Internationalized Domain Names



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Brief History

- There are presently 21 gTLDs in the root zone
- There were eight that predate ICANN:
 - .com .edu .gov .int .mil .net .org .arpa
- Seven were added in a round starting in 2000:
 - .aero .biz .coop .info .museum .name .pro
- Six were added in a round starting in 2004:
 - .asia .cat .jobs .mobi .tel .travel (soon to be added .post)
 - experience in past rounds used in program for new gTLDs
- ccTLDs are currently allocated per reference to the ISO3166-1 list (e.g. .cn for China, .gr for Greece)
 - IDN ccTLDs being added via IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

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IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

- Introducing limited number of IDN ccTLDs
 - on ISO-3166 list (or EC)
 - official language not based on Latin (extended)
 - ISO 639 (UN manual) listed or Government doc
 - technical string criteria (IDNA and Guidelines)
 - 2 char min + IDN tables + not confusingly similar
 - meaningfulness of string
 - long or short version in UN manual
 - if not in UN manual then documentation required
 - can be acronym
 - usability issue with strings longer than 3 chars

IDN ccTLDs in the DNS



China	中国 and 中國
Egypt	مصر
Hong Kong	香港
Jordan	الاردن
Palestine	فلسطين
Russia	рф
Saudi Arabia	السعودية
Sri Lanka	ලංකා and இலங்கை
Taiwan	台灣 and 台湾
Thailand	ไทย
Tunisia	تونس
UAE	امارات



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IDN ccTLD Status and Timing

- Process launched 16 November 2010
 - 33 requests from countries/territories
 - 22 languages
 - 15 strings (12 countries/territories) live in DNS root zone
 - additionally, strings approved for:
 - Qatar, Singapore, and Syria
 - review planned for Q4-2010
 - to ensure continued end-user compatibility

Improving the Namespace



What it means for users?

- -- user choice and opportunity
- -- new ways of branding and online corporate identity
- -- new ways end users find and produce information on-line (localization)
- -- direct navigation & search engine optimization
- -- increase in creativity, innovation, and competition

Security provisions, protections, and update needs

- -- continued confusability prevention/uniqueness principle
- -- technical requirements to continue preventing phishing
- -- systems and applications (need updates for usability)
- -- variant IDN TLDs needed for full user experience
- -- IDN Guidelines revision needed for new IDNA protocol support



Thank You

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References:

http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn http://blog.icann.org/category/idns