Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP
Working Group

Activities Update
ICANN London Meeting
June 2014
Chris Dillon and Rudi Vansnick

ICANN

Why is it Important?

- Continued internationalization of the domain name system

- Need to allow for standardized query of international registration data and assurance of its functionality

- Ongoing reforms of gTLD Directory Services (e.g. Expert Working Group) makes the need to establish GNSO policy on translation/transliteration of contact information pressing

Recent Developments

- Working Group started in December 2013

- Input request sent to SO/ACs and SG/Cs

- ICANN has published a feasibility study of the translation and transliteration of contact information - will feed into WG's recommendations

- Outcome of EWG and other relevant efforts also monitored by the Group

Next Steps

- WG is reviewing community feedback using a public comment review tool and working on draft recommendations

- Providing updates to the GNSO Council and the public at ICANN-50 in London
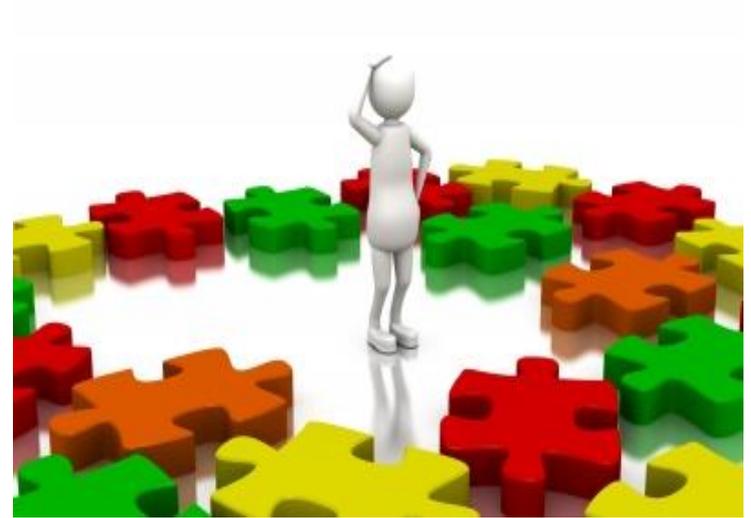
Thank You and Questions

#ICANN50

Background on the Issue

Two principal Charter questions:

1. Whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script.

2. Who should decide who should bear the burden translating contact information to a single common language or transliterating contact information to a single common script.

- Working Group Charter: www.tinyurl.com/ttcharter

- Working Group Wikipage: www.tinyurl.com/ttwikipage

- Issue Report: www.tinyurl.com/ttissuereport

Background on the Issue, Cont.

- Text requests and content returned by Domain Name Registration Data Services (such as WHOIS) are encoded using US-American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII), based on the English alphabet.

- Currently, there are no standards or conventions for all WHOIS protocol implementations to signal support of character sets other than US-ASCII

- It is anticipated that a new Domain Name Registration Data Service may not be ASCII-centric.

Background on the Issue, Cont.

- ***Translation*** is the process of conveying the meaning of some passage of text in one language, so that it can be expressed equivalently in another language.

- ***Transliteration*** is the process of representing the characters of an alphabetical or syllabic system of writing by the characters of a conversion alphabet.

Background on the Issue, Cont.

- "Contact Information" enables someone using a Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service (such as WHOIS) to contact the domain name registration holder.

  - It includes: the name, organization, and postal address of the registered name holder, technical contact, as well as an administrative contact.

- The RAA specifies the data elements that must be provided by registrars; but it does not require that these data elements be translated or transliterated.