



# IDN Variant Issues Project (VIP)

*Project Update to JIG  
29 May 2012*

# Why this project



- Long-standing request from a number of IDN user communities.
- Board direction to develop an issues report on the subject.

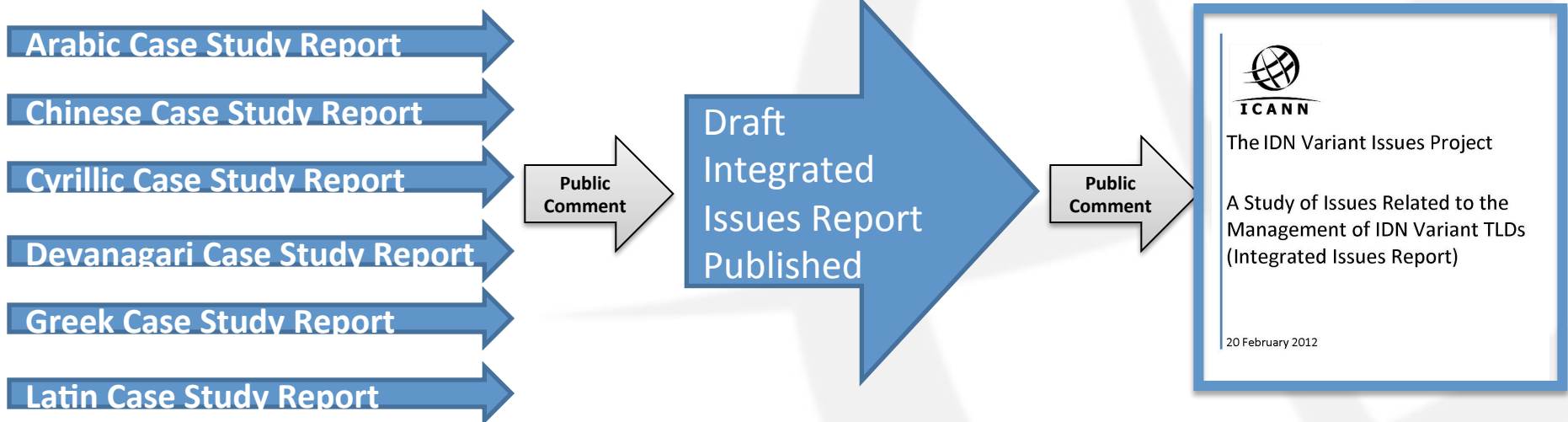
<http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-25sep10-en.htm#2.5>



