

Next Round of NgTLDs / Subsequent Procedures The Last SubPro Supplemental Recommendation

Update #12 to At-Large CPWG -Discussion on Singular/Plural Strings

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Recap

- ⦿ Delegation of singular and plural of same word in same language – consumer confusion
 - SubPro PDP identified problem
 - SubPro Recs 24.3 and 24.5 on String Similarity Review, but had “intended use” element – ICANN Board declined to adopt

- ⦿ GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus
 - Developed Supp Recs removing “intended use”
 - Supp Rec 24.3A - prohibiting plurals and singulars of the same word within the same language/script.
 - Supp Rec 24.3B – exception for dotBrands
 - Supp Rec 24.3C – reliance on recognised linguistic resources
 - ICANN Board indicated inclination to not adopt Supp Recs either, had ICANN org propose alternative - Strawman

Key Elements of ICANN Org Strawman Proposal

1. Must be a mechanism in new gTLD program that prevents singular and plural forms of the same word in the same language from both being delegated as top-level domains, **if, and only if, so requested** by someone.
2. Requestor may also request ICANN prevent an application to progress in case an applied-for string is **the singular or plural version of the same word in the same language of an existing string**, incl. any string from prior application rounds not yet delegated but still being processed.
3. When a request is made, **requestor must inform ICANN** of the **applicable strings**, including the **language** in which, according to the requestor, the two strings are singular and plural forms of.
4. ICANN should suggest to **IRT a list of dictionaries for the UN-6 language** and, with assistance from IRT, finalize this list and include it into the AGB. **Does not stop requestor raising singular/plural in same language outside of the UN-6**, but have to indicate source material they relied on to verify their claim.
5. If two strings are found to be singular and plural of the same word in the same language, ICANN org will **place them in a contention set, or reject in case one of the strings is already delegated**, or held in case one string is under process from the previous round, until it is processed

GNSO Small Team+: Overall Proposal Concept (1/3)

Use **existing mechanisms** to handle the Singular/Plural issues - Public Comment forum, Initial Evaluation, Extended Evaluation, etc

1. During public comment period anyone may identify applications that are **singular or plural forms of the same word in the same language of an existing gTLD or of each other**. Reporter must place the comment in the comment section for any of the impacted applications and indicate the language and the dictionary used to identify the reported applications.
2. **ICANN Org will during the Initial Evaluation** review the public comments that report singular/plurals, in order to validate that the application strings are indeed singulars/plurals of an existing TLD or of each other. **ICANN Org will also check whether there are any additional applications for the same string(s) that the reporter did not identify, and if so, will include these in the singular/plural assessment.**
3. If ICANN Org determines that the applications are either the singular or plural of an existing TLD, or the singular/plural of other applications, the **application(s) will be eligible to pursue Extended Evaluation.**

GNSO Small Team+: Overall Proposal Concept (2/3)

4. During **Extended Evaluation**, the applicant(s) for their impacted applications will have a specified number of days to **explain why the impacted applications will not result in user confusion** with either the existing TLD(s) or the other applications, as applicable.
5. If an applicant does not respond to the notification of extended evaluation regarding string similarity, or does respond but the evaluators find that the **application is likely to cause confusion**, then:
 - If the application is a singular/plural of an existing TLD, the application will be **rejected**; or
 - If the application is a singular/plural of other applications, the application will be **placed into the same contention set** as the other impacted applications.
6. If the evaluators find that the application is **not likely to cause confusion** with::
 - An existing TLD, the application will be **allowed to proceed** to the next step of the process; or
 - Other applications, the application **will proceed and not be placed into a contention set** with the other applications.

GNSO Small Team+: Overall Proposal Concept (3/3)

6. Multiple Applications Scenarios: Where there are multiple applications involved, it is possible for there to be different determinations as to likely confusion for the individual applications for the same string. The result of this may be that the indirect contention process, which was developed and used for the 2012 Round, may need to apply. [Examples still being discussed]

7. **The results of Extended Evaluation cannot be challenged.**

Input Requested

- ⦿ Any concerns with the proposal being discussed by the GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus?
- ⦿ Anything we need to amend / refine / pay attention to?

Thank you

More next week