

# Proposed Solution for Writing Domain Names in Different Arabic Script Based Languages

TF-AIDN, June/2014

Presented by ...

AbdulRahman I. Al-Ghadir Researcher in SaudiNIC



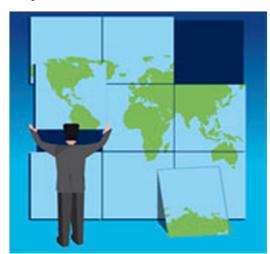
- Content
- What we have done so far?
- Problem definition
- Proposed solution
- Requirements for Languages
- Requirements for Registries
- GVT as Open Source Product
- Conclusion



### What we have done so far?



- The work was done based on the following methodology:
  - 1. Identifying problems & areas of contributions
  - 2. Participating and initiating interest groups & task forces
  - 3. Conducting web surveys
  - 4. Publishing reports & papers
  - 5. Meeting linguists (face to face)
  - 6. Disseminating information to public
  - 7. Testing and building local experiences





# What we have done so far? Linguistic Recommendations



Tashkeel (Diacritics)	Tashkeel should not be allowed.  However, if there is a need to allowed users to entered it as part of a domain name then it should be stripped off by nameprep
Kasheeda	Kasheeda should be disallowed
Character folding: Teh Marbuta + Heh different forms of Hamzah Alif Maqsura+YaNumbers	Folding should not be allowed
Numbers (numerical digits)	If it is technically possible, it is preferred to support both (Latin and Arabic) sets with folding to one set. Otherwise, Latin set is sufficient
Connecting Multiple Words	It is recommended that multiple words are separated by the character "-".
Mixing Latin and Arabic Characters	It is recommended that Arabic domain names be pure Arabic and they should not be mixed with other languages.
Special Characters (e.g., @, #, \$, %,)	It is recommended that Arabic domain names should follow the standard with respect to the use of special characters.



### What we have done so far? ADNPP Members so far



#### Participated Countries:

- United Arab Emirates
- Saudi Arabia
- Oatar
- Oman
- Palestine
- Egypt
- Tunisia
- Syria
- Jordan
- Morocco
- Libya











Arab Republic Of Egypt

Ministry of Communications & Information Technology

Republic Of Tunisia

<u>Tunisian Internet agency</u>

Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisian Internet agency

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

National information technology center

Kingdom of Morocco

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya



### What we have done so far? Accepted Character Set Table



#### Characters from Unicode Arabic Table (0600–06FF)

	0/04		A		0/00	/t•\	A
•	0621	(۶)	Arabic Letter HAMZA	•	0638	( <del>설</del> )	Arabic Letter ZAH
•	0622	<b>(</b> 1)	Arabic Letter ALEF with MADDA above		0639	(ع)	Arabic Letter AIN
•	0623	(1)	Arabic Letter ALEF with HAMZA above	•	063A	(غ)	Arabic Letter GHAIN
•	0624	(ؤ)	Arabic Letter WAW with HAMZA above	•	0641	(ف)	Arabic Letter FEH
•	0625	(!)	Arabic Letter ALEF with HAMZA below	•	0642	(ق)	Arabic Letter QAF
•	0626	(ئ)	Arabic Letter YEH with HAMZA above	•	0643	<u>(살)</u>	Arabic Letter KAF
•	0627	(1)	Arabic Letter ALEF	•	0644	(し)	Arabic Letter LAM
•	0628	(ب)	Arabic Letter BEH	•	0645	(م)	Arabic Letter MEEM
•	0629	(ĕ)	Arabic Letter TEH MARBUTA	•	0646	(ن <b>)</b>	Arabic Letter NOON
•	062A	(ت)	Arabic Letter TEH	•	0647	( <del>^</del> )	Arabic Letter HEH
•	062B	(ث)	Arabic Letter THEH	•	0648	(و)	Arabic Letter WAW
•	062C	(ج)	Arabic Letter JEEM	•	0649	(ی)	Arabic Letter ALEF MAKSURA
•	062D	(ح)	Arabic Letter HAH	•	064A	(ي)	Arabic Letter YEH
•	062E	(さ)	Arabic Letter KHAH	•	0660	(0)	Arabic-Indic Digit Zero
•	062F	(7)	Arabic Letter DAL	•	0661	(1)	Arabic-Indic Digit One
•	0630	( <u>-</u> )	Arabic Letter THAL	•	0662	(2)	Arabic-Indic Digit Two
•	0631	(J)	Arabic Letter REH	•	0663	(3)	Arabic-Indic Digit Three
•	0632	(i)	Arabic Letter ZAIN	•	0664	(4)	Arabic-Indic Digit Four
•	0633	<b>(س)</b>	Arabic Letter SEEN	•	0665	(5)	Arabic-Indic Digit Five
•	0634	(ش)	Arabic Letter SHEEN	•	0666	(6)	Arabic-Indic Digit Six
•	0635	(ص)	Arabic Letter SAD	•	0667	(7)	Arabic-Indic Digit Seven
•	0636	(ض)	Arabic Letter DAD	•	0668	(8)	Arabic-Indic Digit Eight
•	0637	( <del>ط</del> )	Arabic Letter TAH	•	0669	(9)	Arabic-Indic Digit Nine



