



A Study of Issues Related to the Delegation of IDN Variant TLDs

Why this project?



- Long standing request from a number of IDN user communities.
- Board instructed staff to develop an issues report on the subject.

<http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-25sep10-en.htm#2.5>



Definition of variant TLDs

- No universally accepted definition.
- In the proposal, the following* is used:

“Variant characters occur where a single conceptual character can be identified with two or more different Unicode Code Points with graphic representations that may or may not be visually similar. IDN variant TLDs contain one or more characters that have such variants.”

* Based on definition from RFC 3743



What is being proposed?

- Conduct up to six case studies with participants from the community:

- 1) Arabic
- 2) Chinese
- 3) Cyrillic
- 4) Devanagari
- 5) Greek
- 6) Latin

TLD
arabic
indian
proposal
cyrillic
chinese
variant
IDN



Case study composition



- Each case study composed of community members* experienced in:
 - DNS & IDNA
 - Security
 - **Registry/Registrar operations**
 - Policy
 - Linguistics
 - Community representatives

* Some members may be shared across case study teams



Case studies leadership



- Case study coordinator from community.
- Ideally (i.e., not mandatory), each case study would have a local host organization that would help support the case.

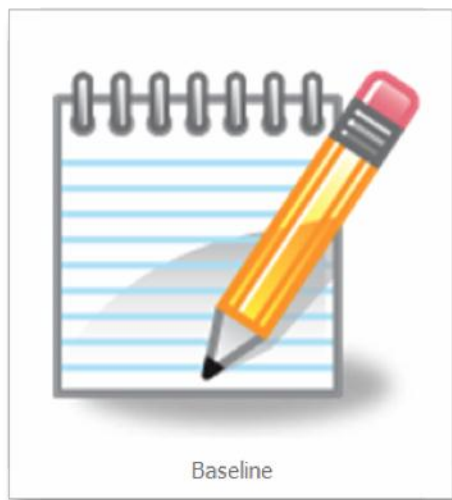


Avoid reinventing the wheel



- Survey of current TLDs' policy on IDN variants.
- Coordination with other groups working on the subject (DNSEXT, JIG, etc.)
- Use documents available from other groups as input.

Project scope



1. Create a glossary of terms vetted with technical and linguistic communities.
2. Identify challenges (requirements) of IDN variant TLDs based on:
 - a) linguistic accuracy,
 - b) technical feasibility & accuracy,
 - c) usability (including minimize user confusion),
 - d) accessibility, and
 - e) security and stability

Outcome of the project



- Issues Report from each case study
- Issues Report integrating common and case-specific issues

Timeline



Task	Time
Goal setting	31 March 2011 ✓
Form case study teams	06 June 2011
Working sessions at Singapore	18 June 2011
Complete case studies	30 September 2011
Synthesize issues across cases	30 November 2011
Issues report	15 December 2011

Help is wanted



- ICANN is recruiting volunteers for the case studies.
- Send your statement of interest by 19 May to idnvarianttlds@icann.org, see details in:

<http://icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-20apr11-en.htm>





Thank You

