



AL-ALAC-ST-0814-04-00-EN

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: 30 August 2014

STATUS: Final

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names for .SOHU, .IMMO, .SAARLAND, .CLUB

Introduction

Dev Anand Teelucksingh, ALAC member from the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO) and ALAC Leadership Team member, composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

This first draft evolved into the [ALAC Statement on the Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names](#), which was filed in response to a related Public Comment request, receiving ALAC endorsement on 16 August 2014 with 13 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 2 abstentions. The same Statement was submitted to the public comment request on the [Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names for .DEALS, XN--FJQ720A, .CITY, .XYZ, .COLLEGE, .GOP, .TRADE, .WEBCAM, .BID, .HEALTHCARE, .WORLD, .BAND](#). The ALAC endorsed it on 29 August 2013 with 13 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 1 abstention.

During the ALAC Monthly Teleconference on 26 August 2014, Evan Leibovitch, ALAC member from the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO), proposed a motion, seconded by three other ALAC members, that the [ALAC Statement on the Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names](#) should be applied to future Public Comment requests on the two-character domain names issue and subject to revision. An immediate [ratification vote](#) resulted in the ALAC endorsing the motion with 11 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 0 abstention.

On 23 August 2014, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on this Statement to all At-Large members via the [ALAC-Announce Mailing List](#). With no revision requests received by 27 August 2014, the Chair declared the Statement ratified by default and requested the Statement be transmitted to the Public Comment process.

Summary

1. At-Large has taken note of the many new gTLD Registries' Registry Services Evaluation Process (RSEP) requests applying for exceptions to Specification 5, Section 2 of the New gTLD Registry Agreement.
2. Many of the RSEP requests are for the release of two character ASCII labels not on the ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 standard. However, the ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 standard will be updated to reflect changes to countries and territories. Future countries and territories may be consequently treated differently than those on today's ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 list.
3. Furthermore, two character ASCII labels at the second level have been made available for some gTLDs and many ccTLDs.
4. Absent any DNS-related security or stability issues, the ALAC believes that all the restrictions of two character ASCII labels at the 2nd level within a TLD should ultimately be removed, and has no problem with the current exceptions being approved.

The original version of this document is the English text available at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence>. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail.

ALAC Statement on the Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names for .SOHU, .IMMO, .SAARLAND, .CLUB

The At-Large Community has taken note of the many Registry Services Evaluation Process (RSEP) requests submitted to ICANN by many New gTLD Registries applying for exceptions to Specification 5, Section 2 of the New gTLD Registry Agreement (see page 68 of the <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb/agreement-approved-09jan14-en.pdf> for the text of Specification 5, Section 2).

Many of the RSEP requests are for the release of two character ASCII labels not on the ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 standard. However, the ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 standard is not a static document; it will be updated to reflect changes to countries and territories. For example, BQ, CW and SX were added to the ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 standard in late 2010 (see http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_3166-1_newsletter_vi-8_split_of_the_dutch_antilles_final-en.pdf). This gives rise to a potential disparity in the implementation of Specification 5, Section 2 where future countries and territories would be treated differently than those countries and territories on today's ISO 3166-1 alpha 2 list.

However, two character ASCII labels at the second level have been made available for some gTLDs and many ccTLDs. Shorter domains are more desirable to potential registrants and two character ASCII labels can be used for alternative meanings than the one for the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 standard. For these reasons, absent any DNS-related security or stability issues, the ALAC believes that all the restrictions of two character ASCII labels at the 2nd level within a TLD should ultimately be removed, and has no problem with the current exceptions being approved.