Timing of Removal of ccTLD from Rootzone

Over the last two meetings we have discussed the applicability of the retirement process.

One of the outcomes was a shared understanding that after a country code was removed from the ISO 3166-1 list (that is, it is not assigned anymore), the country code Top Level Domain is removed from the Rootzone Database.

Looking at the results from the discussion in San Juan and Panama the timing of the removal is considered a critical topic by the group with varying views:

- Some suggested a fixed time frame, based on the date of removal from the ISO 3166-1 table plus some number of years, 'x'. Values for 'x' have been as 5 years, 10 years, to as long as 50 years after the removal of the string from the ISO 3166-1 table.

- Some have suggested that the timeline for removal should be defined by the process on the case-by case basis.

Also, the point was made by some that there should be a "drop-dead date". No matter what, the ccTLD should be removed from the DNS root zone as of this date.

For the upcoming meeting, I would like to hear your views and arguments on your preferred options.

If you favor a fixed date, approach, what is your preferred length of time between the removal of the string from the ISO-3166-1 table and the removal of the ccTLD from the root zone? Please be prepared to argue why you think your preferred length is appropriate.

If you favor a procedural approach, then what do you see as the determining factors governing the removal process? Again, please be prepared to argue why you believe the procedural approach is preferable to a fixed date approach, and to justify what you believe to be the determining factors in your removal process.

I anticipate that defining both the start date and end-date of the process and applicability are critical elements of the retirement policy. I have no expectations that we could possibly complete this discussion in a single call. Both topics will definitely be on our topic list in Barcelona.

In preparation of this questions above our able support staff have looked into how telephone country codes are reclaimed. An example is the reclaim ("retirement") of the country code for the DDR (East-Germany). The relevant ITU standards are described in ITU T-rec 164 (http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.164-201011-I/en [itu.int]) and ITU T-rec 190 (https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.190-199705-I [itu.int]).

It appears that the process employed by the ITU does not involve a fixed date, not does their process seem extensive. In ITU T-rec 190 (section 6.2.7), they state the following regarding the reclamation of a telephone country code:

- The assigned resource (including the country code) will be subject to reclamation if:
  - it is being used in different way from which is was assigned;
  - …
  - the assigned numbering resource no longer required or in use by the assignee

The reclamation process is managed by the ITU -TSB Director in consultation with other stakeholders (see ITU-T 190 section 7.1).

They have also established a reconsideration process (see section 8 of ITU-T 190) that covers both reclamation of an existing telephone country code and the denial of the issuance of a telephone country code.

I believe that we should note the need for a re-consideration process to be part of the overall policy regarding retirement, but at this point I suggest we leave it as a place-holder, as the entire "re-consideration" (or appeals process per RFC 1591) will be dived into in great depth in the next PDP WG.

Anyway, I hope this gives you some material to help with your thinking on the matters before us. It turns out that we are not alone in trying to sort of the allocation, as well as the retirement, of resources.