

Internationalized Domain Names – from dream to reality

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Topics

- Brief introduction of ICANN and GAC
- Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) - Technical Background
- Policy Issues related to introduction of IDN
- Fast Track of IDN deployment
- Timetable of introduction of IDNs
- Why and how to participate in the process

What ICANN does

- ICANN coordinates global Internet's system of unique identifiers, and ensures its stable and secure operation.
- In particular, ICANN coordinates:
 - Allocation and assignment of the three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet:
 - **Domain names (forming a system called the DNS)**
 - Internet protocol (IP) addresses and autonomous system (AS) numbers
 - Protocol port and parameter numbers
 - Operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system
 - Policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions

Where we are coming from and where we are going

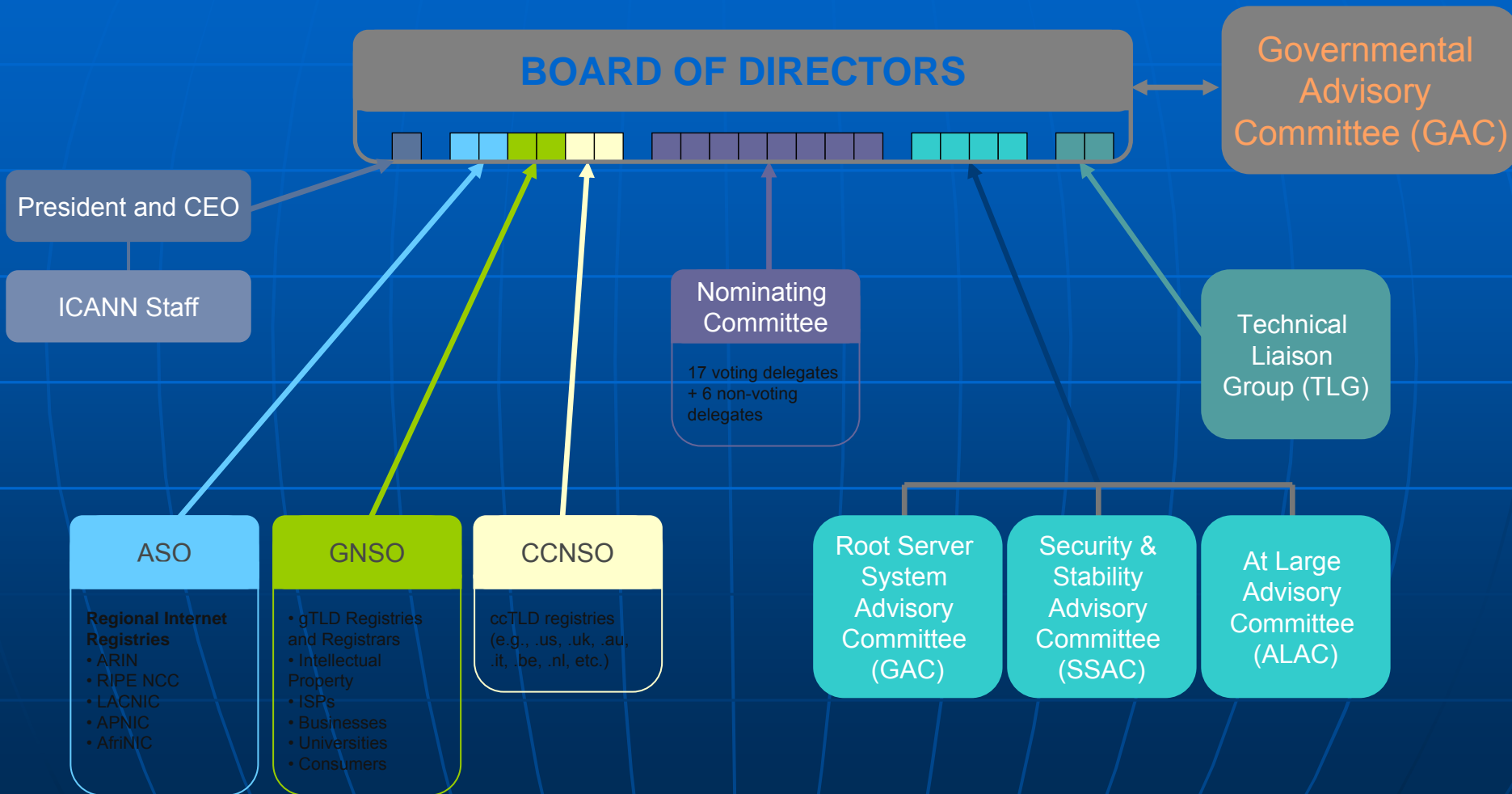
- There are 263 top level domains
 - 20 generic TLDs (gTLDs) – .com, .org, etc.
 - U.S. Government has .gov and .mil
 - 243 country codes (ccTLDs) – .de, .jp, .uk, etc.
- Today all top level domains are written in ASCII script
- In some countries and territories secondary level domain names are written in local scripts