### What we have done so far? Accepted Character Set Table



- Characters from Unicode Basic Latin Table (0000–007F):
- 0030 (0) Digit Zero
- 0031 (1) Digit One
- 0032 (2) Digit Two
- 0033 (3) Digit Three
- 0034 (4) Digit Four
- 0035 (5) Digit Five
- 0036 (6) Digit Six
- 0037 (7) Digit Seven
- 0038 (8) Digit Eight
- 0039 (9) Digit Nine
- 002D (-) Hyphen-Minus
- 002E (.) Full Stop (Dot)

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4		0614	0624	0634	0644	0654	0664	0674	0684	0694	06A4	06B4	06C4	06D4	06E4	06F4
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#### Accepted characters for Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Pashto, Jawi

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### Arabic Script IDN - Major Issues



- 1. Accepted/disallowed characters
  - IDNA2008 table (Pvalid / Disallowed / ContextO)
  - Language tables
- 2. Combining Marks
- 3. Non-spacing Marks (e.g. Diacritics)
- 4. Word/label separators (e.g. space, ZWNJ, ZWJ, hyphen)
- 5. Digits
- 6. Confusing of similar characters.
- 7. Bidirectional





- There are a number of groups of characters that have the same shapes (Homoglyph).
  - eg. Kaf, Heh, Yeh, Alef, ... groups

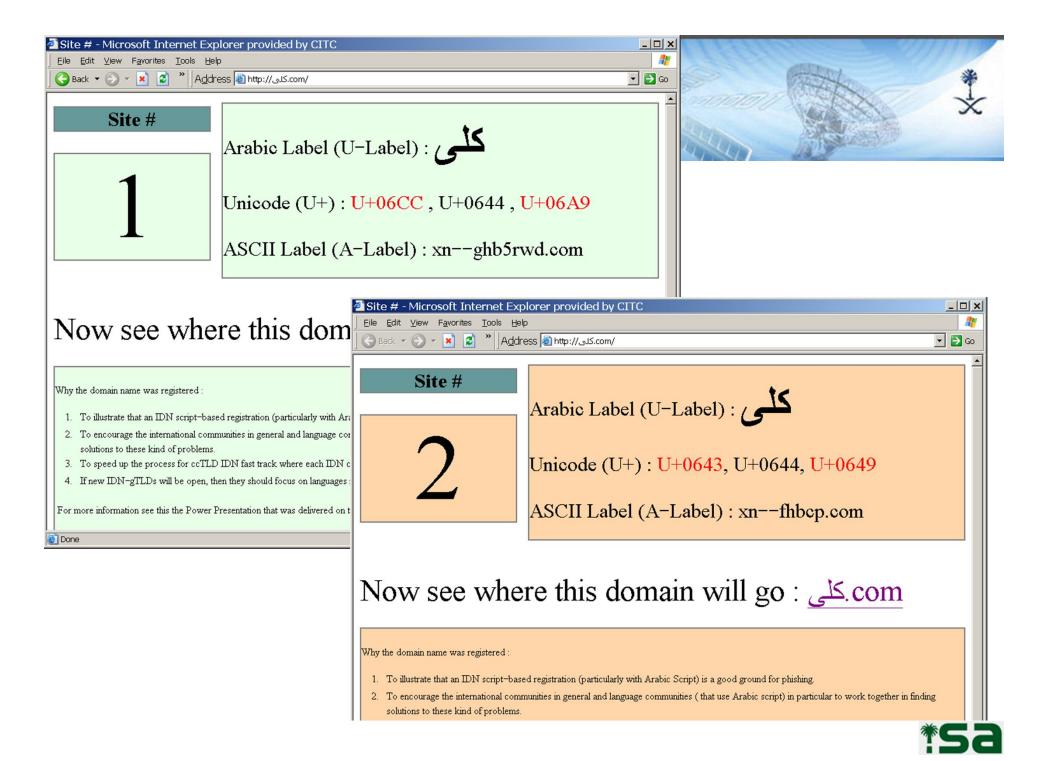


کلی

input[0] = U+06a9input[1] = U+0644input[2] = U+06cc input[0] = U+0643input[1] = U+0644input[2] = U+0649