# *Integrated Issues Report*

# IDN Variant Issues Project Phases 1 & 2

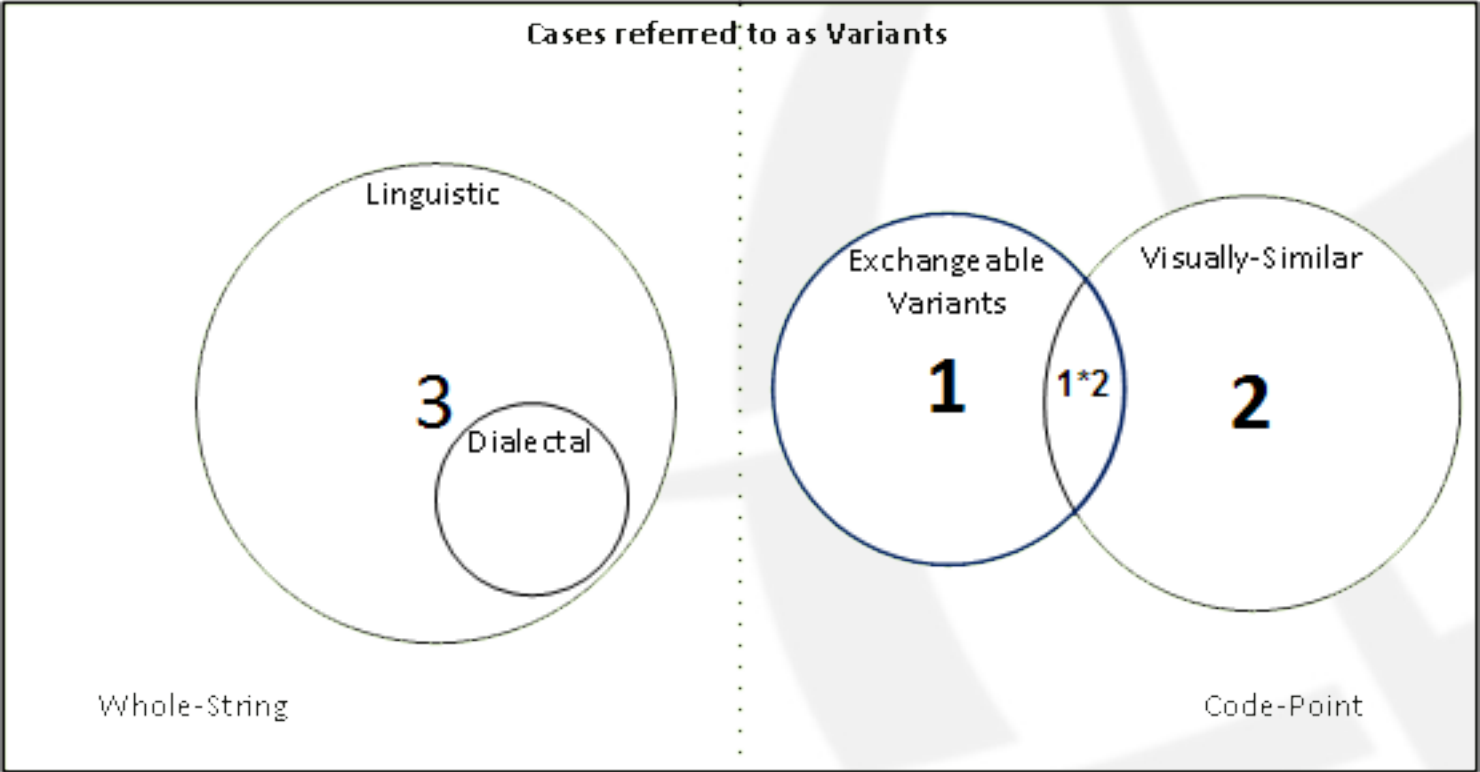
Completed in 2011



# What is a “variant”?

- No commonly-agreed definition.
- Used to refer to a number of different concepts.
- Report continues to use the term in a loose sense.
- More specific terms are recommended, e.g., “variant” with a qualifier to give more information.

# Classification of identified variant cases



# Whole string variants vs. code point variants

**Code point variants:** based on a relationship between code points

- E.g., a single code point is a variant of another code point or sequence of code points.

**Whole-string variants:** based on a relationship between whole strings.

- E.g., their meaning to a language community.

# Themes in the report

## Tension between:

- Interest in creating greater functionality to address a range of potential variant cases
- Difficulties of meeting those objectives.

