



Neo-Brahmi Scripts LGR for the Root Zone

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Agenda

Background of TLD Program

2 Repertoire 3 Variants

4 WLE Rules

XML Formulation and LGR Tool

Conclusions and Next Steps





ASCII Domain Name Label



Third Level
Domain

Second Level Domain

Top Level Domain (TLD)

Top Level Domains (TLDs)

- Country Code TLDs (ccTLDs)
 - ⊙ .sg, .cn, .kh, .la, .mm, .th, .ca, ...
 - Two letter [a..z] codes, reserved for countries and territories by ISO 3166 standard
- Generic TLDs (gTLDs)
 - ⊙ .com, .org, .net, .edu, ... organizations
 - New gTLDs − 1930 applications in 2012

Domain Stakeholders

- ICANN
- Registry
- Registrar
- Reseller
- Registrant
- ⊙ End-User



ASCII Domain Name Label



Forming ASCII Labels Use LDH

- Letters [a-z]
- **D**igits [0-9]
- Hyphen (LDH)

Label length = 63

Other constraints (e.g. on hyphen)

Forming ASCII Labels Use only Letters

Letters [a-z]

Label length = 63



Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Labels



Syntax of IDN Labels

Valid U-Label: Unicode code points as constrained by IDNA 2008

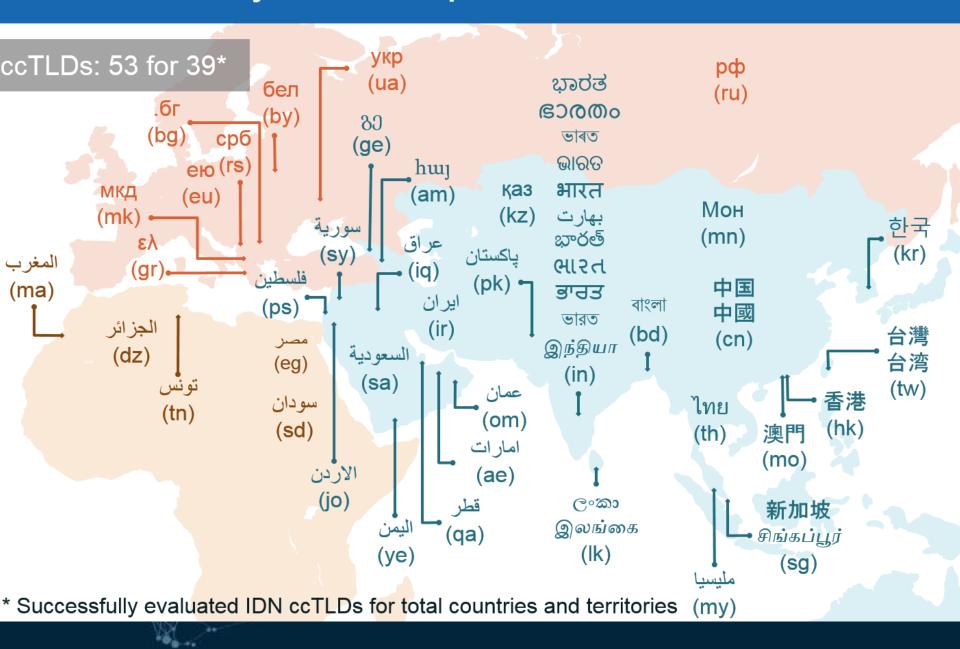
Valid A-Label - "xn--" followed by punycode of U-Label of length 59

Syntax of IDN Labels

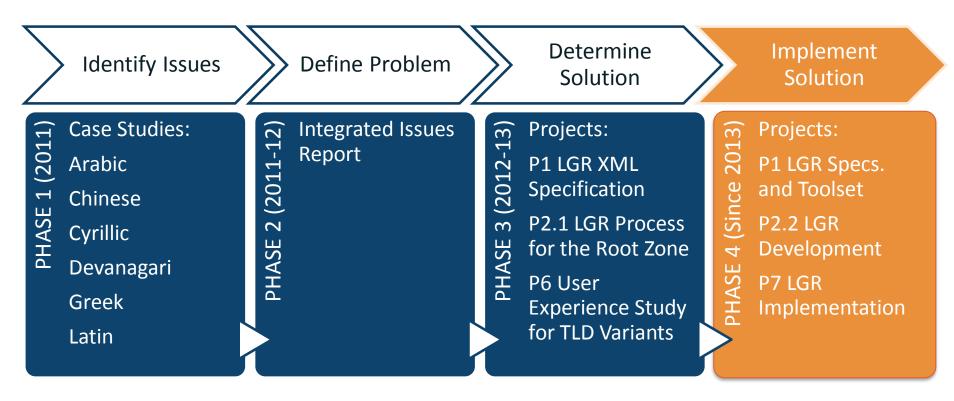
Valid U-Label, further constrained by the "letter" principle for TLDs
Valid A-Label