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- Security issues (stability, trust,...) e.g. phishing
  - They should be addresses at language level first
- Not all Arabic-script languages are ready:
  - Not widely/commonly used
  - Language community are not ready
- Hard to make decisions on behave of other language communities
- Pressure to start with ready languages
- ... and yet has to provide a simple and transparent registration services





- If some one want to register "هدهد"
  - Assuming there are 4 variants for ""
  - There will be 16 possible ways to write it
    - Only 4 of them may confuse the end users (25%)

– So why we block/bundle 75% not confusing domains?

	هدهد	مدهد	ہدھد	ردهد)	Invalid option (position)
	هدمد	هدہد	هدهد	مدمد	
Mixed of languages	رهدبد	مدهد	ہدھد	ہدہد	Can be enabled
	ہدہد	ەدھد	ەدېد	٥٥٥٥	*52



- How to know if a domain name have an already registered variant?
  - Assuming we have define variants based on the inputs of current 3 ready languages;
  - There are 16,384 possible variants to write the domain
     "هيئة-الاتصالات-و تقنية-المعلو مات"
  - Options:
    - Are we going to store/bundle all of them?
      - Dose the Whois function supposed to search in all registered domains & all possible variants for each one of them?
      - Not possible: Time & Resource consuming!!!!
    - Need alternative way to handle this issue (Master-Key)



#### Characteristics of A Desired Solution

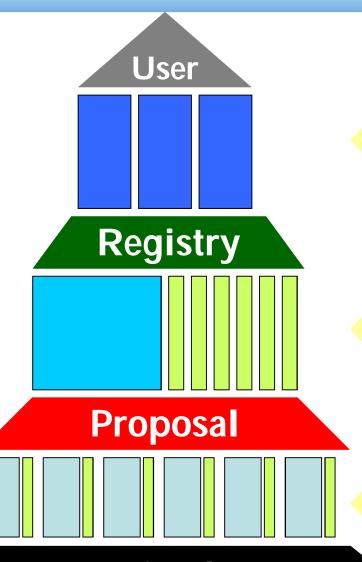


- Based on standardized (or agreeable) policies and procedures
  - documented on RFC-like or Best-Practice documents
- Extendable to allow for adding new languages as they become ready
- Easy and fast to be deploy by any registry
- Work for both ccTLDs and gTLDs
- Simple and Transparent for end users
  - Do not annoy/confuse end users with technical/special
  - Regular users should be able to register whatever he can type using his keyboard



### General overview





Registry functions
(Whois + Register + Activate)

Group variant table + Language tables

For each language:
1-Language table & 1- variant tables

**Unicode** 



### Language Requirements



#### Language Table (LT)

- A set of codes (Base characters) that defines a certain language domain that used by Registry.
- LT can have Alphabetical, Numbers and Separators (Hyphens, Dots)

#### Variant Table (VT)

- Variant Table is a table that record all relations of the LT characters with other characters across the script.
- Each relation is defined depending on its similarity either Exact or Typo.



### Language Requirements



#### Variant Table (VT) cont.

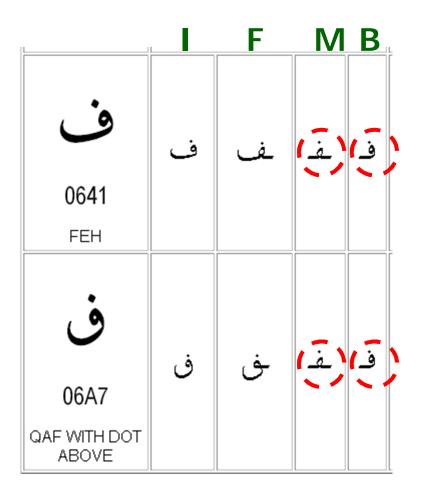
- Exact similarity refers to identically look between base character other character (e.g. exact match/mirror image).
- Typo similarity refers to almost look between base character other character (e.g. typo/style match).
- Note: A variant table will consist of a list of records, each record contains the following information:
  - Base character (from LT),
  - List of other characters that have similarity with base character (from across the script),
  - A set of positions of similarity [Beginning, Medial, Final, Isolated],
  - Relation type (Exact, Typo).



