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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Interim Report Internationalized Registration Data Expert Working Group

Introduction

Raf Fatani, ALAC member from the Asian, Australian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 30 April 2014, this Statement was posted on the At-Large Interim Report Internationalized Registration Data Expert Working Group Workspace.

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the Recommendations to all At-Large members via the [ALAC-Announce Mailing List](#).

On 09 May 2014, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote on the proposed Statement.

On 16 May 2014, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 13 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 1 abstentions. You may review the result independently under: <https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=3896grCqy5FIdFSqUiJBDant>.

Summary

1. The ALAC welcomes the interim Report, supports the preliminary viewpoints and possible approaches identified in the Report, and believes it is a good initial starting point
2. The ALAC is gravely concerned that no ICANN policy expert or appointed Advisors are present on either Integration Panel as the eventual output will have policy impact.
3. The ALAC welcomes the IRD Working Groups assessment on the requirements for internationalized registration data (IRD) and its deliberation on how to produce a data model for the IRD that matches the requirements. However, the ALAC advises that more attention to detail should be made when it comes to introducing non-ASCII character sets (e.g. Hong Kong characters are missing). The ALAC believes it is important that the IDN policy evolution should allow more accessibility to those who do not use the ASCII character set.
4. The ALAC acutely reaffirms that IDNs are crucial for enhancing diversity and multilingualism on the Internet.

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Acknowledgement Internationalized Registration Data expert working group initial Report

The ALAC welcomes the interim Report, as it proposes internationalization requirements for fourteen categories of data elements currently outputted by the various gTLD registration data directory services, and was tasked to produce a data model for the IRD that matches the requirements. The ALAC supports the preliminary viewpoints and possible approaches identified in the Report, and believes it is a good initial starting point.

The need for expert policy output impact

The ALAC is gravely concerned that no ICANN policy expert or appointed Advisors are present on either Integration Panel as the eventual output will have policy impact. This is important as this type of policy development is a single shot at implementation, meaning it is very hard to back-track or amend things after mistakes or omissions.

The need for comprehensive attention to detail

The IRD Working Groups assessment on the requirements for internationalized registration data (IRD) and its deliberation on how to produce a data model for the IRD that matches the requirements are welcomed by the ALAC. The ALAC agrees with the Working Groups approach to ensure that all proposed characters (new gTLD tables and current IANA tables) are included. However, the ALAC advises that more attention to detail should be made when it comes to introducing non-ASCII character sets. It is clear from the offset that already certain Hong Kong characters are missing (based on Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set), and more attention to detail should be sought on this matter.

The ALAC believes it is important that the IDN policy evolution should allow more accessibility to those who do not use the ASCII character set, as restrictions across languages would inevitably lead to maladministration. The Working Group is advised that more attention to detail should be sought in introducing new policies that affect different languages when it implements IDN Policy, as failure to do so could harm ICANNs credibility as a global organization.

Importance of multilingualism

The ALAC acutely reaffirms that IDNs are crucial for enhancing diversity and multilingualism on the Internet, through their importance to the Internet's continued evolution and use by people from all linguistic backgrounds.