

IDN Implementation Guidelines (IDNG) Working Group (WG)

Notes from Meeting on 21 Oct. 2015

Meeting Attendees

WG members (in alphabetical order):

1. Chris Dillon
2. Christian Dawson
3. Edmon Chung
4. Jian Zhang
5. Kal Feher
6. Mats Dufberg
7. Satish Babu
8. Wael Nasr

Staff:

9. Alireza Saleh
10. Sarmad Hussain

Meeting Notes

1. **Welcome and membership.** Staff welcomed the members at the first meeting of the IDNGWG and thanked them for volunteering their time. Staff informed the members of the nominations for the WG, which include the following:
 - a. ALAC:
 - i. Wael Nasr
 - ii. Satish Babu
 - b. ccNSO:
 - i. Mats Dufberg
 - ii. Pablo Rodriguez
 - c. GNSO:
 - i. Chris Dillon (NCSG)
 - ii. Christian Dawson (ISPCPC)
 - iii. Jian Zhang (RySG)
 - iv. Dennis Tan (RySG)
 - v. Edmon Chung (RySG)
 - vi. Kal Feher (RySG)
 - d. SSAC:
 - i. Ram Mohan (also ICANN Board IDN Working Group)
 - ii. Patrik Fältström (has volunteered only to review the Guidelines; not included in the group email list)
 - e. ICANN Support Staff:
 - i. Alireza Saleh
 - ii. Sarmad Hussain

2. **Background and context.** Staff reviewed the goals of the IDNG, which focus on the second level and aim to enhance their usability and address any issues related to end-user confusion and security. Staff also informed the WG that once updated, these Guidelines become binding on new gTLD registries¹ and registrars² through their contracts with ICANN. Further these Guidelines are recommended for use to the IDN ccTLDs through the Fast Track process³. The WG should consider these implications. Staff further informed that IDNG have gone through multiple versions over past years, with latest version 3.0 released in 2011. These versions are available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/implementation-guidelines-2012-02-25-en>. The request to update these guidelines came from members of GNSO, as it has been some time since these Guidelines are updated.
3. **Introduction of the WG members.** After the introduction to IDNG, the WG members present introduced themselves and their relevant experience.
4. **Scope and extent of the Guidelines.** WG members suggested that it should be clarified that how these Guidelines will be used to better determine how to determine their scope. Those WG members who have been involved with earlier versions of IDNG shared that it provided light-weight document which allowed registries to implement IDNs preserving security and stability of the internet and promote consistency of experience. These were updated based on new developments, e.g. with the definition of IDNA 2008. In the past it has been less regulating and not very prescriptive because the use of the IDNs has still been developing. It was raised whether the WG should continue on the path or propose more prescriptive measures in the current revision? It was suggested to still avoid being too prescriptive as IDNs are still developing. The members noted that a balance needs to be struck between the two options.
5. **Identification of work items.** WG members inquired if there is an initial list of items already developed by staff and if any of these are or critical path for the group to determine the pace of its work. Staff informed that they could compile a tentative list for the WG members to consider and initiate the discussion. The WG members also discussed the possibility of brainstorming and coming up with the list internally by the WG. And then to prioritize this list for developing the work plan.
6. **Finalization of the work product.** It was discussed whether to have one or multiple documents and the members agreed that it would be simpler to community to follow a single document. WG inquired about the approval process for the Guidelines and staff informed that same process will be followed as has been for the previous versions, which requires a public comment and eventually an approval from the ICANN Board.

¹ It is stated in Specification 6 Clause 1.4 of the New GTLD Registry Agreement that: "Registry Operator shall comply with the ICANN IDN Guidelines at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/implementation-guidelines.htm>, as they may be amended, modified, or superseded from time to time. Registry Operator shall publish and keep updated its IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules in the IANA Repository of IDN Practices as specified in the ICANN IDN Guidelines." See <http://newgtlds.icann.org/sites/default/files/agreements/agreement-approved-09jan14-en.htm>

² It is stated in the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement that: "Registrar shall also comply with the IDN Guidelines at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/implementation-guidelines.htm> which may be amended, modified, or superseded from time to time. Registrar must use the IDN tables published by the relevant registry." <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en>.

³ IDN ccTLD Fast Track Application form signed by the applicants states that: "IDN domain names are to be registered in accordance with a publicly available registration policy that shall comply on an ongoing basis with relevant applicable standards to IDNs, such as the IDNA Protocol, and with the IDN guidelines as updated and published from time to time on the ICANN website, all subject to and within the limits of relevant applicable national law and public policy."

7. **Internal WG organization.** The group discussed its internal organization. The group agreed to form a leadership team of 2-3 candidates to share the added responsibility for procedural matters, including developing agendas, conducting meetings, organizing work items and involving the team to meet deadlines. Edmon Chung and Mats Dufberg volunteered for this purpose, to be finalized over email so that others, not present in the first meeting, also get a chance to participate in the process.
8. **Openness of the WG deliberations.** The setup of the email list and wiki space for the WG was raised by staff. Members pointed out that keeping things open may hinder sharing specific information from the industry practice. However, many members shared that it will still be useful to keep the mailing list archive publicly available and the recordings of the proceedings available on the public wiki by default and private discussions could be scheduled if needed. It was concluded that this option be shared with other members on the list and if there is no objection go forward with the open approach.
9. **Schedule of next call(s).** The WG decided to hold a meeting in the first week of November. It was suggested to hold a weekly meeting in the start and then eventually consider fortnightly meetings, as needed. The goal would be to release a list of items to be addressed by the Guidelines for the ICANN meeting in Morocco. The group will finalize the meeting frequency during the next call.

Action Items

S.No.	Action	Owner
1	Develop a tentative initial list of items for the WG to consider	Staff - initial list by the first call
2	Finalize the leadership of the WG including 2-3 members; Current volunteers include Edmon Chung and Mats Dufberg; WG members not present in the meeting to comment and/or volunteer	WG members - over email
3	Publicly accessible archive of emails and publishing of call recordings on public wiki was decided as a default. WG members not present in the meeting to share any objection to this process	WG members - over email
4	Organize a call during the first week of November	Staff
5	Finalize the frequency of calls (weekly in the beginning suggested)	WG members - during first call