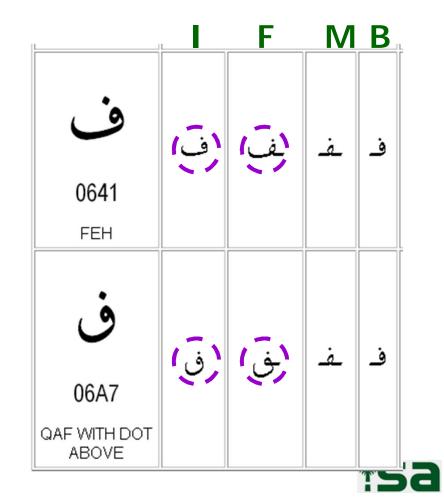
### Language Requirements Examples of variants



Example Exact Variant match



Example for Typo Variant match



### Language Requirements How to build a variant table?



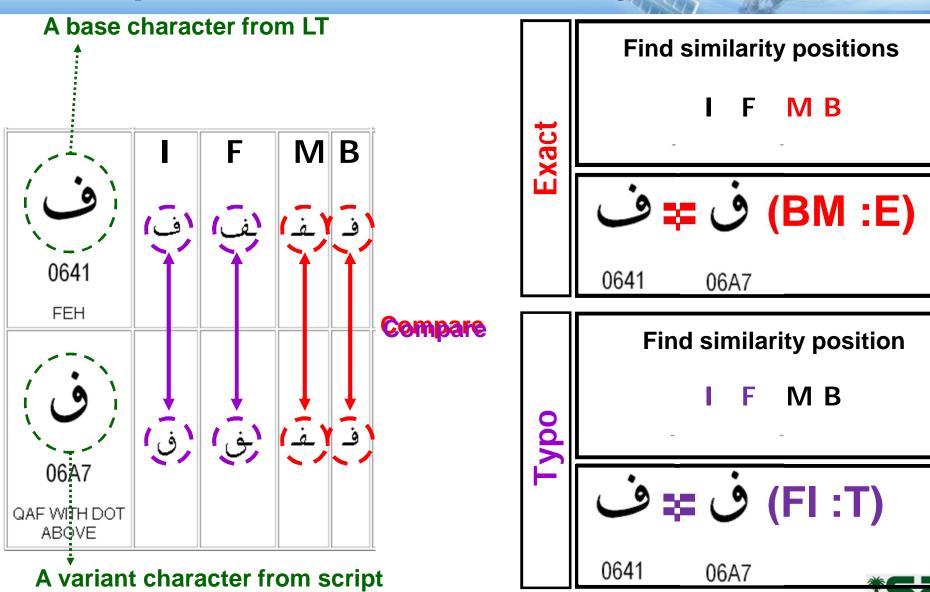
#### Steps (done for each base character in LT):

- 1. List all possible shapes for the basic character
- 2. Search for all its variants from the rest of the Arabic script
- 3. Then compare the basic character with its variants in all possible positions.
- 4. Find all similarity position(s).
- Record the similarity (type & position)



### Language Requirements Example: Position of similarity





# Language Requirements Example: Variant Table



```
0641; 06A7(FI:T), 06A7(BM:E)
    0636;
   0637;
   0638;
51
   0639;
   0641; 06A7(FI:T), 06A7(BM:E)
   0643; 06A9(FI:T), 06A9(BM:E), 06AA(BMFI:T)
   0644;
57
   0645:
   0646; 06BA(BM:E)
   0647; 06BE(M:E), 06BE(BFI:T), 06C1(I:E), 06C1(MF:T), 06D5(FI:E)
   0648;
   0649; 06CD(FI:T), 06D2(FI:T)
   064A; 067B(BMFI:T), 06D0(BMFI:T)
63 0660; 0030 (BMFI:T)
```