IDN Country Code Top-Level Domains



IDN TLD Program



Community agreed to define a Label Generation Rules (LGR)

Reports and documentation of all completed projects available at: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/reports-2013-04-03-en



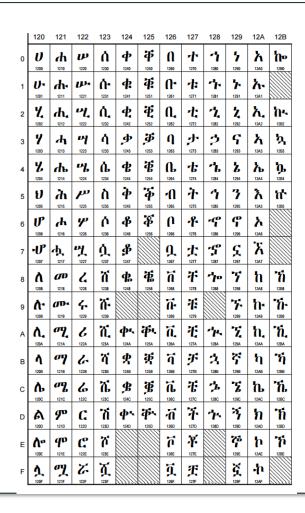
Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone

- For the Root Zone, single "table" containing data for all scripts
 - ◆ As it is a shared resource, must be conservative
 - Must be stable and secure
 - Must be based on inclusion based analysis
- For each script or writing system:
 - Which code points are valid for use?
 - Are any of these code points variants of each other?
 - Are the any additional constraints on the labels?



Unicode

| 000 | 001 | 002 | 003 | 004 | 005 | 006 | 007 |
|-------------|-------------|------------|------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| NUL | DLE 0010 | SP 0020 | 0 | <u>@</u> | P | 0060 | р |
| SOH | DC1 0011 | 0021 | 1 0031 | A 0041 | Q 0051 | a 0061 | q |
| STX | DC2 | 0022 | 2 | B 0042 | R | b 0052 | r 0072 |
| ETX | DC3 | # 0023 | 3 | C | S | C 0063 | S 0073 |
| EOT | DC4 0014 | \$ | 4 | D 0044 | T 0054 | d | t 0074 |
| ENQ ccos | NAK 0015 | % 0025 | 5 | E | U | e | u 0075 |
| ACK 0006 | SYN 0016 | & 0026 | 6 | F | V 0056 | f | V 0076 |
| BEL 0007 | ETB 0017 | 0027 | 7 | G 0047 | W 0057 | g 0067 | W 0077 |
| BS | CAN | (| 8 | Н | X | h | X 0078 |
| HT 0009 | E M 0019 | 0029 | 9 | I 0049 | Y | i 0009 | y |
| LF 000A | SUB 001A | * 002A | : 003A | J 004A | Z | j | Z |
| V T | ESC 0018 | + | • • • • | K 0048 | 0058 | k | { 007B |
| FF 0000 | FS 001C | 9 002C | 0030 | L | 005C | 1 | 0070 |
| CR | GS 001D | _ 002D | 0030 | M 004D | 0050 | m | } 007D |
| SO ‱ | R S 001E | 002E | > 003E | N | ∧ | n | ~ 007E |
| SI | US | / 002F | ? | 0045 | 005F | O | DEL 007F |
| | NUL | NUL DLE | NUL DLE SP | NUL DLE SP O 00000 0000 00000 00000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 | NUL OLE SP O | NULL DLE SP O | NUL DLE SP O |

