ICANN Registry Request Service

Ticket ID: M3R2Q-3V9U1
Registry Name: Universal Postal Union
gTLD: .POST
Status: ICANN Review
Status Date: 2015-07-17 15:49:25
Print Date: 2015-07-17 15:49:31

Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

IDN tables (Arabic, Chinese and Spanish) for the sTLD .post

Technical description of Proposed Service:

The proposed service is to offer registration of Internationalized Domain Names in the following languages/scripts/character sets; \r\n- Arabic Language\r\n- Chinese Language\r\n- Spanish Language\r\n\r\nBased on a large consultation of its members, the UPU, as the sponsor of the sTLD .post, would like to provide the .post sponsored community with the possibility to register domain names at the second- and lower levels in the Arabic, Chinese (simplified and traditional) and Spanish languages.\r\n\r\nIDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules shall be published by the back-end registry services provider and .post Registry Operator (Afilias Limited, hereinafter the ".post Registry Operator") as specified in the ICANN IDN Implementation Guidelines (Version 3.0, sept. 2011). Indeed, the .post Registry Operator shall comply with the ICANN IDN Guidelines as they may be amended, modified, or superseded from time to time. \r\n\r\nThe UPU also acknowledges that the .post Registry Operator shall publish and keep updated its IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules in the IANA Repository of IDN Practices as specified in the ICANN IDN Guidelines. Accordingly, IDN tables for each language/script/character set (Arabic, Chinese and Spanish) shall be submitted to IANA for publication on the relevant repository list.\r\n\r\nAccordingly, the .post Registry Operator would offer Registrars support for handling IDN registrations in EPP. It must be noted that variant IDNs (as defined in the .post Registry Operator\'s IDN tables and IDN Registration Rules) shall be blocked from registration.\r\n\r\n

Consultation

Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?:

Generally speaking, the .post policy development process is overseen by the UPU governing bodies (more specifically the UPU Postal Operations Council and the UPU Council of Administration). Both bodies, which are composed of UPU member countries (through their appointed postal sector representatives), have deliberated over the last 18 months to define the .post Domain Management Policy in consultation with the .post Sponsored Community (comprising UPU member country governments, regulators, postal operators and representatives of the private sector via the UPU Consultative Committee).\r\n\r\nTherefore, in regard to this proposed service, the UPU has consulted both the .post sponsored community as well as its Registry Operator in order to manage the responsible deployment of IDNs based on the principles stated in the IDN Guidelines.\r\n\r\n

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a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?:

The UPU conducted a one-month survey amongst its members and the .post sponsored community (from 20 February 2014 until 21 March 2014). Members that have answered the survey stated their interest to have the option to register .post domains in another character set. \r\n\r\nIn specific response to the question: "Which of the alphabets below would you be interested to use in a .post domain-name?": the most popular new character sets requested were Arabic, Chinese and Spanish.\r\n\r\n

b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?:

Not applicable. The UPU did not consider that any feedback for this proposed service from gTLD registrars would be necessary, considering that the .post sTLD is still in the Sunrise period; therefore, as of this moment there is no RRA (Registry-Registrar Agreement) signed yet and no registration being processed by registrars.\r\n

c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

Not applicable. The UPU did not consider that consultations with other constituency groups would be necessary.\r\n

d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

Not applicable; in fact, .post sTLD end users are .post sponsored community members whose relevant opinions had already been collected. Indeed, considering that .post end users are those entities strictly defined as part of the .post sponsored community (i.e. no individual, physical persons are a part thereof), the results of such consultations are mentioned above (survey).\r\n

e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

This proposal has already been endorsed by representatives from the .post sponsored community during the Dot Post Group General Assembly in 2014.\r\n\r\nThis endorsement stems from the aforementioned survey results, the requests from .post sponsored community members as well as the relevant decision taken by members of the Dot Post Group during its 2014

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General Assembly, i.e. to agree on the possibility to implement Arabic, Chinese and Spanish as the first (non-Latin Characters) IDN domains under the .post sTLD.\r\n\r\n

f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were(or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?:

