EPDP on IDNs

Update to CPWG (2 Nov 2022)

Overview

- Revised Project Plan for EPDP on IDNs
    - Options for Phasing of the Report and Revised timelines
- CQ B4: Application process for variant TLDs
    - What would an application process look like "**in terms of timing and sequence** for an existing and future Registry Operator with respect to applying or activating their allocatable variant TLD labels?
- CQ D1b Part 2: Process for existing ROs to get variants for existing gTLDs
    - What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for a variant for its existing gTLD?

Project Phasing and Timelines: Two options

Option 1: Single Phase Approach

- The whole output in a single report in two parts
  - Initial Report Part 1 Public Comment: 21 April 2023
  - Initial Report Part 2 Public Comment: 3 January 2025
  - Final Report submission to Council: 29 August 2025

Option 2: A two-phased approach

- Divide the report into two phases.
    - Phase 1 has all the CQs related to variants at the top level
    - Phase 2 has the CQs for variants at the second level
- Early completion of Phase 1 would support the implementation of SubPro
- Timelines are as follows:
    - Phase 1 Initial Report Public Comment: 21 April 2023
    - Phase 1 Final Report submission to Council: 3 November 2023
    - Phase 2 Initial Report Public Comment: 25 April 2025
    - Phase 2 Final Report submission to Council: 7 November 2025

The choice

- After much discussions, the choice of the group was Option 2
- GNSO Council was also updated on the revised plan
- There was some discussion about the additional time needed, but there was broad agreement that a two-phase approach would be more efficient
- It was pointed out that even for Phase 1, there would still be delays for GNSO Council approval and Board approval

CQ B4: Process for applying for variants

- Should all of the following be permitted?
  - A new applicant applies for a primary IDN gTLD only.
  - A new applicant applies for a primary IDN gTLD and one or more of its allocatable variant label(s).
  - A registry operator applies for one or more variant label(s) of its existing IDN gTLD.
- General agreement that all these were to be permitted
- Are the Source string and variant interchangeable? Can an applicant activate the variant first?
- Agreement that once the applicant identifies the source and variant strings, they have to be activated in that order

CQ D1(b): Process for Existing RO

- Q: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD?
  - Is there a compelling reason to create a standalone process for existing Chinese and Arabic TLD registry operators to apply for variant gTLDs? (Not a "separate" round, but similar to IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process)
  - General support to wait until the next round
  - Chinese end-users have been waiting for years to and it is difficult to ask them to wait indefinitely
  - There was consensus that if a standalone process is not possible, then the process should give priority for variants of existing TLDs
  - There was concern that if our report is delayed, that the next round also may not have variants. An interim mechanism to avoid this situation did not get much support.

Discussions and polls

Thank you!