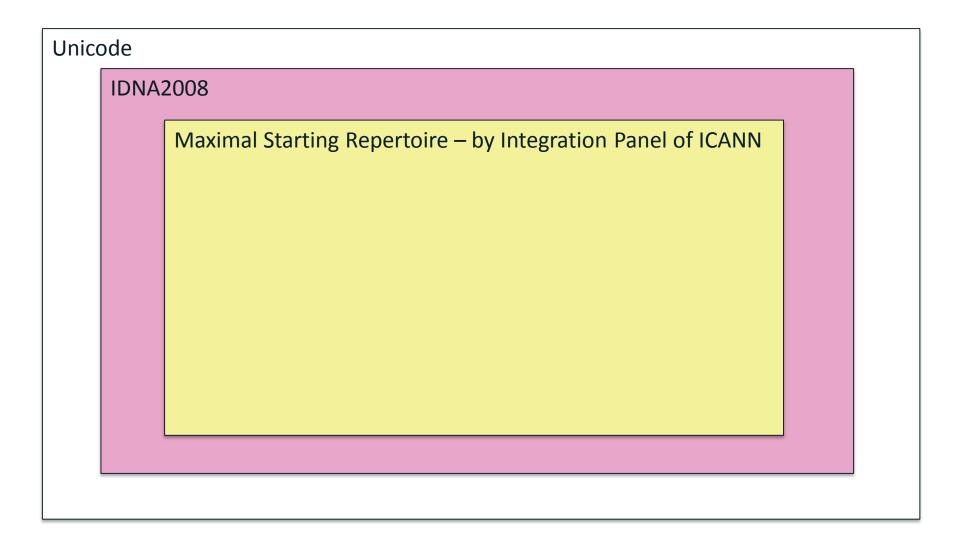


• • •



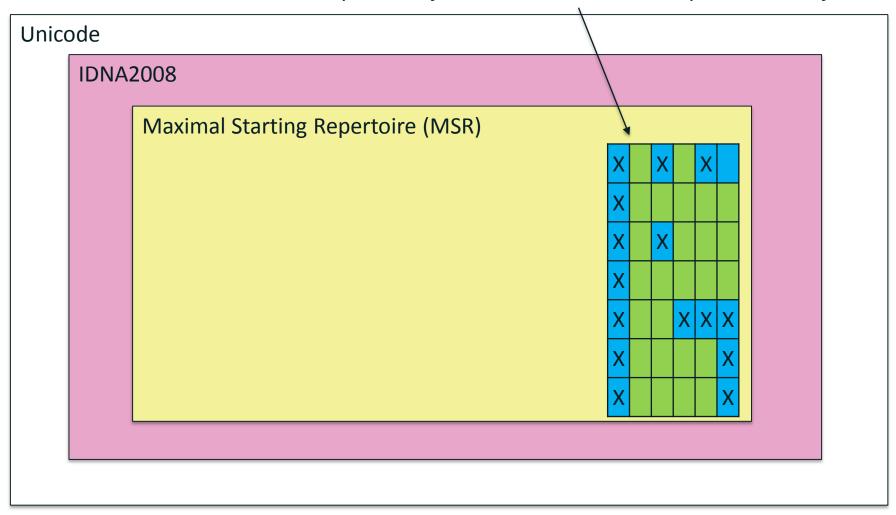




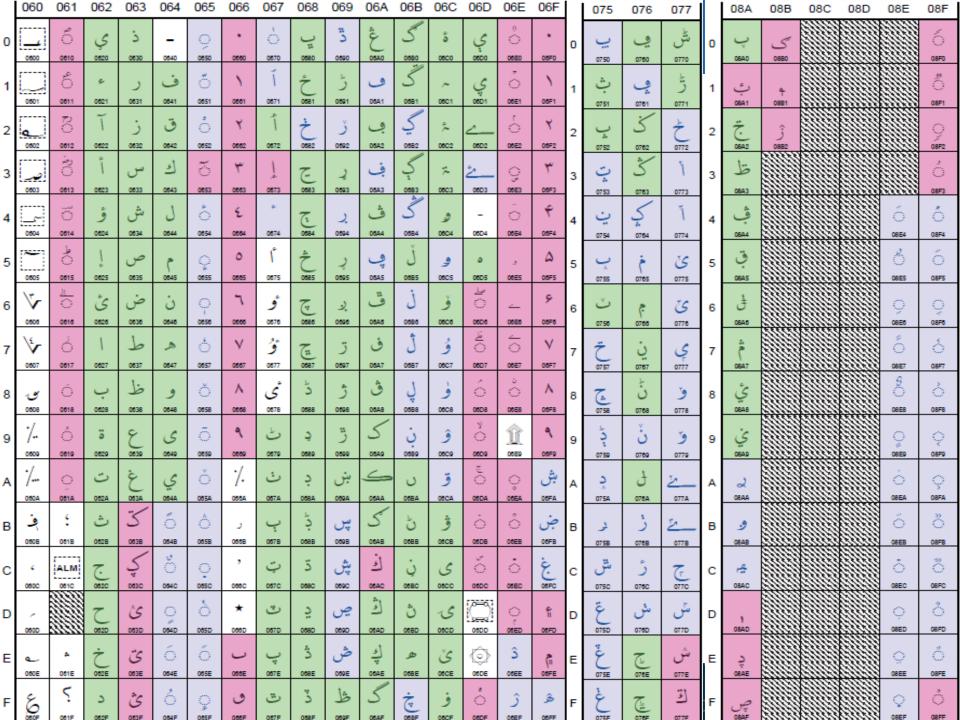




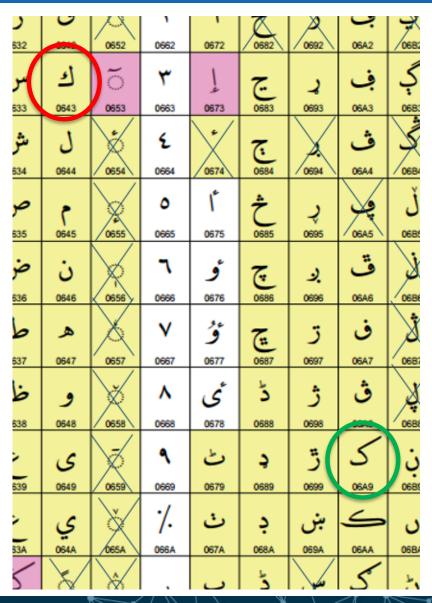
LGR Proposal – by Generation Panel of Script Community







Label Generation Rules (LGR)



- Valid code points
- Variants code points

- Label constraints
 - ⊙ Cannot mix ≤ and ≤ in a label





MSR and LGR



- Which code points must be included in the Root Zone
 - Are exclusions from MSR (pink) correct?
 - What must be included in LGR?
 - "everyday, general purpose [use ...] in a stable and widespread manner"
- 2. Are there any variant code points
