

The IDN Variant Issues Project:

Call for Community Volunteers
for Six Case Study Teams

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Executive Summary

The IDN Variant Issues Project will undertake work — through case studies — to identify issues associated with the beneficial and safe delegation of IDN variant TLDs. Successful completion of the project depends on having team members with the right skills in each of the six case studies to perform the substantive work. Therefore ICANN is soliciting the participation of community volunteers in each of the six case study teams.

Interested experts are invited to submit their résumé and an expression of interest statement demonstrating how they meet the qualifications for one or other of the expertise areas in a specific case study. Applications should be sent to idnvariantlds@icann.org no later than 19 May 2011.

1. Introduction

The IDN Variant Issues Project will undertake work — through case studies — to identify issues associated with the beneficial and safe delegation of IDN variant TLDs. ICANN proposes to identify the set of issues that need to be resolved by conducting individual case studies up to six scripts: **Arabic, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Cyrillic, Devanagari, Greek, and Latin.**

The case studies will address a range of technical, policy, linguistic, and usability issues, and hence the composition of the case study teams should be such that the members have collectively the diverse set of skills necessary to cover the range of issues under study. Successful completion of the project depends on having team members with the right skills in each of the case studies to perform the substantive work. This document describes the expertise needed for the case studies, as well as the volunteer selection process.

ICANN, through its supporting organizations and advisory committees, and through its contacts with the international Internet community, is soliciting the participation of community volunteers in each of the six case study teams. Table 1 below lists the areas of expertise expected to be required by each case study team, with a summary description of each area.

The case study teams will be supported by the ICANN Variant Issues Project Team, which will include additional consultant expertise available necessary to provide assistance to the various volunteer case study teams, as required. ICANN has a limited budget to support meetings (facilities and telecommunications), travel, and other case study team expenses.

Given the importance of this project to the ICANN community, it is envisaged that some organizations may be interested in volunteering to facilitate the work of the case

studies, in coordination with ICANN. Such organizations — called “local host organizations” in this document — could provide hosting for the case study coordinator (See Section 2.1 below) and may provide meeting and other facilities to support the individual case study teams. ICANN would welcome proposals from interested potential local host organizations, but it is not mandatory to have such a local host for the case study to proceed. (See terms of references for local host organizations in Annex 1).

2. Case Study Team Composition

Each case study team is comprised of the following: a case study coordinator, community representatives, linguistic experts, DNS and IDNA experts, security and stability experts, policy experts and registry operations experts as follows:

Table 1: Summary of Experts needed in the IDN Variant Panel for each Case Study

Area of Expertise	Estimated Number of Experts	Summary Description
Case Study Coordinator	1 per team	Team coordinator
Community Representatives	2 or more per team	Experts with understanding of local culture, customs, and practices
Linguistics	1-2 per team	Linguistic experts in the specific languages/script, ideally with some knowledge in Unicode
Registry/Registrar Operations	1-2 per team	Experts familiar with registry/registrar operations and standards
Policy	1-2 per team	Experts knowledgeable of ICANN’s bottom-up process and local registration policies
DNS and IDNA	1-2 shared across project	Experts knowledgeable in protocol-level technical details of DNS and IDNA
Security and Stability	1-2 shared across project	Experts knowledgeable in security and stability implications of variants on Internet protocol usage

2.1 Case Study Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Lead and coordinate the case study team to ensure it finishes the work in the allocated time.

- Work with team members and the local host organization, if any, on developing work modalities.
- Work with ICANN and the local host organization on developing a project plan with clear milestones and deliverables, and in accordance with ICANN's project timeline.
- Coordinate work with other case study teams, if needed, including helping to ensure that the terminology used by the case study teams is standardized and used consistently
- Assist ICANN in selecting additional case study team members.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed in weekly team calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Qualifications:

- Highly regarded and well known to experts who can represent the language/script community in the case study team.
- Have led or participated in similar IDN activities or IDN working groups.
- Have basic knowledge of technical and policy aspects of DNS and IDNs, including IDNA.

