

Community Readiness for IDN Variant TLDs

Arabic Script Case



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IDN Variants

Security and Stability Needs

پاکستان

U+0643

xn--mgbai9a5eva00b

پاکستان

U+06A9

xn--mgbai9azgqp6j

- 120+ cases of visually same or similar Arabic script characters identified by case study team
 - Strings with these characters must not be allocated independently
 - Such strings may need activation to allow access to users (using different KB)
 - 16 IDN ccTLD applications with 4 applications requesting variants

Security and Stability Challenges

- Consistency of variants
 - Across TLDs
 - Within TLDs
- Manageability of variants using tools
 - Registration
 - Configuration and Maintenance
 - Security and Monitoring
- Usability of variants in applications
 - Browsing, emailing, etc.
 - Searching, privacy, etc.
- Innumerability of variants

Will the introduction of IDN Variant TLDs de-stabilize the Internet and undermine its security?

- Security is certainly a concern if variants are not defined and managed
 - Evident by the fact that Arabic IDN ccTLDs have variants at second level
- Community agreement needed on conservative mechanisms for variants
 - How to implement variants in the root?
 - Synchronized TLDs?
 - How to balance definition and activation?
 - Maximal definition for addressing user confusion
 - Minimal activation for manageability ripple

What is the readiness in forming “Generation Panels”
to propose repertoires for the Root Zone?
What are the key issues in moving forward?

- Arabic script community has done significant work
 - Arabic Script IDN Working Group (ASIWG)
 - Arabic Language in Internet Domains (RFC 5564)
 - IDN Tables submitted to IANA for IDN ccTLDs
 - Arabic Script Case Study (IDN VIP)
- The community has experience from SLD deployments
- Many community members have high level understanding of Unicode, IDNA and LGR
- Issues moving forward
 - Inclusion of remaining language communities
 - Making LGR process efficient for incremental development

How can the readiness of language communities not yet active in ICANN be supported?

- Two kinds of communities
 - Language community inactive for an active script
 - Language community inactive for an inactive script
- Increased engagement with the relevant community members
 - At national level
 - At script-region level
 - At ICANN LGR level
- Capacity building, where needed to balance linguistic and technology constraints

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Thank you