Scenario

Removal from Assigned Category, No New ISO Code Assigned

ccPDP-Retirement Working Group

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One of the scenarios identified by the group to date which may result in retirement of a ccTLD is the move of a Code Element of ISO 3166–1 from *Assigned* to *Transitionally Reserved*[1].

1 Model

Retirement process

End stage/change of category ISO 3166-1 —————————> **Un-Delegated**[2] **ccTLDs**

2 End Stages/Change of Listing ISO 3166-1

To date, following the discussions of the WG and original email discussion, the WG marked the following change as scenario:

The change of the listing category of the two-letter Code Element (country code) of ISO 3166–1 from *Assigned* to *Transitionally Reserved*, *no new ISO Code assigned*.

In terms of the ISO 3166 Standard, Section 7.3, this is a deletion from the list of country names as included in Article 6 of the standard (and in terms of the Online Browsing Platform: the officially assigned codes). The second part of the description *Moved to the Transitionally Reserved List* is not based on the Standard but refers to a category under *Other Codes* included in the Online Platform.

Examples are:

SU (Soviet Union) (1990)

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[1] Note that the term *Transitionally Reserved* is not included in the Standard document, but defined on the ISO 3166 Online Browsing Platform.

[2] The term *Un-Delegated* is not defined. It is used as an overall, heuristic concept to describe the stage where the delegation has ended.

23 NT Neutral Zone (1993)

24 YU Yugoslavia (2003)

25 CS Serbia and Montenegro (2006)

26 AN Netherlands Antilles (2010)

27 The Code Element SU was removed from the list of country names, it was later included
28 in the list of *Exceptionally Reserved* Code Elements as defined in the Standard (section
29 7.5.4)

30 The Code Elements NT, YU and AN were removed from the list of country names and
31 included in the list of *Transitionally Reserved* Code Elements, which is a list published
32 through the Online Browsing Platform, but which is not defined under the Standard itself.

33 3 Removal of Code Elements

34 3.1 Was the change/scenario cause for a retirement process?

35 Based on an initial analysis of the DRDWG and IANA reports, the following changes of
36 Code Elements caused the retirement of the ccTLD:

37   • The removal of YU from the list of country names as defined in the Standard resulted
38   in a retirement of the ccTLD .YU. The process for the retirement of .YU was initiated
39   in 2003 (see [6], [5]).

40   • The removal from AN from the list of country names as defined in the Standard
41   resulted in a retirement of the ccTLD .AN. The process for AN, Netherlands Antilles,
42   was initiated in 2010 (see [1]).

43   • CS (Serbia and Montenegro) was never delegated as a ccTLD, hence the removal
44   from the list of country names had no effect.

45   • SU was removed from the list of country names as defined in the Standard. It did
46   not result in a retirement of the ccTLD .SU. SU was added to the list of *Exceptionally*
47   *Reserved* Code Elements.

48 3.2 Who initiated the retirement process?

49 3.2.1 YU, Yugoslavia (2003)

50 After removal of YU (and the expected removal of CS) from the list of country names as
51 defined by the ISO 3166 Standard, the anticipated future ccTLD managers for .ME and .RS
52 respectively, and the IANA Operator developed a transition plan.

53 This plan from .YU to .RS and .ME involved a Memorandum of Understanding between the
54 two entities and would see that .YU assigned to the proposed .RS ccTLD manager, which

55 was effectively the same operator as the .YU ccTLD manager. The .RS ccTLD manager
56 would act as caretaker for .YU for two years to allow for a stable transition.

57 By Board decision 2007, the retirement was initiated by decision of transfer (revocation)
58 of the .YU ccTLD to the Serbian National Registry of Internet Domain Names in a temporary
59 caretaker capacity. At the same time the decision to delegate .RS and .ME was taken (see
60 [12]).

61 **3.2.2 AN, Netherlands Antilles (2010)**

62 In December 2010 AN was removed from the list of the list of country names as defined
63 by the ISO 3166 standard, and CW for Curaçao, SX for Sint Maarten (Dutch part), and BQ
64 for the BES Islands (Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius), were added.

65 In January 2011, the University of the Netherlands Antilles presented its initial application
66 to ICANN for delegation of the .CW ccTLD. Subsequently, over the course of the year the
67 application was expanded and revised.

68 In March 2011, the University and SX Registry SA executed a "grand-father agreement".

69 In September 2011, the University entered into a revised agreement with SX Registry SA
70 B.V. in regards to the transitional arrangements concerning the .AN ccTLD,

71 Noting that a transition plan was in place at the time of the decision, which included, inter
72 alia, to move registrations from the .AN ccTLD to the new ccTLDs .CW and .SX, with the
73 University of the Netherlands Antilles continuing to act as manager of the .AN ccTLD until
74 the transition was complete, the ICANN Board decided (following the decision to delegate
75 .AW) that the University of Netherlands Antilles:

76   • be instructed to report their progress on decommissioning the .AN ccTLD every six
77   months to ICANN against a relevant set of metrics;

78   • work to complete the transition of the .AN ccTLD to the .CW ccTLD, the .SX ccTLD,
79   and any other relevant ccTLD;

80   • the .AN ccTLD be removed from the DNS root zone on 31 October 2014, if not
81   requested earlier by the manager of the ccTLD.

82 **3.3 How is retirement initiated?**

83   • Letter from PTI/IANA Operator to ccTLDs?

84   • ICANN Board decision?

85   • Letter from relevant government?

3.3.1 YU, Yugoslavia (2003)

In 2003, The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was superseded by a different form of union between the states of Serbia and Montenegro. The successor was to be known as "Serbia and Montenegro", and in recognition of this, the ISO 3166-1 Code Element was changed from "YU" to "CS" (i.e. "Crna Gora and Srbija"). The Secretariat of the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency formally communicated this change to the IANA Operator in July 2003.

