Call for Comments on Items for Review of IDN Guidelines

IDN Guidelines Working Group (IDNGWG)

Background and significance: Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) Implementation Guidelines address the IDN registration policies and practices, designed to minimize the risk of cybersquatting and consumer confusion, and respect the interests of communities using local languages and scripts. These guidelines are contractually binding for both Registries and Registrars offering IDNs at second level under all new gTLDs and recommended for IDN ccTLDs.

What is being asked to review: The current Version 3.0 was endorsed by the ICANN Board of Directors on 28 October 2011. This version is now being revised by the recently formed IDNGWG with members from GNSO, CCNSO, SSAC and ALAC. IDNGWG has been developing a list of topics which may be relevant for inclusion in the updated IDN Implementation Guidelines for the second level. The community is requested to review this list (summarized below) and give their feedback by attending the public session of IDNGWG on Wednesday 9 March during ICANN55 and/or by emailing feedback and comments to IDNProgram@icann.org. Please specifically respond to the following questions, though other relevant comments are also welcome.

1. Is any of the topics listed below not relevant for consideration? If yes, why?
2. Should any additional topic be considered for inclusion? If yes, which one? Why?

Topics to review:

	Topic	IDNGWG current position
1	**Transition and Terminology.** IDNA2008 has been adopted by the registries and registrars offering IDNs at the second level. WG should identify and recommend how to address any residual issues from IDNA2003. Further, WG should identify terminology introduced through the work on Label Generation Rules, relevant RFCs and additional IDN work at ICANN for definition and adoption.	Relevant
2	**Format of IDN Tables.** Based on work by the community, a formal machine readable format for representing IDN tables (aka Label Generation Rules or LGR) is now available. This format should be encouraged for adoption at second level, as it is being done for Root Zone LGR.	Relevant
3	**Consistency of IDN Tables.** The content should be made more consistent across registries and across levels for predictable user experience. This could be done by sharing the LGRs across registries, considering reference IDN tables and other relevant work.	Relevant
4	**IDN Variants.** Nomenclature, states of variants and their management process should be made consistent. Relevant policies, e.g. ownership, automatic activation, ceiling value, choice between variants, etc. should be considered and appropriate recommendation should be forwarded.	Guidance at high level
5	**Similarity and Confusability of Labels.** Recommendations should be made on how to manage different kinds of confusability of labels at the second level, arising from homoglyphs, cross-script homoglyphs, relevance of upper case, script mixing and other (e.g. semantic) mechanisms.	Guidance at high level
6	**Registration Data.** WG to look into how to represent and manage registration data for IDNs and for variants of IDNs.	Will be considered