

Greeting ICANN,

This is my personal review and comment to ICANN Report “Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs (Draft Final Report)” published at January 2013.

Area of Focus of My Review:

I reviewed the interim version of this report where the report focused on challenges and issues from active variant TLDs. This review focused more on Section 6 Recommendations.

This report is great that it identifies challenges with active variant TLD. This report documents not only challenges during registration cycle, but also in great length documenting the challenges in usage directly (ex. email) and indirectly (ex. search engine ranking). The observation, if not obvious enough, is that Variant IDN TLD’s “success” relies not only on variant management and registration process, but its relationship with other components beyond registration. In my opinion, this is worthy to point out in conclusion and even in executive summary.

I use the same matrix table from Section 5.4 (see second page) and add two columns: one for area of focus to resolve the challenges, and another one for where the recommendations applied.

The recommendations, especially recommendations for ICANN & registries & registrars, are clear and specific. However, many of these recommendations are short term focused and registration focused. Majority of challenges fall into technical communities. And for these areas of challenges, the recommendations for technical communities are not as specific and clear as recommendations for ICANN, registries, and registrars. There’s nothing wrong with any recommendations from the report (and they are the right and immediate actions to take), but the mid-to-long-term and beyond-registration recommendations are less specific. (What work can be done beyond provide technical specification? What effort can be made to help making specification into implementation?)

This report also recommends ICANN, registries, and registrars, in different wordings but same intent, to help end users and tool/software makers (6.1.11, 6.2.5, 6.3.5). There is no doubt some efforts overlapped, but a great opportunity for collaboration to promote same (or similar) work that suit different entities’ interests.

Best Regards,
Joseph Chiu-Kit YEE

Table: Cross Reference between Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges		Recommendations	
		Area of Focus	Section(s) Applied
5.1	Challenges with the Use of Variants		
5.1.1	Different Users cannot find the complete set of variants for a primary label	Registration Practice	6.1.1–6.1.11 6.2.5 6.3.2, 6.3.5
5.1.2	Variants not intuitive	Registration Practice	6.1.1–6.1.11 6.2.5 6.3.2, 6.3.5
5.1.3	Variants are delegated independently	Registration Practice	6.1.1–6.1.11 6.2.5 6.3.2, 6.3.5
5.1.4	Variants defined inconsistently	Registration Practice	6.1.x 6.2.x 6.3.x
5.1.5	Variants displayed inconsistently	Devices	6.4.2
5.1.6	Variants cannot be input by the user	End User’s Experience (User Exp), Devices	6.4.2
5.1.7	Unable to distinguish specific variants	User Exp, Devices, Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.1.8	Identifier not bound to all variants	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.1.9	Accessibility and privacy impacted	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.1.10	Variants not searchable	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.1.11	Search rankings unpredictable	Technical	6.1.11

			Communities	6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
	5.1.12	Search optimization affected by variants	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
	5.1.13	Variants not part of URL/URI/IRI	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
	5.1.14	Variants cause session re-establishment	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.2	Challenges in the Registration and Management of Variants			
	5.2.1	Management across IDN TLDs inconsistent	ROOT Management, Registries	6.1.x
	5.2.2	Registration for SLDs across TLDs inconsistent	Registries	6.1.x 6.2.x
	5.2.3	Inconsistent association of ASCII and IDN TLDs	Registries	6.1.x 6.2.x
	5.2.4	Software support inadequate	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
	5.2.5	Registration system not straightforward to localize	Technical Communities	6.4.1-6.4.3
	5.2.6	Registration information inconsistent	Registration Communities, Technical Communities	6.1.x 6.2.x 6.3.x
	5.2.7	Trademark protection tracking complex	Registration Management	6.1.10
	5.2.8	Trademark protection dispute process complex	Registration Management	6.1.10
5.3	Challenges in the Configuration and Diagnostics of Variants			

5.3.1	Software configuration not supported	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.2	Cannot associate variants for configuration	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.3	Compounded certificate management	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.4	DNSSEC validation inconsistent	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.5	Log and history searching does not match	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.6	Network traffic statistics incomplete	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.7	Caching infrastructure inefficient	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.8	Diagnostic and troubleshooting tools incompatible	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.3.9	Forensics significantly more complicated	Technical Communities	6.1.11 6.2.5 6.4.1-6.4.3