Not applicable. The UPU does not anticipate any objections to the introduction of this proposed service, as it would not impact registry or registrar operations under the .post sTLD - in addition, several other sTLDs and gTLDs are already providing this service.\r\n

Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:

The UPU expects to provide the proposed service to the .post sponsored community (through the .post Registry Operator) as soon as this RSEP is approved by ICANN.\r\n

Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

The proposed service shall be offered to Registrants through the .post online registration system, in which they will be able to register domain names with the supported IDNs (Arabic, Chinese and Spanish).\r\n\r\nAs previously mentioned, IDN tables shall be offered in accordance with ICANN Guidelines for the implementation of IDNs (version 3.0, sept. 2011). IDN tables for each script and/or languages (Arabic, Chinese and Spanish) shall be submitted to IANA for publication on the repository list. \r\n

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

The UPU shall, through the .post Registry Operator, undertake all necessary testing activities before implementing the proposed service alongside the launch of the .post sTLD.\r\n\r\nMoreover, the .post Registry Operator is already providing IDN resolution for other TLDs such as .info, shall commit to provide the same level of quality assurance for this proposed service. It may be noted as well that a staff member of the .post Registry Operator was one of the three gTLD Registry Constituency Representatives involved in the IDN Guidelines Revision Working Group to deliver version 3 of the Guidelines document.\r\n\r\nIn addition, the UPU is following best practices and has already implemented and tested successfully the

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implementation (and posted on IANA Web site) for IDN tables for Arabic, Spanish, traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese. \r\n\r\n

Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.:

The relevant RFCs related to IDNs are listed in the revised IDNABIS specification (aka IDNA2008): \r\n\r\nRFC 5890\r\nRFC 5891\r\nRFC 5892\r\nRFC 5893\r\nRFC 5894 \r\n\r\nAccordingly, the UPU and the .post Registry Operator shall comply with these RFCs and their successors once IDNs are offered.\r\n\r\n

Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

The main provision impacted by the proposed service is section 3C of Appendix 6 of the .post sTLD Agreement (quoted below):\r\n\r\n[BEGINNING OF PROVISION]\r\n\r\nC. Tagged Domain Names. All labels with hyphens in the third and fourth character positions (e.g., \"bq--1k2n4h4b\" or \"xn--ndk061n\")\r\n\r\n[END OF PROVISION]\r\n\r\nIndeed, as per the IDN Guidelines 3.0 version 2013, item 8, no label containing hyphens in the third and fourth positions will be registered unless it is a valid A-label, with reservation for transitional action in accordance with the preceding Guideline. Hyphens in these positions are explicitly reserved to indicate encoding schemes, of which IDNA is only one instantiation. These guidelines are not intended to assist with any other instantiations.\r\n\r\nThis is also in accordance with ICANN Board Resolutions nos. 03.47, 03.48, 03.49 from the Rio de Janeiro Board meeting 2003-03-27 regarding IDNs, whereby ICANN agreements with operators and sponsors of top-level domain registries provide that ICANN authorization is required to begin accepting registrations of domain names with hyphens in the third and fourth positions.\r\n\r\nIn addition, Appendix S of the .post sTLD Agreement may need to be updated as well to reflect the proposed service as an approved service (IDN tables).\r\n\r\n

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN:

None.\r\n

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?:

None.\r\n

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Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:

The UPU requests that its .post sTLD Agreement be amended in its Appendix 6 section 3c in accordance with the aforementioned ICANN Board 2003-03-27 resolutions.\r\n\r\nIndeed, this decision is already fully reflected in the new gTLD base Registry Agreement (version 2013 specification 6 section 1.1). \r\n\r\nAccordingly, the following modification would be made to the following provision contained in the .post sTLD Agreement (Appendix 6, section C, in italics):\r\n\r\n[Old Text] Tagged Domain Names. All labels with hyphens in the third and fourth character positions (e.g., \"bq--1k2n4h4b\" or \"xn--ndk061n\")\r\n\r\n[New Text] DNS labels may only include hyphens in the third and fourth position if they represent valid IDNs in their ASCII encoding (e.g., "xn------ndk061n").\r\n\r\nPROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR THE "Approved Services": \r\n\r\nRegistry Operator may offer registration of IDNs in the following languages/scripts (IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules will be published by the Registry Operator as specified in the ICANN IDN Implementation Guidelines):\r\n- Arabic Language\r\n- Chinese Language\r\n- Spanish Language\r\n\r\n