### Registry Requirements

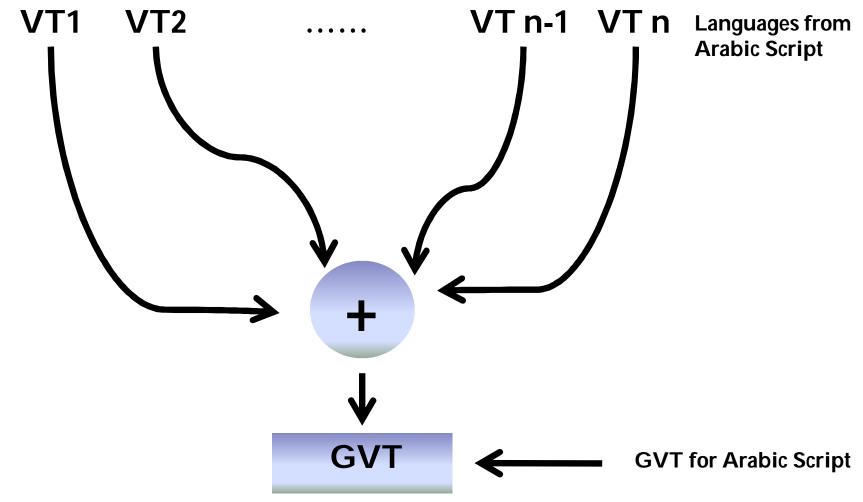


- Language Table (one for every supported language)
  - Users can only register domains using base characters from only one language table.
- Group Variant Table (GVT):
  - Generated from variant tables.
    - It combines all VTs into one table that group all base characters with all relations across script.
    - Each variant list will be assigned to a unique group key (master key) that identify that group and will be used for generating the Master Key.



# Registry Requirements Example: Group variant table







### Registry Requirements Example: Group variant table





G41M; 063A(Q)177 G41F; 063A(Q) 178 G41I; 063A(Q) 179 G42B; O641(Q), 180 G42M; O641(Q), O6A7(Q), O6A7&O641(E) 181 G42F; O641(Q), O6A7(Q), O6A7&O641(T) 182 G42I; 0641(Q), 06A7(Q), 06A7&0641(T)183 G43B; 0642 (Q) 184 G43M; 0642(Q) 185

**Relations for** variant characters

06A7(Q), 06A7&0641(E)

Keys are used for **Querying GVT** 

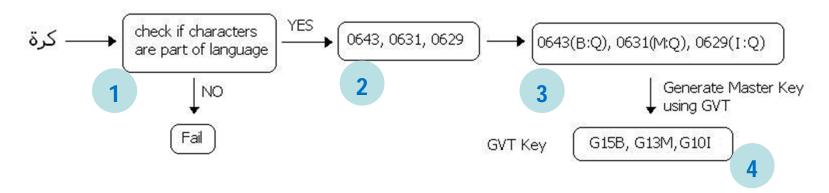


# Registry Requirements Generating Master Key



#### Generating Master Key:

- 1) Check if input string follows certain language (using LT).
- 2) Generate UNICODE code for that input.
- 3) Find the position for each character depending on language properties (UNICODE Standard).
- 4) Query (generate) Master key by taking every code from 3) and do simple lookup in GVT.

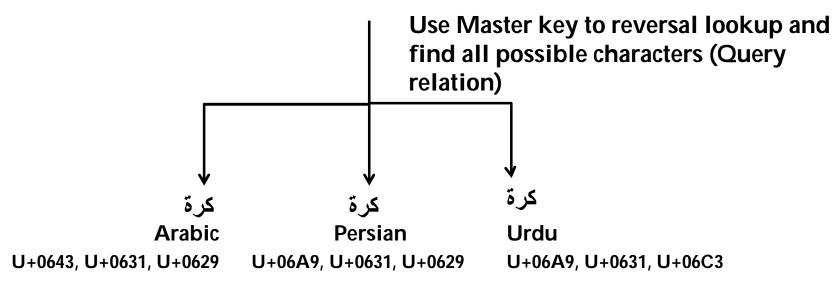




# Registry Requirements Finding Exact Strings



#### G15B, G13M, G13I





# Registry Requirements Registry-Registrant interface



#### Lookup process (whois)

- Check domain syntax under any supported language using LTs.
- Check if the same domain is available or not.
- If it is found return the unavailable/whois-information; otherwise continue
- Get the master- key for the domain (based on GVT)
- Check if the master- key was registered before or not
- If master- key is found return unavailable/whois-information; otherwise return domain is available

#### Registration process:

- Registrant should select one of these languages and a domain (U-Label)
- Registry should accept inputs based on the selected language table
- If domain name can be registered (available based on Lookup process) then register the domain