 - Two code points when replaced produce labels considered confusingly similar by an end-user
- 3. Are there any label-level constraints
 - Well-formedness of a cluster?
 - Constraints on initial or final position in a label?
 - ⊙ Other?



Root Zone LGR Procedure

Generation Panels

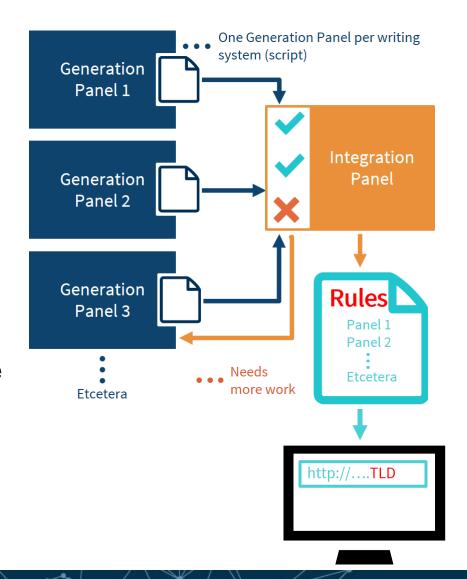
 Generate proposals for script specific LGRs, based on community expertise and requirements

Integration Panel

 Integrates them into common Root Zone LGR while minimizing the risk to Root Zone as shared resource

Label Generation Rules (LGR)

- Which labels are permissible
- Which variant labels exist
- Which variant labels may be allocated





