



Dear Domain Name Industry Stakeholder,

In the 16 April 2020 [communication](#), ICANN org noted that a significant amount of work has been done over the past few years on the technical design considerations and the linguistic details for Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) tables. The April communication clarified how ICANN org reviews IDN tables during Registry Service Evaluation Policy (RSEP) and Material Subcontracting Arrangement (MSA) service requests. As the next step, ICANN org will work with registries and registry service providers (RSPs) to ensure the IDN tables published in the [IANA Repository of IDN Practices](#) (repository) are the complete and current set of tables in use for generic top-level domains (gTLDs).

Following a review of IDN tables published in the repository, it has been determined that roughly 30 percent of the contractually approved tables, or over 3,300 total IDN tables, have not been published. To ensure the repository is complete and includes the most up-to-date record of IDN tables, ICANN org will work with the gTLD registries and RSPs to ensure all the contractually approved IDN tables are available in the repository. This follows Specification 6, Section 1.4 of the Base gTLD Registry Agreement, which requires registries to “publish and keep updated its IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules in the IANA Repository of IDN Practices”.

In conjunction with updating the repository, ICANN org is planning the following steps to increase the transparency of the IDN table reviews while improving the security and stability of IDN implementation, with the ultimate goal of re-establishing the repository as the source for approved and secure IDN tables:

- Publish additional reference second-level IDN tables to support gTLD registries in designing and updating their IDN tables.
- Develop an automated testing platform to check potential security and stability issues in the IDN tables by using the reference IDN tables, to the extent possible.
- Identify IDN tables which may have security and stability issues based on the recent knowledge gained and inform relevant registries and registry service providers so they can address these concerns.
- Develop a more efficient and effective process for ICANN org to review and approve the IDN tables and publish them in the repository.

Why is ICANN org taking these steps?

In 2019, the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) requested more transparency in the IDN table review process and clarity about situations in which a registry operator was informed that ICANN org could not approve a certain IDN table, despite that table being previously approved and currently utilized in other gTLDs. The communication in April 2020 clarified why some of the previously approved IDN tables could not be re-used, as they pose security and stability issues based on the knowledge gained more recently. ICANN org is now taking measures to make this process more transparent.

What comes next?

In the coming weeks ICANN org will contact registries and RSPs, and request that they submit the IDN tables that are missing from the repository. ICANN org will provide a specific schedule for each registry, based on their RSP, for uploading the missing tables following the published [Procedures for the IDN Repository](#). Once contacted, the RSP will be requested to submit the missing IDN tables to IANA within 45 days. After the IDN tables are submitted to the IANA functions department, per their existing process, a confirmation email will be sent to the administrative contact for the TLD registered with IANA notifying them of the update. Shortly thereafter, the IDN table will be published. ICANN org strongly encourages registry operators and RSPs to work together to coordinate the necessary approval confirmation to ensure the IDN tables are processed efficiently.

Concurrent with this effort, registries are encouraged to also confirm that the most current version of the gTLD IDN tables are currently published in the repository and, if not, to use this opportunity to publish the correct version.

Ensuring that the most current version of the IDN tables are published in the repository is not only a Registry Agreement contractual obligation but will serve as a building block for continued improvements related to IDN implementation.

If you have questions or concerns about this approach, please also feel free to reach out to ICANN org's [Global Support](#).

Sincerely,

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