

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

Update #17 to At-Large CPWG On Singular/Plural Strings

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Recap, Summarized

- ◉ **WHAT:** Delegation of singular and plural of same word in same language – consumer/end user confusion

SubPro PDP	GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed Supp Recs w/o “intended use” element<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <u>not</u> adopt these Supp Recs either, had ICANN org propose alternative – Strawman #1

Recap, Summarized - The first 2 Strawmen

◎ ICANN Org Strawman #1

- Discussed at CPWG 15 May, 22 May, 10 July
- Anyone can “**notify**” ICANN org of singular-plural of same word in same language, identifying pairs of string(s)/TLD with supporting ‘dictionary’
- ICANN-engaged panel to determine
- If determination is positive – reject / **place in contention set to resolve**
- No ‘notification’ means no concern

Vs

◎ GNSO ST+ Strawman #2

- Discussed partially at CPWG 10 July
- Anyone can **submit** a concern of singular-plural of same word in same language **via Application Comment**, identifying pairs of string(s)/ TLD with supporting ‘dictionary’
- ICANN-engaged panel to determine
- If determination is positive – reject / **opt for Extended Evaluation to resolve, cannot challenge result**
- No –ve Application Comment means no concern

ORIGINALLY
REJECTED

REJECTED

GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus as at 5 Aug 2024

- After lots of deliberation and several versions of Strawmen ...

Element	Status
1. ICANN org only checks if notifier informs pair/group of singular/plural versions of same word in same language	Consensus
2. Notifier must cite source: dictionary	Near Consensus
3. Primary goal for disallowing singular/plural strings: reduce risk of end user confusion	Divergence
4. Default is to disallow, exceptions apply but cannot be broad	Divergence
5. Exception: use of verifiable criteria	
(1) <u>Differentiated applied-for string</u> : Clear, readily apparent, delineation of eligible registrants, based on specific, objective eligibility criteria such as the possession of a license, or professional qualifications	Divergence
(2) <u>“Unlikely to confuse end users” standard</u> : Applicants bear the burden of demonstrating that the characteristics distinguishing the domains associated with singular and plural words in the same language will be readily apparent to ordinary end users under the circumstances/in the relevant context	Divergence

GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus after 8 Aug 2024

- ⦿ GNSO Council 'directive' of 8 Aug 2024 - must conclude deliberations and present revised Supplemental Recommendation for Council's 19 Sep 2024 meeting
 - Agreed approach: Document majority vs minority positions

- ⦿ Worked harder to achieve consensus; after more deliberations,
 - Arrived at a draft supplemental recommendation
 - With majority vs minority positions

GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus as at 26 Aug 2024

Draft Supp Rec 24.3 Language

SR 24.3: The GNSO Council recommends prohibiting the delegation of singulars and plurals of the same word in the same language in order to reduce the risk of end user confusion.

This prohibition applies in two distinct situations:

- 1) where an applied-for gTLD string is a singular or plural of an existing gTLD or Blocked Name (a limited list in appended Annex) and
- 2) where an applied-for gTLD string is a singular or plural of another applied-for gTLD string

1) If ICANN org is informed and verifies, by reference to a dictionary, **such application will not be permitted to proceed**. ICANN org will treat all other applications for the same string in the same manner.

2) If ICANN org is informed and verifies, by reference to a dictionary,an application for the singular word and an application for a plural version of same word in same language, **relevant applications will be placed in contention set**. ICANN org will treat all other applications for the same string in the same manner.

Interpretation / Impact

Prohibit singulars/plurals **without exceptions**. Primary purpose is to reduce risk of end user confusion.

Prohibition applies in 2 situations:

1) Vs existing gTLD or one of a limited set of Blocked Names*
→ not permitted

2) Two applied-for strings which are singular/plural versions of same word in same language
→ contention set

Annex A – Limited list of Blocked Names subject to S/P prohibition

AFRINIC	IANA-SERVERS	NRO
ALAC	ICANN	ONION
APNIC	IESG	PTI
ARIN	IETF	RFC-EDITOR
ASO	INTERNAL	RIPE
CCNSO	INTERNIC	ROOT-SERVERS
EXAMPLE*	INVALID	RSSAC
GAC	IRTF	SSAC
GNSO	ISTF	TEST*
GTLD-SERVERS	LACNIC	TLD
IAB	LOCAL	WHOIS
IANA	LOCALHOST	WWW

* +translations of the terms “test” and “example” in multiple languages

Poll on Concept of Draft SR 24.3 Language

- ⦿ Prohibit singulars/plurals **without exceptions**. Primary purpose is to reduce risk of end user confusion.
- ⦿ Prohibition applies in 2 situations:
 - If applied-for string is singular/plural of an existing gTLD or (limited) Block Name → all such applications not permitted to proceed
 - If 2 applied-for strings are singular/plural of the same word in the same language → all such applications placed in contention set.
- ⦿ Application for such strings must have been informed to ICANN org and verified by reference to a dictionary.

Poll Q. Do you agree with Draft Supp Rec 24.3 conceptually?

- Yes, it is fine as is
- Yes, but with some clarification or modification
- Abstain / unsure
- No