



AL-ALAC-ST-0514-01-00-EN

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: 03 May 2014

STATUS: Final

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the IDN Variant TLDs – LGR Procedure Implementation – Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 1

Introduction

Rinalia Abdul Rahim, At-Large member from the Asian, Australian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 19 April 2014, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large IDN Variant TLDs – LGR Procedure Implementation – Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 1 Workspace](#).

On 21 April 2014, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the Recommendations to all At-Large members via the [ALAC-Announce Mailing List](#).

On 28 April 2014, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote on the proposed Statement.

On 03 May 2014, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 13 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. You may review the result independently under: <http://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=3866XQfZBMDfsybwkvXNLtDC>.

Summary

1. We view the lack of response from the Cyrillic, Greek, Georgian, Hebrew, Lao, Latin and Thai communities as of the ICANN 49 meeting in Singapore to be a matter of concern.
2. We recommend the ICANN IDN Variant TLD Program Team to: 1) Work together with the ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement Team to raise awareness; 2) provide a briefing to the GAC, the ccTLD community, and RALOs to seek their support; 3) work with the ICANN Communications Team to simplify key documents related to the Root Zone Project; 4) provide concrete examples of how Generation Panels can be formed; 5) facilitate or enable appropriate facilitation to support the collaboration of language communities; 6) ensure that language communities that share a script are all represented in a script Generation Panel; and 7) leverage on the Internet Governance Forum to widen awareness.
3. We commend the Integration Panel for producing a Maximal Starting Repertoire (MSR) in a format that is easy for language communities to understand and use.
4. We advise against freezing script segments of the MSR without receiving sufficient input from language communities either via a script Generation Panel or from the script community.
5. We request that the Integration Panel provide confirmation to the community that subsequent versions of the MSR may include an expanded set of possible code points based on the review and input received from language communities.
6. We believe that a version-release timeline should be published for the MSR and LGR which can be used by language communities to plan their submissions as well as to expect version updates.
7. We call on the Integration Panel to ensure that its work does not discriminate against language communities with a smaller number of speakers.

The original version of this document is the English text available at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence>. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail.

ALAC Statement on the IDN Variant TLDs – LGR Procedure Implementation – Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 1

The ALAC notes the progress made in the implementation of the Root Zone Label Generation Rules Project, specifically:

- Issuance of the Maximal Starting Repertoire (MSR) Version 1 by the Integration Panel;
- Completion of a standardized XML format to represent Label Generation Rules (LGR) for the Root Zone;
- Responses from Language Communities through efforts to form script Generation Panels.

We recognize that the project is crucial for ensuring that the Root Zone is able to support IDN variants, which are applicable for scripts and languages used by a large proportion of the world's population.

We are greatly encouraged by the success of the Arabic script community in forming a Generation Panel to address a script that is shared by many languages across Africa, North Africa, East Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. We are also heartened by indications of mobilization by the Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Indic communities towards forming their script Generation Panels.

Based on our observations, as well as feedback received from various language communities, we wish to highlight some issues of concern that require urgent attention in moving the project forward.

Meeting Demand for IDN TLD

The Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 1 covers 18 scripts requested by new IDN gTLD applicants. The Generation Panels that are already formed and in the process of being formed do not match the demand.

We view the lack of response from the Cyrillic, Greek, Georgian, Hebrew, Lao, Latin and Thai communities as of the ICANN 49 meeting in Singapore to be a matter of concern. We urge ICANN to take action to address the gap.

Our recommendations to the ICANN IDN Variant TLD Program Team are as follows:

- Work together with the ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement Team and reach out to the target language communities to raise their awareness about the project and encourage Generation Panel formation.
- Provide a briefing to the Governmental Advisory Committee, the Country Code Top Level Domain community and regional associations as well as the At-Large Regional Organizations to seek their support in reaching out to the target communities.
- Work with the ICANN Communications Team to simplify key documents related to the Root Zone Project to aid community understanding and community-initiated outreach.
- Provide concrete examples of how Generation Panels can be formed by sharing/highlighting the successful experience of Generation Panel/s already formed as part of the community briefing kit.
- Facilitate or enable appropriate facilitation to support the collaboration of language communities that share a script to form a Generation Panel or for communities with related scripts to resolve joint issues if a request for facilitation is received.
- Ensure that language communities that share a script are all represented in a script Generation Panel.

- Leverage on the Internet Governance Forum (global and regional) to widen awareness about the project and the need for language community participation.

Feedback on Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 1

We commend the Integration Panel for producing a Maximal Starting Repertoire (MSR) in a format that is easy for language communities to understand and use. The MSR clearly outlines three sets of code points: 1) those that are ineligible for the Root Zone, 2) those that should be included, and 3) those that should be excluded based on the rationale provided by the Integration Panel.

We note that the Integration Panel intends to “freeze” the MSR version 1 after this call for public comment. We advise against freezing script segments of the MSR without receiving sufficient input from language communities either via a script Generation Panel or from the script community in general if no Generation Panel has been established.

We request that the Integration Panel provide confirmation to the community that subsequent versions of the MSR may include an expanded set of possible code points based on the review and input received from language communities.

We believe that a version-release timeline should be published for the MSR and LGR (i.e., a designated time period and cycle for releasing updated versions), which can be used by language communities to plan their submissions as well as to expect version updates.

We call on the Integration Panel to ensure that its work does not discriminate against language communities with a smaller number of speakers by limiting letters or characters for inclusion in the Root Zone to only those used by languages spoken by large populations.