LGR Specification

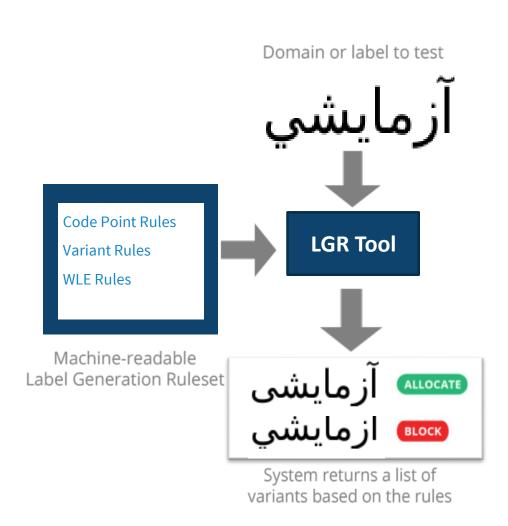
- Label Generation Rulesets (LGRs) used to generate domain name labels, per <u>RFC 7940</u>
- ⊙ Example: excerpt from MSR-2 XML file

```
<range first-cp="0780" last-cp="07B0" tag="sc:Thaa" ref="3"/>
<char cp="07B1" tag="sc:Thaa" ref="5"/>
<char cp="08A0" tag="sc:Arab" ref="12"/>
<range first-cp="08A2" last-cp="08AC" tag="sc:Arab" ref="12"/>
<range first-cp="08E4" last-cp="08EF" tag="sc:Arab" ref="12"/>
<range first-cp="08F4" last-cp="08FE" tag="sc:Arab" ref="12"/>
<range first-cp="0901" last-cp="0903" tag="sc:Deva" ref="0"/>
<char cp="0904" tag="sc:Deva" ref="6"/>
<range first-cp="0905" last-cp="0939" tag="sc:Deva" ref="0"/>
<range first-cp="093A" last-cp="093B" tag="sc:Deva" ref="11"/>
<char cp="093C" tag="sc:Deva" ref="0"/>
<range first-cp="093E" last-cp="094D" tag="sc:Deva" ref="0"/>
<char cp="094F" tag="sc:Deva" ref="11"/>
<range first-cp="0956" last-cp="0957" tag="sc:Deva" ref="11"/>
<char cp="0972" tag="sc:Deva" ref="9"/>
<range first-cp="0973" last-cp="0977" tag="sc:Deva" ref="11"/>
<range first-cp="0979" last-cp="097A" tag="sc:Deva" ref="10"/>
<range first-cp="097B" last-cp="097C" tag="sc:Deva" ref="8"/>
<range first-cp="097E" last-cp="097F" tag="sc:Deva" ref="8"/>
<range first-cp="0981" last-cp="0983" tag="sc:Beng" ref="0"/>
```



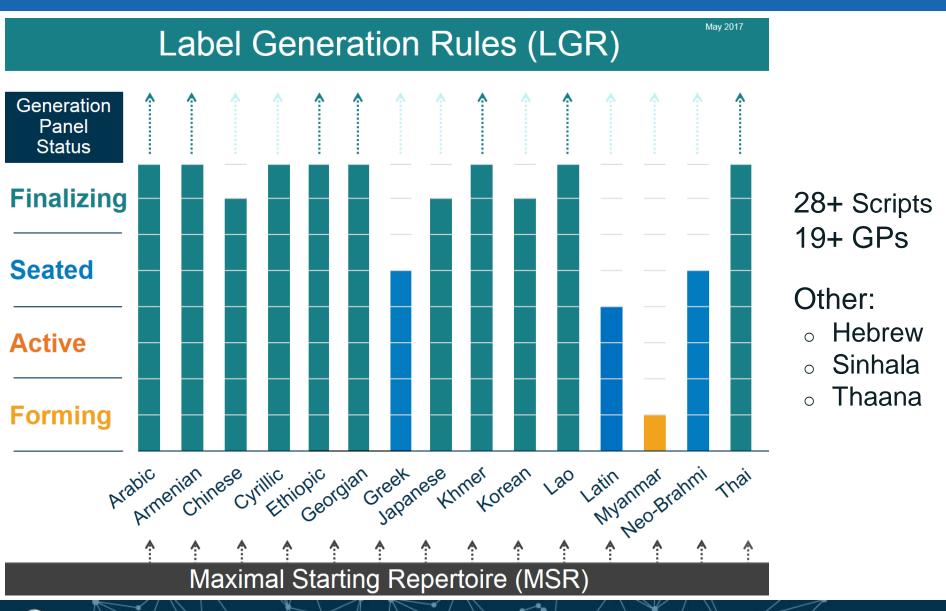
LGR Toolset (beta)

- LGR Toolset allows for the following:
 - Create a LGR
 - Use a LGR to validate label and variants
 - Manage LGRs
- Online beta deployment
 - Visit https://lgrtool.icann.org/
- Open source package(s) release
 - Released at github: <u>lgr-core</u>, <u>lgr-django</u>, <u>munidata</u>
- <u>User guide</u> available for further details





Root Zone LGR Development Status





Scope of Neo-Brahmi GP

On 15 May 2015 the Neo-Brahmi script community submitted to ICANN the <u>Proposal for Generation Panel for Neo-Brahmī</u> <u>Scripts Label Generation Ruleset for the Root Zone</u>, covering Bengali, Devanagari, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu scripts

- For each script
 - Cover all languages with widespread, everyday general use (e.g. EGIDS scale less than 4 (or 5?))
 - Cover all geographical regions where the scripts are used
 - Ensure that technical criteria is met along with the socio-linguistic requirements





What is the Goal?

