

Feedback from IDN Implementation Guidelines Session

ICANN60, Abu Dhabi

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The context of the IDN Guidelines was presented for gTLDs and ccTLDs. In addition the background of development of the current draft of the guidelines was also shared, before the individual guidelines were presented. The following comments were received during the presentation of the guidelines.

Guidelines for Transition from IDNA2003 to IDNA2008 were presented.

General. It was noted by a participant that RFC 2119 language is not used anymore. IDNGWG explained that it was a conscious choice based on feedback from the previous round of public comment – IAB had commented that the RFC language is not applicable to this kind of document. However, similar level of wording is incorporated in the guidelines.

Guideline 6. It was asked to clarify the exception clause (b). The WG members explained that established IDN tables need not be converted. The new IDN tables will take effect after X months – IDNGWG is asking for feedback on the value of X. It was also noted by a participant that the current IDN tables are underspecified. IDNGWG member shared that the earlier formats are text based so there is no clear way to specify contextual rules.

IDNGWG also clarified that the new format is needed for new IDN tables – there was feedback from RySG that there is no need to retrospectively update them. A new implementation of an IDN table, either in a new TLD or as an additional IDN table in an existing TLD, will require the LGR format. IDNGWG members discussed this interpretation. They discussed that the term “registry” is being used synonymously with “TLD” which may cause confusion in interpretation. The intention has been that there will be no retrospective implementation of the IDN tables for a TLD. A TLD reusing an existing IDN table, or updating an existing one, will need to do so in the new LGR format. However, the IDNGWG decided to clarify the wording internally.

Community also noted that there is need for compliance checking for implementations of IDN tables and practices. ICANN org responded that for gTLDs there are mechanism to check compliance, however, it would be still useful to get further suggestions from the community. IDNGWG noted that this discussion is out of IDNGWG’s scope.

In response to another question, the IDNGWG clarified that it is referring to the format and not the content when it references the LGR.

Guideline 11. It was suggested that the wording be more specific to say that “IDN Variant Labels generated by an IDN table under the same TLD must be ...”.

Guideline 12. A participant suggested to be clearer that automatic activation is limited to allocatable variants. Point (iii) may be insufficient for this purpose.

Guideline 13. Based on a query on variant labels for geographical names, the IDNGWG mentioned that the current work is focused on the linguistic conventions and visual similarity and the response to the query may not be in the scope of the WG.

Guideline 14. A community member asked why the guideline is limited to homoglyphs as diacritics can also cause confusion. IDNGWG member responded that the guideline is calling to look at confusion in general and it will review the title which is limited to “homoglyphs”. However, another community member also noted that the similarity is a slippery slope.