#### Activation process (enable exact variants)

- Original Registrant can activate any exact variant from the registered domain's Master Key.
- List possible Exact variants that can be typed using one of the LT without intermingling between them
- Activate one/many of Exact variants (if not activated before)



# Registry Requirements Support new languages



- Adding new Language (GVT) to existence GVT done in three steps:
  - 1) Scan GVT keys in new GVT and check if keys with Q exist in any key in old GVT if so take variant list of that key (from new GVT) and add it with variant list of old GVT.
  - 2) Add the rest of key of new GVT at the end of old GVT keys.
  - 3) check new GVT if the keys with Q appear in different GVT keys or not.

#### **GVT(Old) + GVT(New languages)**



new VT.

Then regenerate all old Master keys using new GVT!



### GVT as Open Source Product GVT in real life



- So far GVT algorithm became as Open source product.
- The product demonstrates the algorithm as piece of code.
- What can be done with it:
  - Use it as resource to understand the algorithm.
  - Enhance it (if needed) and use it as tool.
  - A live demo for the algorithm!



#### Conclusion

\*\*

- We tried to have a prototype that fulfill the concepts of script based registry that is:
  - Optimized, Simple, Transparent, Automated

#### Next steps:

- Finalize the Language tables & variant tables for the Arabic Language.
- RFC or best-practice document.
- ICANN should delegate variants at TLD level
  - E.g. Arabic => کویت => U+0643 U+0648 U+064A U+062A Persian => کویت => U+06A9 U+0648 U+06CC U+062A



### Thank you!



- Developing Team
  - Abdulaziz Al-Zoman
  - Raed AI-Fayez
  - AbdulRahman Al-Ghadir

### Thank you





U+0634 U+06A9 U+0631 U+0627

U+0634 U+0643 U+0631 U+0627

G35B G44M G32F G22I





#### Demo





Backup & old slides



# Registry Requirements Example: Group variant table



- How to build Group variant table (GVT):
  - 1. Merge all variant tables (TVT, EVT) for all languages together in one Combined Variant Table (CVT)
    - Use "OR" operation in conflicts on position of similarity
    - Set a flag to show if it is an Exact or Type variant
  - 2. For each code point in each LT build 4 groups based on its possible shapes (B,M,E,S)
  - 3. Use the CVT to find variant code points that share the similarity in the same position and combine their initial groups together



## Registry Requirements Example: Group variant table



#### What dose each row in GVT store?

- Group -ID (example: G12B)
  - Each codepoint from any supported language can be found in up to 4 groups (based on it possible shapes B,M,E,S)
- Members of the group
  - List code point that have any similarity between them in the same position (B,M,E,S)

```
GVT
...
G27B; 0641(E),06A7(E)
G27M; 0641(E), 06A7(E)
G27E; 0641(E), 06A7(T)
G27S; 0641(E), 06A7(T)
...

0641; 06A7 (3)

0641; 06A7 (3)
```

## Introduction Arabic Script IDN Major Issues



- Acceptable/disallowed characters
  - IDNA200x table (Pvalid / Disallowed / ContextO)
  - Language tables
- Non-spacing Marks
  - Subtending Marks (U+0600 +0603)
  - Honorifics (U+0610 U+0614)
  - Koranic annotation signs (U+0615)
  - Points (U+064B U+0652, U+0670)
  - Combining Maddaa and Ham
  - Other combining Marks (U+06s.
- Confusing similar characters (e.g.)
- World/label separators (space, Z
- Bidirectional
- They are addressed at different levels
  - IDNA protocol level
  - Registry level
  - Application level



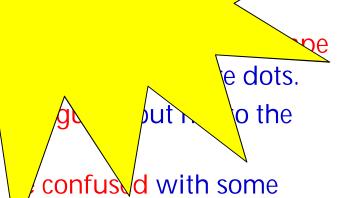


## Introduction About Arabic script



more than one billion potential users could be conceded in using Arabic script domain name

- Used by many languages su Turkish, Kurdish, Pashto, Swa
  - that may add or change change appear in Arabic phonology.
  - A new character usually create of an existing Arabic character
  - These additions have meaning to the original language.
  - Therefore, many characters would easily other characters from other languages





not

du,

## Introduction Unicode Arabic Block (5.1)

\*

- Subtending marks
- Radix symbols
- Letterlike symbols
- Punctuation
- Currency Signs
- Poetic marks
- Honorifics
- Koranic annotation signs
- Based on ISO 8859-6
- Addition for early Persian and Azerbaijani
- Points from ISO 8859-6
- Combining Madah and Hamza