- Goal is to create a mnemonic system for use in the Domain Name System (DNS)
 - A mechanism to remember IP address
 - Must remain secure and stable in use if DNS is confusing to users, then the motivation is not met
 - Not required to completely cover a language or a script
 - May not form labels which are words in a language
 - Not restricted to "correct" spellings
 - May not carry a meaning in the "lexical" sense



Starting Point – RFC 6912

Principles

- Longevity stable across Unicode versions
- Least Astonishment

 take into account the population using a code point
- Contextual Safety sensitive to ways in which code point may be used in malicious ways
- 4. Conservatism any code point inclusion decision is as conservative as practicable



Starting Point – RFC 6912

Principles

- Inclusion default is excluded, then add code point which is safe based on usability and confusability
- Simplicity rules determining use should be simple to understand
- 7. Predictability rules determining whether a code point is included are predictable for others to reach the same conclusion
- Stability if permitted, taking it out very hard



Starting Point – RFC 6912

Principles

9. Letter – Code point "will be alphabetic" in RFC 1123. Same principle so exclude code points not normally used ot write words or used for purposes other than writing words



Questions to Ask

- 1. Is it contained in the Maximal Starting Repertoire?
- 2. Is it used with the script defined in the scope of the GP
- 3. Is it suitable in identifiers?
 - a. Is it in widespread modern use?
 - b. Is it not technical / religious / limited use only?
 - c. Is it not really a punctuation / symbol?
 - d. Is it really necessary for representing identifiers?
- 4. Is the Unicode encoding of the code point stable?
 - a. Are there any rendering issues?



Questions to Ask

- 5. What are the DNS security & stability concerns? rendering issue, homoglyph of non-PVALID code points?
- 6. How accessible would a TLD containing that code point be?
 - a. Are there input/keyboard concerns?
- 7. What are the risks if the code point is not included?
- 8. What are the risks if it is?
- 9. Is it in tension with any of the Principles in any way?
- 10. Does it always appear in a fixed sequence?



"everyday, general purpose [use ...]"

| Level | Label | Description |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| 0 | International | The language is widely used between nations in trade, knowledge exchange, and international policy. |
| 1 | National | The language is used in education, work, mass media, and government at the national level. |
| 2 | Provincial | The language is used in education, work, mass media, and government within major administrative subdivisions of a nation. |
| 3 | Wider Communication | The language is used in work and mass media without official status to transcend language differences across a region. |
| 4 | Educational | The language is in vigorous use, with standardization and literature being sustained through a widespread system of institutionally supported education. |
| 5 | Developing | The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable. |

https://www.ethnologue.com/about/language-status



"everyday, general purpose [use ...]"

| 6а | Vigorous | The language is used for face-to-face communication by all generations and the situation is sustainable. |
|----|----------------|--|
| 6b | Threatened | The language is used for face-to-face communication within all generations, but it is losing users. |
| 7 | Shifting | The child-bearing generation can use the language among themselves, but it is not being transmitted to children. |
| 8a | Moribund | The only remaining active users of the language are members of the grandparent generation and older. |
| 8b | Nearly Extinct | The only remaining users of the language are members of the grandparent generation or older who have little opportunity to use the language. |
| 9 | Dormant | The language serves as a reminder of heritage identity for an ethnic community, but no one has more than symbolic proficiency. |
| 10 | Extinct | The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language. |

https://www.ethnologue.com/about/language-status



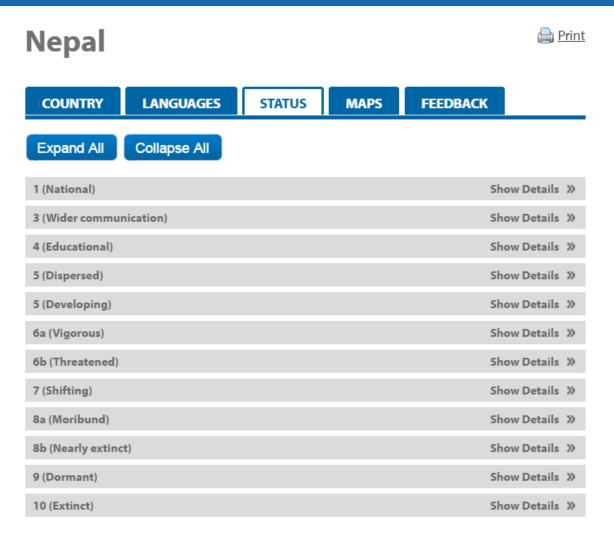
How to Document the Repertoire

- Document general <u>but relevant</u> information
 - a) History of script
 - b) Script characteristics
 - c) Languages using the script standard name, ISO 639 code, name in local script, places language is spoken, other relevant information (e.g. EGIDS no.)
 - d) Criteria of language included in analysis (and excluded from analysis)
 - e) Types of code points which types are included and which code points are excluded
 - f) Table of code points with evidence/reference of use for each code point and any additional relevant information



- National governmental sources
- www.ethnologue.com website
- www.omniglot.com website
- Published research and books
- Field research
- Others?