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

As a specialized agency of the United Nations and as stated in the .post Charter, it is the UPU's intent to provide global services, bearing in mind that Arabic, Chinese and Spanish are part of the six UN languages. Registrants would then be allowed to register .post domain names in their native language with special characters associated with.\r\n\r\nThis is in line with ICANN objectives to promote the IDN programme since its approval by the Board back in 2003 (Rio Board Meeting), whereas the Board has repeatedly recognized the importance of adding to the domain name system Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) capabilities to enhance the accessibility of the domain name system to all those using non-Roman alphabets;\r\n\r\nThis principle was further reaffirmed in 2011 by Board Rationale for Resolution 2011.10.28.02, by which "(...) the importance for global Internet users to be able to use the Internet in their local languages and character sets was recognized."\r\n\r\n

Competition

Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.:

The UPU has not identified any competitive issue related to this service. Further, the UPU has not introduced any competitive bias; it is simply providing a new service to the global .post sponsored community in accordance with UPU goals and in line

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with the ICANN objectives to promote diversity and internationalization of the DNS.\r\n\r\nIndeed, the proposed service should enhance competition as it creates opportunities for new Registrants to be attracted to and be clearly recognized as a distinct part of the .post sponsored community.\r\n\r\n

How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?:

The proposed service may compete with other TLDs internationally, but in any case it remains uniquely focused on the .post sponsored community as defined in the .post Charter and in the .post Domain Management Policy.\r\n

What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?:

It should be noted that other sTLDs already use services similar to this proposed service. In fact, in accordance with the repository list on IANA Web site, numerous other Registry Operators (legacy TLDs, other sTLDs and new gTLDs governed by the base Registry Agreement version 2013) offer this service.\r\n

In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?:

None. There is no impediment for the .post Registry Operator to provide similar services to any other top-level domains in the future. As a sTLD, the UPU will offer this proposed service to the .post sponsored community.\r\n\r\nOnce more, the .post registry specifically serves the needs of the .post sponsored community, and there are no other companies that provide similar products or services to those proposed by the .post registry.

Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.:

The .post Registry Operator will be in charge of managing the responsible deployment of IDNs based on the principles stated in the IDN Guidelines. \r\n\r\nThe proposed service shall be provided through the technical partners already referred to in the .post sTLD Agreement, in particular the .post Registry Operator. Without prejudice to the possibilities defined in the relevant UPU financial regulations, no additional vendors or contractors are anticipated for provision of the proposed service.\r\n\r\n

Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.:

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Not applicable. The UPU has not identified any affected parties by the introduction of this proposed service. Following an open and transparent process in publishing revised IDN Guidelines, the ICANN community embraced this proposed service, which was later endorsed by the ICANN board. \r\n

Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).:

None.\r\n

Security and Stability

Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?:

No.\r\n

Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of reponses to Internet servers or end systems:

Not applicable. The proposed service is already fully deployed under numerous TLDs and, based on the UPU's knowledge, no incident has been identified by the IANA department.\r\n

Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?:

No. As specified above, this proposed service is provided by numerous TLDs; and as said above, the .post Registry Operator is already managing that kind of service efficiently for other TLDs.\r\n

Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

None.\r\n

Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?:

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None. The UPU shall follow the same stringent Rights Protection mechanism and comply with the IP rules applying for ASCII SLD, in accordance of the .post Domain Management Policy.\r\n\r\nIt must be noted also that the .post policy development process is overseen by the UPU governing bodies, which are made up of UPU member countries (through their representatives of the postal sector) that have deliberated over the last 18 months to define the .post Domain Management Policy.\r\n\r\n

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

None. There are no disclaimers to be provided.\r\n

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

None.\r\n