- Other combining marks
- Arabic-Indic digits
- Archaic letters
- Point

1 01117

Exte A lett

s for

177

rwa

€ts

- Add ns for urushaski

Addions for early Persian

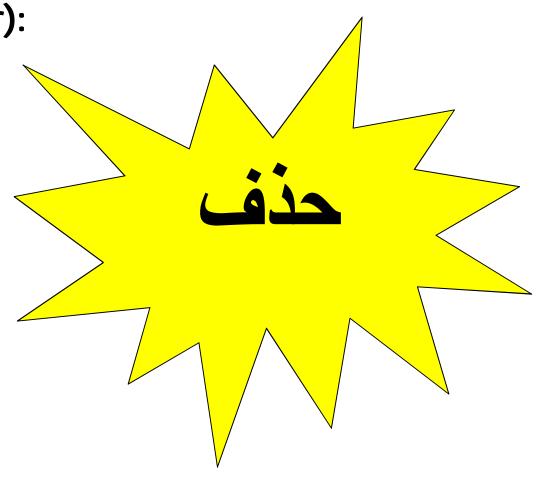
298 Code points



## Introduction Who is ready?



- Arabic
- Jawi
- Pashto
- Persian
- Urdu
- \_ . .





نجميع لشرح مميزات الحل

- Do not annoy/confuse end users with technical/special terms:
  - Type & Exact Variants
  - Register & Bundle & Activate
- Regular users should be able to register what he can type using his keyboard
  - Advance users may seek for other options/solutions to fulfill their needs.



تجميع لشرح مميزات الحل

- Optimized solution
  - Only block domains that are really confusing to the end users
- Simplify Registry operations
  - Fast and accurate Whois service
  - Simple registration & activation services
- Transparent to end users (registrant and navigator)
  - Keep it simple & similar to what they used to
- Automate expandability
  - No need to meet and discuss the same issues again when a new language is ready!



### Why we need this? Automate expandability

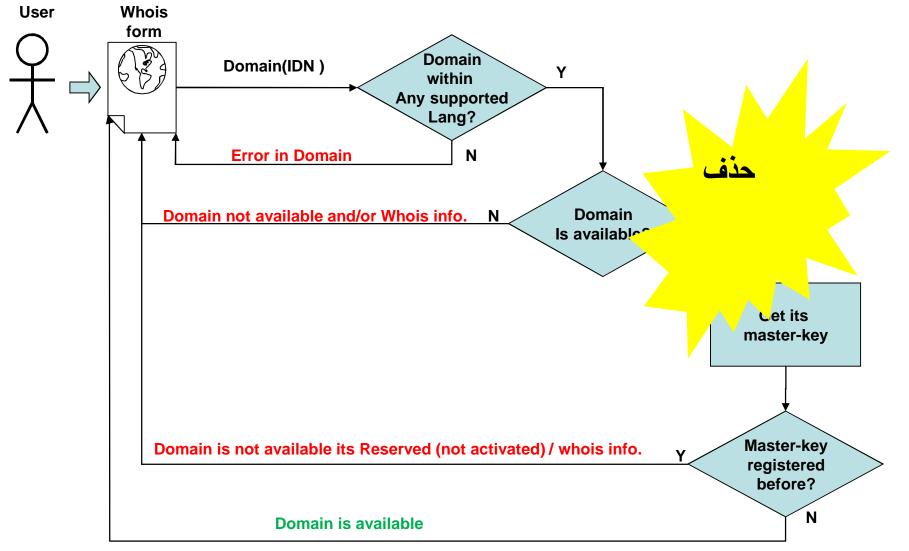
تجميع لشرح مميزات الحل

- Extendibility against
  - Adding new languages
  - Updating existing language tables & variants lists
  - Handling Unicode updates (e.g. Unicode 5.2)
- Define set of rules and algorithms that Registries can use to operate TLD using Arabic Script
  - Rules for storing some structures for backward compatibly