Ethnologue - https://www.ethnologue.com/country/NP/status



| 4 (Educational) | Hide Details ➤ | 5 (Dispersed) | Hide Details ¥ |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| Avadhi | [awa] 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kushwadiya. 547,400 in Nepal, all users. 502,000 (2011 | Bengali | [ben] 5 (Dispersed). 23,980 in Nepal, all users. 21,100 (2011 census), increasing. 2,880 (2011 census). |
| Bhojpuri | census), increasing. 45,400 (2011 census). [bho] 4 (Educational). 1,740,000 in Nepal, all users. 1,580,000 (2011 census), increasing. 160,000 (2011 census). | Maithili | [mai] 5 (Dispersed). 4,085,000 in Nepal, all users. 3,890,000 (2011 census), increasing. 793,000 Bajjika, 3,090,000 Maithili (2011 census). 195,000 (2011 census). |
| English | [eng] 4 (Educational). 7,002,030 in Nepal, all users. 2,030 (2011 census). 7,000,000 (Crystal 2003a). | Santhali | [sat] 5 (Dispersed). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Satar (Santhal). 50,880 in Nepal, all users. 49,900 (2011 census), increasing. 980 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 51,700 (2011 census). |
| Newar | [new] 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Newar. 879,600 in Nepal, all users. 847,000 (2011 census), decreasing. 32,600 (2011 census). Many women are monolingual. Ethnic population: 1,260,000. Includes 1,245,000 Newar and 11,500 Pahari. Total users in all countries: 893,600 (as L1: 861,000; as L2: 32,600). | Urdu | <u>[urd]</u> 5 (Dispersed). 737,800 in Nepal, all users. 692,000 (2011 census). 45,800 (2011 census). |
| Tamang, Eastern | [taj] 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. 1,213,500 in Nepal, all users. 1,180,000 (2001 census), increasing. Southwestern Tamang: 109,000 (1991 census). Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). 33,500 (2011 census). In some remote communities, particularly women, children and elderly people are monolingual. Ethnic population: 1,290,000 (2001 census). Total users in all countries: 1,231,000 (as L1: 1,197,500; as L2: 33,500). | | |
| Tibetan | [bod] 4 (Educational). Spoken as a trade language among Bodish groups in Nepal. 4,450 (2011 census), increasing. | | |



Tigrigna



| LANGUAGE FEE | DBACK | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| A language of <u>Ethiopia</u> | | | | |
| ISO 639-3 | <u>tir</u> | | | |
| Alternate Names | Beta Israel, Tigray, Tigrinya | | | |
| Population (| 4,320,000 in Ethiopia (2010 UNSD). L2 users: 147,000 in Ethiopia. 2,820,000 monolinguals. Total users in all countries: 7,899,400 (as L1: 7,747,400; as L2: 152,000). | | | |
| Location | Tigray region border areas; Amhara and Afar regions. | | | |
| Language Maps | Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia | | | |
| Language Status | 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial working language in Tigray Region (1994, Constitution, Article 47(3)). | | | |
| Classification | Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, North | | | |
| Typology | SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); definite article; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; aspect; 33 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes. | | | |
| Language Use | Also use Amharic [amh]. Used as L2 by Amharic [amh], Kunama [kun], Xamtanga [xan]. | | | |
| Language Development | Literacy rate in L2: 27%. Taught in primary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1956. | | | |
| Language Resources | OLAC resources in and about Tigrigna | | | |
| Writing | Ethiopic script [Ethi], used since 13th or 14th century. | | | |
| Other Comments | Christian. | | | |

Sources of Information - Repertoire

- References which could be used to demonstrate "everyday, general purpose [use ...]"
 - a) National standard published by the government
 - b) Books published by Ministry of Education, e.g. for primary school
 - c) Common publications, e.g. newspapers
 - d) Other?