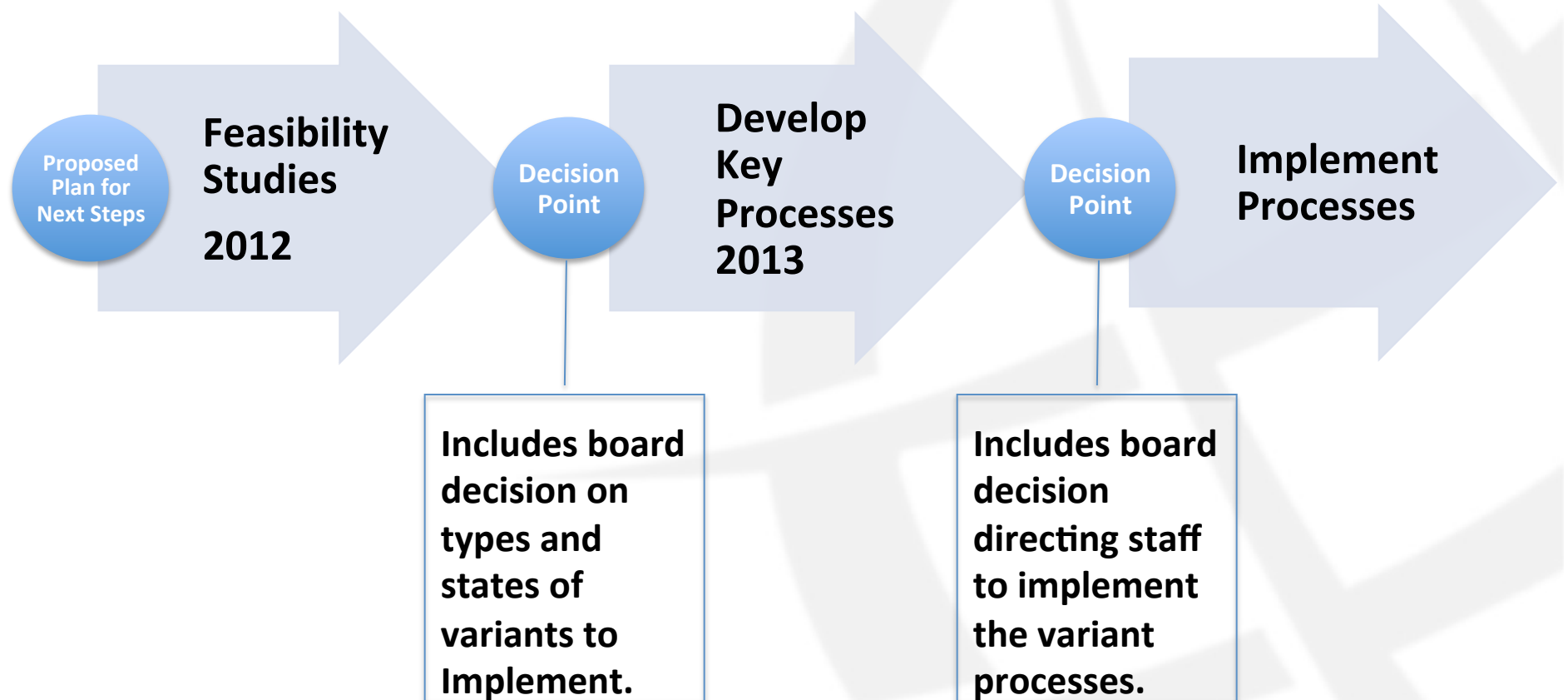
## Risks and costs are significant

- Need for cost-benefit analysis for each potential mechanism to balance risks, costs, and benefits.



