



IDN ACTIVITIES IN SEOUL, KOREA

The Seoul meeting will set a milestone in IDN TLD development. The ICANN Board is scheduled to consider the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.

IDNs will be discussed in a variety of meetings throughout the week.

Please refer to <http://sel.icann.org> for a detailed schedule.

Sunday - 25 Oct 2009

- IDNs - Intro. & Overview
- GAC Mtg - Comments on IDN ccTLDs

Monday - 26 Oct 2009

- IDN Fast Track Workshop

Wednesday - 28 Oct 2009

- ccNSO Members Mtg - IDN discussions

All Week!

- IDN Consultations with ICANN IDN Staff

ICANN is finalizing the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

- Allocation of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs
- Localization of existing ccTLDs based on ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes (fx. dot-gr for Greece)
- For countries and territories using non-Latin based official languages

- For countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard
- With focus on linguistic and technical requirements for the desired IDN ccTLD strings

IDNs at ICANN

One of the most significant innovations in the Internet since its inception is the introduction of top-level Internationalized Domain Names (IDN TLDs). These IDN TLDs will offer many new opportunities and benefits for Internet users around the world by allowing them to establish and use domains fully represented in their native languages and scripts.

IDNs have been discussed in the ICANN community for several years. Initially, development focused on enabling the introduction of IDNs as registrations under existing TLDs (which has been available under technical standards since 2003). Focus has now shifted to broadening the repertoire of characters available for use in top-level strings as well. The IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process will enable such introduction. The process for implementing new gTLDs will also support internationalized top-level domains.

The IDN Program remains a top priority for ICANN.

IDNs for Users

To promote IDN usability all stakeholders taking part in IDN development or service offerings should take part in educating and providing information to registrants and end-users. This is particularly important during the transition to the revised version of the IDNA technical standard.

The usability of IDNs may be limited since not all application software is capable of working with IDNs. It is up to each application developers to decide whether or not they wish to support IDNs. This can for example be browsers and email clients, but also sites where you sign up for a service or purchase a product and in that process need to enter an email address. Such usability problems exist today with the ASCII TLDs as well due to the TLD string being longer than 3 characters or in some cases simply different than .com, .net and .org.

Example: http://설례.테스트

Korean language, Hangul script

About ICANN

ICANN is a non-profit, private-sector corporation formed in 1998 by a broad coalition of the Internet's business, technical, academic, and user communities. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world. It is dedicated to preserving the operational stability of the Internet; to promoting competition in aspects of domain name management; to achieving broad representation of the global Internet community in policy development; and to coordinating policy development through private-sector, consensus-based means. <http://icann.org>

IDN ccTLD FAST TRACK PROCESS

WHAT

What is the Fast Track Process?

The IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process is a method for allocating a limited number of IDN ccTLDs.

The IDN ccTLDs must be based on non-Latin script(s) that are considered official in the corresponding country or territory.

The IDN ccTLDs will be available only to the governments and administrations of countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard, or their designated representatives or manager.

WHO

Who can enter the Fast Track Process?

The entity acting as a requester for an IDN ccTLD in the Fast Track Process can be the identified IDN ccTLD manager.

Where the manager is yet not selected within the country or territory it can be the government, public authority, or their designated representative.

If the requester is not the government or public authority it needs to demonstrate support from the government or public authority.

WHY

Why is a Fast Track Process needed?

The ICANN Board took the initial steps toward introducing IDN ccTLDs at ICANN's international public meeting in São Paulo in December 2006. Many countries and territories had expressed a time pressing need for IDN ccTLDs, in particular from regions where the IDNs at the second level are not useful due to the need to switch typing direction and script.

The IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process is specifically aimed at meeting this near-term demand.

IDNA Technical String Criteria and Requirements

The IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process includes several criteria and requirements for the string a country or territory can request as an IDN ccTLD, as well as the script and language upon which it is based.

An important step in evaluating IDN ccTLD requests is the evaluation that these criteria and requirements are fulfilled. This technical evaluation is conducted by the DNS Stability Technical panel.

The IDNA protocol sets the baseline for the IDN string requirements and thus for the string evaluation. The IDNA protocol has been under revision in the IETF for some time. It is currently in IETF Last Call and it is hoped and expected that it will be finalized by the launch of the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.

One example of an IDN conversion tool for the 2003 version of IDNA is: <http://josefsson.org/idn.php>

Application developers and registry operators need to make adjustments and updates to their current IDNA implementation before the new technical standard is functional for end-users. For example, this includes characters that have become valid with the revision.

ICANN will accept requests for strings that fulfill the new version of the protocol. This can in some cases require a more manual review of the IDN ccTLD requested string(s) until the new standard has been implemented in a conversion tool.

Is there a process for those not qualifying for the Fast Track Process?

Yes. The long-term process for introducing IDN ccTLDs is undergoing development concurrent with the implementation of the Fast Track Process. The Fast Track Process is being used to address immediate needs and as a proof-of-concept model for the long-term process of applying for and assigning IDN ccTLDs.

The first step in developing a long-term process for introducing IDN ccTLDs is to develop an IDN ccTLD policy. ICANN's Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) is doing this. As soon as the process is completed, implementation efforts will begin for all IDN ccTLDs. The long-term process will incorporate the experience gained in the Fast Track Process.



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Where can I find more information?

Activities related to the Fast Track Process:
<http://icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track>

ICANN Board resolution to review the Final Draft Implementation Plan in Seoul:
<http://icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-06mar09.htm#06>

IDNA protocol revision: <http://icann.org/en/topics/idn/rfcs.htm>

IANA Repository of IDN Practices: <http://iana.org/domains/idn-tables>

IDN related events: <http://icann.org/en/topics/idn/meetings.htm>

Detail about long-term intro of IDN ccTLDs: <http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/idn-pdp-process-time-table-02dec08.htm>

Try IDNs in the IDN wiki: <http://idn.icann.org>

Glossary of terms: <http://icann.org/en/topics/idn/idn-glossary.htm>

IDN gTLDs: <http://icann.org/en/topics/new-gtld-program.htm>

IDN Guidelines: <http://icann.org/en/topics/idn/implementation-guidelines.htm>