# Registry Requirements 1. Lookup process (whois)



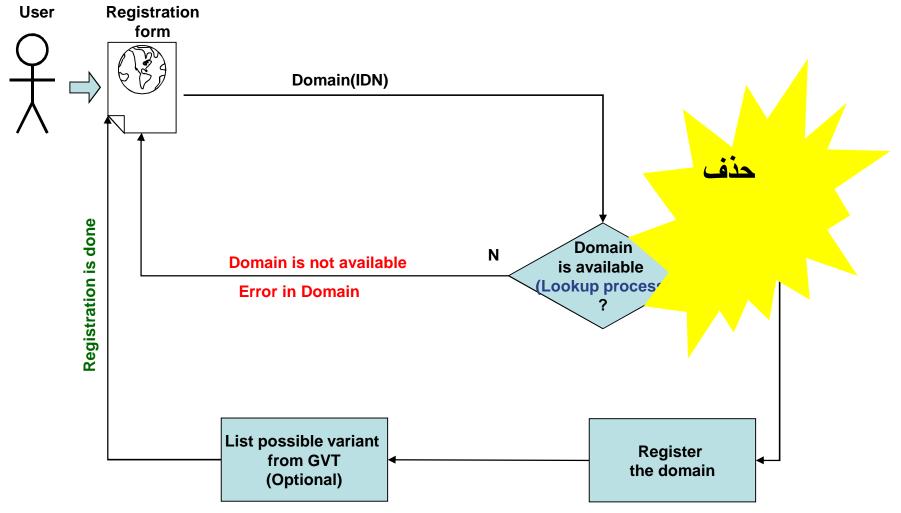




### Registry Requirements

#### 2. Registration process



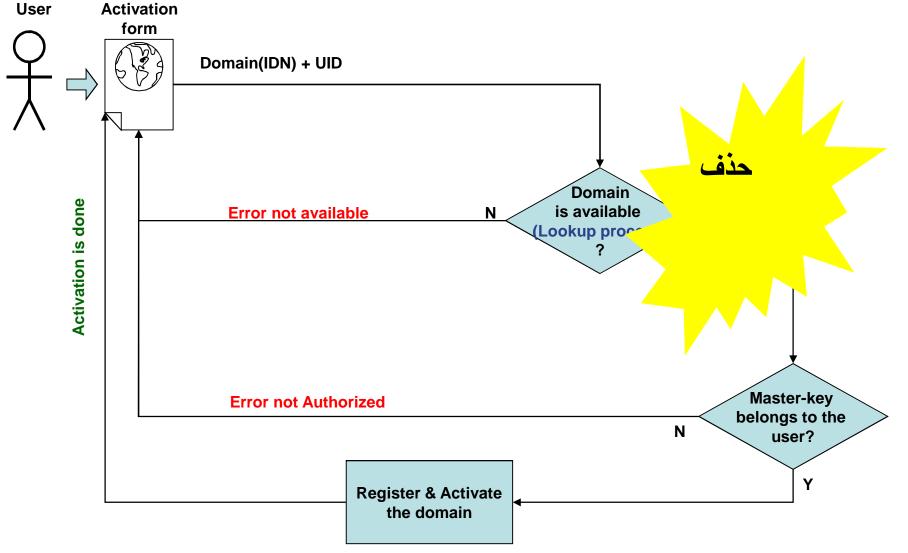




### Registry Requirements









#### Steps to support a new language



- Need process owners !!!!
- Language community should prepare
  - Language Table
  - Exact Variant Table (EVT)
  - Typo Variant Table (TVT)
- Support the new language:
  - Add it to the list of supported languages
  - Add their Language table
  - Regenerate GVT
- Communicate it with others (ICANN, Registries ..)



# Registry Requirements Registry-Registrant interface



nain is

- Lookup process (whois)
  - Check domain syntax
    - Check if the domain within any supported language
  - Check if the same domain is available or not
    - Check if the request domain exists
    - If it is found return the unavailable/whois-information; otherwise
  - Check if the domain is variant for a registered domain p
    - Get the master- key for the string (based on GVT)
    - Check if the master- key was registered before or not
    - If master- key is found return unavailable/whois-information available

#### Registration process:

- Registrant should select one of these languages and the selection air (U-Label).
- Registry should accept inputs based on the selected language table
- If domain name is register-able (available based on Lookup process)
  - Register the domain name along with its original image
  - List of allowable exact variants (to be activated if needed)
- Activation process (enable exact variants)
  - Original registrant can activate exact variants from his registered domain
    - List possible **Exact** variants that can be typed using one of the supported languages without intermingling between languages tables and taking care of position similarity (suggestion)
    - Activate one/many of the previous variants (if not activated before)