2.2 Community Representatives

Responsibilities:

- Articulate a set of expectations/requirements for using IDN variant TLDs.
- Identify the set of requirements and challenges associated with IDN variant TLDs from a usability and accessibility perspective.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed in weekly team calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Qualifications:

- Experts with understanding of the languages/scripts, local culture, customs, and practices.
- Basic understanding of the technical issues.
- Highly regarded in the community, and preferably have participated in the past case specific initiatives on IDNs.

2.3 Linguistic Experts

Responsibilities:

- Help the case study team to define the relevant terms including the term "variant".
- Identify the set of requirements and challenges associated with IDN variant TLDs from a linguistic perspective.
- Ensure that any relevant linguistic aspects are taken into consideration.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed in weekly team calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Qualifications:

- Experts in the particular languages/scripts
- Basic knowledge of IDNs and familiarity with Unicode

2.4 Registry/Registrar Operations Experts

Responsibilities:

- Identify the set of requirements and challenges associated with IDN variant TLDs from a registry and registrar perspective.
- Identify any registry and registrar operational requirements needed for the operation of IDN variant TLDs.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed in weekly team calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Qualifications:

- Experts in operations (i.e. EPP, DNS, WHOIS) of registry/registrar.
- Operational experience in IDN management at registry/registrar level.

2.5 Policy Experts

Responsibilities:

- Identify policy issues pertaining to the delegation of IDN variant TLDs, including issues pertaining to ICANN policy development process.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed in weekly team calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Qualifications:

- Active participants in ICANN policy development process
- Have participated in at least one ICANN working group, preferably on IDN related issues.

2.6 DNS and IDNA Experts**Responsibilities:**

- Provide expertise to the six case studies as needed.
- Ensure terminology used by the case study team is technically accurate.
- Identify the set of requirements and challenges associated with IDN variant TLDs from a technical perspective.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed in weekly team calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Qualifications:

- Well-known technical experts in the DNS and IDNA arena.
- Active participants in relevant DNS working groups (e.g. IETF DNSEXT and DNSOP).
- Experts in IDNA, and preferably active in internationalisation work (e.g. IETF IDNAbis).

2.7 Security and Stability Experts**Responsibilities:**

- Provide expertise to the six case studies as needed.
- Identify the set of challenges associated with IDN variant TLDs from a security and stability perspective.
- Identify any security and stability requirements needed for the delegation of IDN variant TLDs.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed in weekly team calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Qualifications:

- Well-known experts in the security and stability area.
- Knowledgeable of IDNA and DNS related protocols.

3. Selection and Recruitment Process For Case Study Members

- Interested experts are invited to submit a résumé and an expression of interest statement demonstrating how they meet the qualifications for one or other of the expertise areas in a specific case study.
- Applications should be sent to dnvariantlds@icann.org no later than 19 May 2011.
- The ICANN Variant Project Team, in consultation with the ICANN Board Variant Working Group (BV-WG), will first select the case study coordinators.
- The ICANN Variant Project Team, in consultation with others will select the case study team members.
- Applicants will be notified no later than 30 May 2011.

Annex 1

Call for Local Host Organizations

Terms of References

ICANN welcomes proposals from organizations interested in volunteering to provide local host facilities to each of the six IDN Variant Issues Project case study teams. Local host organizations are expected to provide meeting and other facilities to support the case studies work. However, it should be emphasized that it is not mandatory to have a local host organization for a case study to proceed.

Responsibilities

- Facilitate work of case study teams through face-to-face meetings.
- Coordinate work with ICANN and provide regular reports on progress made.

Organization Characteristics

- An organization with regional or international reputation in the field of information technology, linguistics, or community studies.
- Well regarded in the languages/scripts community the Case Study team represents.
- Have past experience in managing comparable projects at regional or international levels.
- Have basic knowledge of technical and policy aspects of DNS and IDNs.
- Familiar with ICANN processes.
- Have adequate resources to fulfill responsibilities listed above including but not limited to staff support for the project, meeting facility to host working sessions.
- Optionally, provide travel and accommodation support for case study team members from developing and least developed countries.

Selection Process

ICANN will hold a discussion with each individual volunteer organization to ensure it can fulfill the responsibilities and meets the characteristics as described above.

Agreements

Where applicable and desired, ICANN will enter into a simple agreement with the local host organization that describes the resources and effort provided.