

## ICANN VIP Project: Greek

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### Summary

While the reports from the other teams obviously represent careful work with careful attention to DNS requirements and constraints and thereby provide useful advice (whether one agrees with the issue analysis and conclusions or not), the report on the Greek script is profoundly disappointing. The report indicates that domain names are not generally considered as words, then points out that many domain names are words, but immediately jumps to the assumption that the DNS must support all of Greek orthography in the root including variations in the ways words can be written. One can spell out rules and requirements that work under those conditions, but the conditions are appropriate to computer generation, encoding, and collation of Greek literature and other textual work. They are not appropriate to the DNS root zone.

I recommend that this report simply be rejected as unresponsive to the scope and intent of the [TLD] Variant Issues Project.

### Some Specific Comments

Given the situation described in the Summary above, it does not seem useful to go into great detail about particular issues in the document. Nonetheless, the following comments might be helpful to anyone trying to produce a useful Greek report.

- (1) The DNS is a database that associates identifiers (“domain names” and “domain name labels”) for particular types of data (“addresses”, “delegations”, and various other types of information). Like all other identifier systems, there are huge advantages to having conventions –even conventions that would be undesirably restrictive in paragraphs of text – that yield simplicity, predictability, and uniqueness. As an example of a rather different type of identifier, I assume that Greece does not issue three passports to each citizen, one with the identifying name in Dimotiki spelling without Tonos or Dialytika, one in in Dimotiki spelling with Tonos and one with Katharevousa orthography. Additional passports might be needed for other variations. Instead, decisions are made

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about conventions, those conventions are used, and users (and foreign entities accepting passports) learn to deal with it.

Note that it would be reasonable to have printed pages within the single passport in different writing systems, just as some countries provide versions of those pages in multiple languages. But, as I hope is clear, that is a content issue, not a DNS issue.

- (2) The document discusses labels with upper-case characters (prohibited by IDNA2008, see my “Overview” review) and labels and “Greeklish” (Latin script and hence out of the Team’s scope). Inclusion of irrelevant material distracts the reader and is not helpful.
  
- (3) While it might seem almost tautological, one cannot “equalize the user experience of a user using ASCII domain names and a user using Greek names”. In addition to the fact that IDNA does not permit the coding of upper case characters, I note that there are no accented characters and no position-sensitive characters in ASCII. To “equalize the experience” would be to discard exactly those features of the Greek writing system for words that the report considers important. One cannot sensibly argue both that users will expect the Tonos because words are spelled that way and that users will expect [Greek] IDN domains to behave like ASCII. Despite a few look-alike characters, Greek is not ASCII. Users simply do not have expectations for TLDs; one set of conventions should be used and users trained. If doing that education is not acceptable for some reason, it should not thereby become an IDN issue. The user who, e.g., types in capital letters will rapidly discover that doesn’t work and will discover the relevant conventions (especially if they are simple and straightforward)