In the discussions the .YU ccTLD Manager held with the IANA Operator, they conveyed the opinion that a planned referendum for self-determination to be held by Montenegro had a reasonable prospect of seeing the union between Serbia and Montenegro dissolved, and would result in two separate countries. In light of this, the IANA Operator did not seek an immediate transition from the .YU ccTLD to the .CS ccTLD until the outcome of that process was concluded.

In October 2006, the IANA Operator met with the Administrative Contact for the .YU ccTLD. In this meeting she explained that initial discussions were being conducted both within Serbia, and with prospective operators of the .ME ccTLD. The IANA Operator was advised that it was anticipated there would be delegation applications forthcoming from the countries. In those discussions, the importance of a transition plan from the existing .YU ccTLD was stressed.

In December 2006, the Government of Montenegro submitted a delegation application for the .ME ccTLD. This was followed by the applications for the delegations of the .RS ccTLD, and the revocation of the .YU ccTLD, received in February 2007.

In the time following the receipt of the initial applications, the IANA Operator sought additional information and clarifications from the applicants to ensure that they met IANA's criteria for delegation. The IANA Operator also asked that the plan for transition from the .YU ccTLD be documented and proposed as part of the applications.

3.3.2 AN, Netherlands Antilles (2010)

In December 2010 AN was removed from the list of the list of country names as defined by the ISO 3166 Standard. CW for Curaçao, SX for Sint Maarten (Dutch part), and BQ for the BES islands, were added. In January 2011, the University of the Netherlands Antilles presented its initial application to ICANN for delegation of the .CW ccTLD. Subsequently, over the course of the year the application was expanded and revised.

In March 2011, the University and SX Registry SA executed a "grand-father agreement".

In September 2011, the University entered into a revised agreement with SX Registry SA B.V. in regards to the transitional arrangements concerning the .AN ccTLD (see [2]),

At the time of the decision by the ICANN Board to delegate .CW [11], a transition plan was in place .This included inter alia:

   • to move registrations from the .AN ccTLD to the new ccTLDs .CW and .SX;

123 • the University of the Netherlands Antilles to continue acting as ccTLD manager of
124   .AN until the transition was complete.

3.4 What are the consequences once the retirement process is initiated, if any and for whom?

3.4.1 YU, Yugoslavia (2003)

128 To implement the guidance from the ICANN Board on a reporting mechanism with respect
129 to the retirement of .YU, IANA Staff met with representatives of the .YU ccTLD Manager,
130 RNIDS, to discuss reporting on the timely implementation of retirement of .YU. Goal was
131 to be that any concerns that might result in delaying the retirement could be adequately
132 shared and considered well in advance.

133 Specifically, the regular reports needed to address three issues:

134   1. describe the ccTLD Manager's progress in retiring the .YU ccTLD;

135   2. describe any problems experienced that might impact the ccTLD Manager's ability
136   to meet the 30 September 2009 deadline.

137   3. describe what steps were being undertaken to remedy any issues raised in #2.

138 RNIDS provided updates.

139 According to the IANA report on *Removal of the .YU domain formerly representing Yugoslavia*
140 [7], there were 4,266 .YU domain names still delegated in June 2009. This was down from
141 32,772. In June 2009, there were 26,294 domain names registered in .RS. IANA staff
142 noted that of the remaining 4,266 domain names (under .YU), approximately 200 did not
143 also have a matching .RS domain name.

144 In September 2009 the ICANN Board extended the date of retirement to 30 March 2010
145 (see [13]).

146 The IANA Operator was informed on 30 March that RNIDS had informed the community
147 that it had effectively switched off the .YU ccTLD, independent of the removal of .YU from
148 the DNS root zone.

149 On 1 April 2010 the .YU ccTLD was removed from the DNS root zone.

150 In the process of the removal of the .YU ccTLD, RNIDS raised the point with the ICANN
151 Board that for a better guidance in the future on how the process of retiring ccTLDs should
152 be conducted, clear and transparent rules should be available. Based on the reports
153 available it is not clear what is meant.

154 For a more fulsome description on the process of the retirement of .YU, you are deferred
155 to the IANA report (see [7]).

156 3.4.2 AN, Netherlands Antilles (2010)

157 After the delegation of .CW to the University of the Netherlands Antilles continued to act
158 as ccTLD manager for .AN until the transition was complete.

159 As part of the arrangement it was agreed to move registrations from the .AN ccTLD to the
160 new ccTLDs .CW and .SX.

161 In 2014 the .AN ccTLD Manager and the Netherlands' Ministry of Economic Affairs have
162 sought a nine month extension of the deadline of retiring .AN by 31 October 2014. The
163 request was made to provide additional opportunity for the remaining registrants to con-
164 clude their transition away from the .AN ccTLD. According to the letter from the Dutch
165 Ministry the .AN ccTLD Manager and the Dutch government needed more time to find and
166 implement alternative options for the remaining .AN ccTLD in the BES islands.

167 By Decision in October 2014, the ICANN Board extended the deadline for the .AN ccTLD
168 removal from the DNS Root Zone to 31 July 2015 [10].

169 .AN was retired 31 October 2015

170 4 Additional Material

171 • Discussion Paper on Retiring Country Code Top-Level Domains (see [4])

172   – Public Comments (see [9])

173 • Delegation Record for .AN (see [3])

174 • Letter from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs on Retirement of .AN (see [15])

175   – Response by the IANA Operator (see [8])

176 • Further Letter from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (see [14])

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