<http://русский.org> or <http://العربية.org>

ICANN is developing methodology of introduction of internationalized top level domain names

<http://пример.испытание> or <http://مثال.إختبار>

ICANN's community



About GAC

- Slightly over 100 members (countries and territories), not all are active
- Over 10 observers, including UNESCO
- GAC is neither an IGO nor a legal entity
- GAC has secretariat which is hosted by Government of India
- Meetings are held 3 times a year in conjunction with the ICANN meetings
- www.gac.icann.org

GAC's Role

- Provides advice to ICANN as requested, on issues of public policy
- Also raises issues of government concern, especially in matters where there may be interaction between ICANN policies and national laws or international agreements

Current Topics

- Guidance on matters related to development of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)
- Public policy principles related to the implementation of new gTLDs
- Public policy principles related to the gTLD WHOIS service
- IPv4/IPv6 transition facilitation
- Internet security is an underlying feature in all priority issues
- **Capacity building of government representatives is viewed as an important priority**

Internationalized Domain Names (IDN)

Technical background

Presentation of Baher Esmat

Selection of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes

- Overall Policy Development Process
 - informally started 2007
 - formally will be launched in Paris June 2008
 - will take 2-3 years
- Fast track procedure
 - to address pressing need in some territories
 - planned to be finalized in Paris 2008
 - will have temporary character until PDP is finalized

PDP - Issues to be answered (1)

- **1. General issues regarding IDN ccTLDs**
 - Which 'territories' are eligible for an IDN ccTLD?
 - Should the 'territories' which are potentially eligible for IDN ccTLDs be exactly the same as the 'territories' that are listed in the ISO-3166-1 list?
 - Should anything be done about ccTLDs already being used as gTLDs?
 - Should an IDN ccTLD string be "meaningful"?
 - How many IDN ccTLDs per script per 'territory'?
 - How many characters should be in the string?
 - Are there any 'rights' attached to a given script?

PDP - Issues to be answered (2)

■ Introduction of IDN ccTLDs

- Should a list of IDN ccTLD strings be mandated?
 - Is such a list necessary?
 - Who would develop such a list?
 - Should such a list be mandated? By whom?
- Who selects the IDN ccTLD string in the absence of a mandated list?

PDP - Issues to be answered (3)

■ Delegation of IDN ccTLDs

- Who can apply to have the IDN ccTLD delegated or to be the delegate for that ccTLD?
- Who decides on the delegation?
- Who will formulate the policy for these processes?
- Taking into account all experiences ICANN has acquired - should there be an agreement between ICANN and the IDN ccTLD operator on the operation of the IDN ccTLD string?

PDP - Issues to be answered (4)

■ Operation of IDN ccTLDs

- Is the operation and management of an IDN ccTLD different to that of an existing ASCII ccTLD?
 - are there specific global technical requirements, in addition to the general IDN standards, needed for the operation of an IDN ccTLD?

Fast Track – Guiding Principles (1)

A: Ongoing Process

- The Fast Track should be an ongoing process.
- It ends with adoption of the overall IDN ccTLD policy by the ICANN Board.

Fast Track – Guiding Principles (2)

B: Non pre-emption of overall policy

- The Fast Track must not pre-empt final IDN ccTLD policy.
- It must be a simple, clear and limited solution.

Fast Track – Guiding Principles (3)

C: Purpose of Fast Track is to meet near term demand

- The Fast Track should only be available for a pressing demand in the territory.

D: Fast Track only for non-Latin scripts

Fast Track – Guiding Principles (4)

- E: Non-contentiousness of proposed string and IDN ccTLD manager within the territory**
- Only allow for the delegation of a non-contentious string for an IDN ccTLD; and
 - Non-contentious designation of a IDN ccTLD manager.

Schedule Fast Track (1)

- Publish draft Interim Report & Public Consultation (31 March)
- Publication Final Report IDNC WG (13 June 2008)
- Discussion Final Report (23 June 2008)
- GAC and ccNSO Support Final Report (24-25 June 2008)
- Submission Final Report to ICANN Board (26 June 2008)

Schedule Fast Track (2)

- If Fast Track methodology will be adopted:
 - ICANN Board will launch application process
 - first IDN ccTLDs may be in the root in 6-9 months

If All Above Seems Important to Your Government

- Send a report and materials from today's information session to relevant ministry
- Register for the next ICANN meeting in Paris
<http://par.icann.org/en/civCRM/event/info?reset=1&id=6>
- Participation in the meetings are free of charge
- Advise your Government to consider becoming member of the GAC

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAC

- Become a member by sending a relevant minister's letter to the GAC Chair
- Contribute to the online work (mailing list, forum)
- Participate to the conference calls
- Attend the face to face meetings: next one is in Paris during the ICANN meeting 22-26 June
- Bring the debate down to country and to the region

Hope to see your country
joining the GAC

www.gac.icann.org