Strategies for Documenting the Repertoire

- Strategy 1: Code Point Analysis
 - For each code point in MSR
 - Determine if it is used by one or more languages included
 one example is sufficient
 - Determine if the code point is required for the language(s)
 - Document reference and reason for inclusion
- Strategy 2: Language Analysis
 - For each included language short-listed by GP
 - Determine the required code points
 - Document reference and reason for inclusion
 - Review code points which are not analyzed



Example

| Item # | Unicode Code Point | Glyph | Name and GC | Some languages using the character | Language, with EGIDS value | Reference |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | 0621 | ç | ARABIC LETTER HAMZA;Lo | Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi | 1 Arabic | [RFC 5564] |
| | | | | | | |
| 3 | 0623 | Š | ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH HAMZA ABOVE;Lo | Arabic, Malay, Torwali | 1 Arabic | [RFC 5564] |
| | | ••• | | | | |
| 81 | 06AE | ای | ARABIC LETTER KAF WITH THREE DOTS BELOW;Lo | L'Alphabet National du Tchad (ANT) | 1 ANT | [ANT] |



Exercise

| Item # | Unicode Code Point | Glyph | Name and GC | Some languages using the character | Language, with EGIDS value | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |





What is the Goal?

- Successfully defining variant rules for an LGR is not trivial
- Code point or code point sequences causing two (or more) labels functionally "the same" in a script
- Make the mnemonic system to minimize user confusion
- Conservatism requires
 - maximizing "blocked" variants
 - minimize "allocatable" variants



Questions to Ask

- 1. Would a reasonable person with native knowledge of the script consider a pair of code points interchangeable?
- 2. Would such a person be unable to determine which of these interchangeable code points was used by appearance?
- 3. Is there an alternative representation?
- 4. What should the disposition of any defined variants be?
- 5. Should any of the variants of this code point be contingent on context?
- 6. Is each set of code point variant mappings symmetric?



Questions to Ask

- 7. Is each set of code point variant mappings transitive?
- 8. Are any variants contemplated that are in tension with any of the Principles?
- 9. Are the variants designed so that they lead to the minimal required number of allocatable variant labels?
- 10. Are the variants designed so that, in doubtful cases, they block potential variant labels?



Variant Relationships and Types

- Variants are symmetric
 - \odot A = B \Rightarrow B = A
- Variants are transitive
 - \odot A = B and B = C \Rightarrow A = C
- Variant code points can be of two types
 - Allocatable
 - Blocked
- The types are directional
- Label disposition calculated based on types of individual code points
 - A single blocked type causes the whole label to be blocked



Example

| 0641 | ف | فب | بف | بفب | 1 (06A7) |
|------|---|----|----|-----|----------|
| 06A2 | ب | بف | بف | بوب | 5 (0641) |
| 06A7 | ف | فب | بڧ | بفب | 5 (0642) |
| 0642 | ق | قب | بق | بقب | 6 (06A7) |

| 0641 | 06A2 | а | Used interchangeably in Africa for languages using Western (African)orthography |
|------|------|---|---|
| 0641 | 06A7 | b | |
| 0641 | 0642 | b | |
| 06A2 | 06A7 | b | |
| 06A2 | 0642 | b | |
| 06A7 | 0642 | а | Used interchangeably in Africa for languages |
| | | | using Western (African)orthography |





Goal

- Goal is to reduce label space
 - Preventing labels which should not be possible for various reasons
 - Not licensed by the script (but not spelling rules)
 - Cause security issues
 - Cause usability constraints
 - Other?
 - Reducing allocatable label by making them blocked in certain cases
 - Put in contextual contexts for code points or their sequences



Examples

- Cannot mix Persian Kaf and Arabic Kaf
- Combining vowel mark must follow a consonant in Lao script
- Subjoining consonant must follow a consonant in Khmer script
- A label cannot start with a combining mark





LGR XML Structure

- "Igr" element has three sub-elements:
 - "meta": all meta-data associated with the LGR, such as its authorship, what it is used for, implementation notes and references.
 - "data": the substantive code point data
 - "rules" (optional): information on contextual and whole-label evaluation rules, if any
 - with any specific "action" elements providing the disposition of labels and their variants



LGR XML Structure

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
    <lgr xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:lgr-1.0">
    <meta> ... </meta> //optional
    <data> ... </data>
    <rules> ... </rules> //optional
    </lgr>
```



Demo of online LGR Tool



Engage with ICANN



Thank You and Questions

Reach us at: IDNProgram@icann.org

Website: icann.org/idn



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