Internationalised Domain Names

Baltic Region and Eastern Europe International Seminar
The Internet & the post-WSIS environment: enhancing dialogue among the stakeholders
Riga 2006

Kim Davies ICANN



Agenda

- ▶ The need for IDNs
- Internationalised Overview
- ► ICANN IDN Program Plan
- A range of other IDN relevant topics



What is an IDN?

- Internationalised Domain Name
- A recent technical development to allow non-ASCII characters in domain names





The need for IDNs

▶ The Internet in the past





The need for IDNs

► The Internet of today

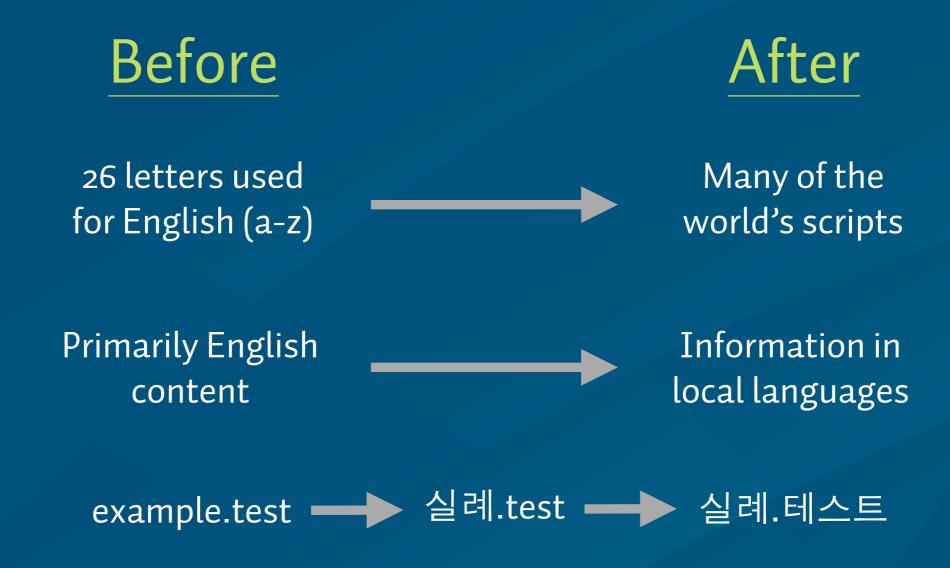


The need for IDNs

- Geographic expansion of the Internet
- Corresponding increase by linguistic groups
- Content on the Internet reflects linguistic diversity
- Avoid fragmentation of the Internet
 - Diminish the need for alternate root system
 - Ensure global interoperability



Internationalised Overview



Aim: An internationalised Internet.



It is not without challenges

paypal.com



It is not without challenges

paypal.com

Latin

Cyrillic

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paypal.com ≠ paypal.com
caxap ≠ caxap
rīga ≠ riga
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IDNs need significant attention

- The technology is increasingly become usable
- The policy implications are vast
- Mis-steps could set back the advancement of internationalisation.



Groups working on IDNs

- ICANN President's Advisory Committee on IDNs (IDN PAC)
 - Formed on 23 November, 2005
 - Initially tasked with IDN top-level domain technical challenges
- IDN top-level domain registries
 - ccTLD and gTLD representatives focused on IDN guidelines
- ▶ IETF and IAB
- Browser Community
- GNSO, CCNSO, GAC, ALAC
- Regional Initiatives



ICANN's IDN Program Plan

- encompasses all the actions & deliverables to ultimately deploy IDNs.
- Several projects planned and managed somewhat independently:
 - Technical testing
 - Policy development
 - ▶ IDN Guidelines
 - IANA Processes
 - Outreach Planning
 - Communications Planning



Technical Testing

- Goal
 - "Demonstrate that the insertion of IDN strings into the root has no appreciable negative impact on existing resolutions."
- ▶ It is difficult to prove beyond doubt
 - Will aim to remove reasonable doubt
- Testing programme includes:
 - NS records lab test, operational process test, live test
 - DNAME record analysis



IDN Guidelines Development

- Advice to registries on how to implement IDNs in their registries
 - Focus on IDN TLD principles and best practices
 - Binding on gTLDs (global policy), reference material for ccTLDs.
- Developed by representatives of gTLDs and ccTLDs:
 - Cary Karp (MuseDoma)
 - Pat Kane (VeriSign)
 - Ram Mohan (Afilias)
 - Hiro Hotta (JPRS)
 - Mohammed el Bashir (SIS)



IDN Policy Development

- Policy development is run by GNSO, CCNSO, GAC
- Multiple meetings during and in-between ICANN meetings
- Latest GNSO meeting in Amsterdam:
 - IDN policy issues will now be combined with plans for introduction of new gTLDs
 - IDN issues report is available online for comments
 - Proposes joint task force between GNSO, CCNSO, GAC that will prioritise issues and propose structure for further work
- Introduction of new gTLDs is focused on
 - Whether to introduce new gTLDs
 - Allocation methods
 - Selection Criteria
 - Contractual Conditions





Other IDN topics

- Review and revision of the technical "IDNA" protocol
- Impact of IDN changes to registrars, registries and registrants.
- IANA repository of IDN practices
- Language-script specific issues
- Dispute issues and rules (as they need to apply globally)
- Statistics on registration growth of IDNs

http://www.icann.org/topics/idn/



Finally...

- Discussions are open to all!
- Participate!



Thank you for your attention!

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