

Public Interest Registry

INTERNATIONALIZED DOMAIN NAMES

ICANN

November 30, 2005



SM November 30, 2005



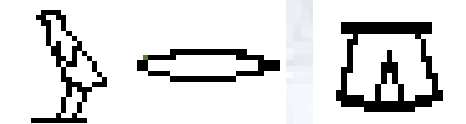
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CONFIDENTIAL

IDNs – They're Greek to me!

- Our fundamental principle – there should be one (and only one) .ORG.
- Whether it looks like:
 - .OPΓ
 - or .
 - or . منظمة
 - or even . 

Second Level Domains

- Second level domains in non-ASCII characters are now a reality. PIR has already rolled out IDNs in:
 - German, Danish, Hungarian, Icelandic, Korean (Hangul), Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Swedish

Top Level Domains

- Top level domains are a different story.
- The unique root is already being fractured
- What this means to the registries and registrars authorized by ICANN is a shrinking market.

.COM and .NET in China

- In March 2005, CNNIC announced an “exclusive partnership” with a Singapore-based registrar, i-DNS.net International Pte. Ltd., to register domains in a Chinese character version of .COM and .NET - “.公司” (i.e. “.gongsi” - “company” in Chinese) and “.网” (i.e. “.wangluo” - “networking”)

THREE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- The coherence of a single level root of the name space should be respected so that each domain name will be a unique identifier, universally resolvable, in order to preserve the global interoperability of the Internet.
- ICANN must be the global authority that coordinates the programs for the use of IDNs.
- Each registry for a top level domain authorized by ICANN must remain responsible, as registry operator, for its domain name, regardless of the language and script used to express that name.

PROPOSAL

- PIR would ask interested registries to join with it in the development of a program, based on accepted technical standards, to make top level IDNs available in one or two non-latin character sets. PIR proposes that Chinese and Arabic would be a logical starting point in view of the numbers of users.
- The program will be developed under the auspices of ICANN

PROPOSAL (continued)

- There will be a “sunrise” period to enable present users of domain names in latin script to protect equivalent names in the new character sets, and the UDRP will apply to registrations.
- PIR and its partners in the development will work closely with governmental and language authorities to promote global uniformity to the maximum extent possible.

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