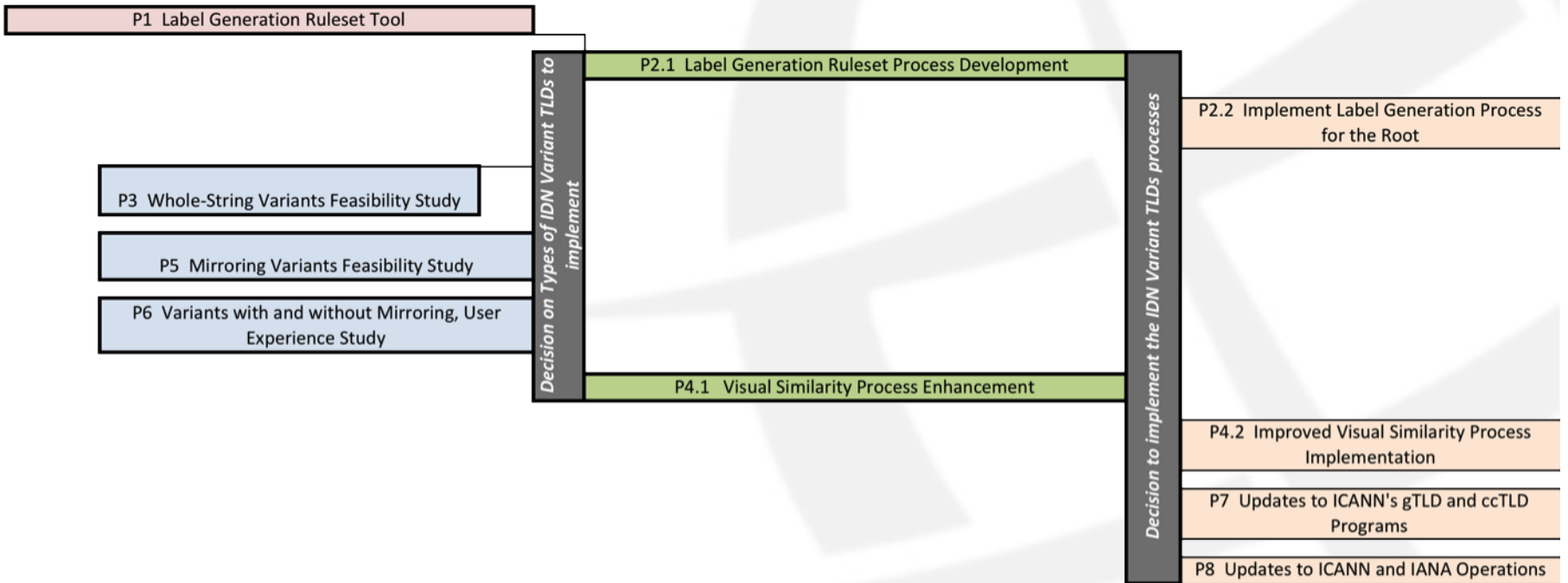
## *Next Steps*

# IDN VIP Next Steps - Original



# Original Timeline

ICANN FY	FY12						FY13						FY14																
Calendar Year	CY12						CY12						CY13																
Month	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
ICANN Mtg	43		44		45		46		47		48		49		50														



# Feedback Received

- Expanding Scripts
- Support for variants to minimize user confusion and fraudulent uses
- Prioritization of code point variants over whole-string variants
- Individual community needs
- Advantaging and Disadvantaging Script Communities

# Revised Project Plan



## Focus on issues in the critical path

- IDN table format tool (P1)
- IDN table creation and maintenance Process for the Root (P2.1)
- User experience with Active Variants (P6)

## Reprioritize other projects



# Project 1: IDN Table Format Specification

Already ongoing;  
Not dependent on  
having variants in  
the root

## Description:

Develop the specification for a standard tool for listing the allowed code points and the label generation rules, and for the generation of the corresponding variant labels, if any.

(Specifies an standard format for an IDN table)

# Project 2: Process for creating and maintaining IDN tables for the Root Root Zone

This project must be completed before any IDN variant gTLDs may be implemented

## Project 2.1:

Determining the approach to developing the code point repertoire and the label generation process for the root zone.

Approaches and criteria that may permit some communities (e.g. those that use subsets of the code point repertoire and label generation ruleset for the root) to proceed more rapidly than other communities are likely to be investigated.



# Project 2: Process for creating and maintaining IDN tables for the Root Root Zone

## Project 2.2:

Depending on the outcome of project 2.1, work is to develop the code point repertoire and the label generation process for the root zone.

# Project 6: Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs

## **Description:**

Study the user experience implications when two or more IDN variant TLDs are activated (i.e., have resource records in the DNS)

## **Expected Outcome:**

Recommended rules or guidelines a TLD should operate under to provide an acceptable user experience with regard to variant TLDs, including appropriate policy or contractual provisions to make these rules effective

Creation of a useful reference for educating application developers and others affected by these changes

# Change in Budgets

- Original Project Plan: 2.8 million
- Revised Project Plan: 1.5 million

# Change in Timeline

- Original Project Plan:  
End of Fiscal Year 2014
- Revised Project Plan:  
Beginning of Fiscal year 2014

Questions?



The background is a dark blue gradient with abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue. At the bottom, there is a faint, light blue world map. The text "Thank You" is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank You