.dname.example.org

  gets the answer for othername.realname.org, but

  A? dname.example.org

  does not

Big restriction

Neither MX nor NS records may point to "an alias" (see RFC 2181 section 10.3).

- Means that using either technology for variants could be problematic if one expects internationalized tools to be helpful

Alternative proposals

- CNAME+DNAME
  - draft-sury-dnsext-cname-dname-00
- CNAME at apex
  - draft-sury-dnsext-cname-at-apex-00
- BNAME
  - draft-yao-dnsext-bname-05.txt
- CLONE
  - draft-barton-clone-dns-labels-fun-profit-01.txt
  - draft-vixie-dnsext-dnsshadow-00.txt

Alternative proposals(2)

- Each has some problems
- WG won't adopt anything without clear problem statement
  - Review of draft-ietf-dnsext-aliasing-requirements appreciated.
  - Find all these drafts through the tools pages: http://tools.ietf.org/wg/dnsext (there's a "Doc fetch" box on the left)