

Update: DNS, Variants, and the IETF

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How Work Gets Done in the IETF

- Work on protocols is done there (not policy)
- DNS has a couple of working groups
 - DNSEXT: DNS protocol
 - DNSOP: best practices, requirements
- Process:
 - problem statement (by people with a problem!)
 - define one or more solutions
 - write protocol specifications if needed
 - implement in real software
 - test....and do it again

How variants fit in: DNSEXT

- Variants defined (language tables, etc.)
- The key question: *What does it mean in the DNS to say two or more names are “the same”?*
 - Take away things that are policy, like how you decide two or more names are variants
 - Take away things that applications do, like figure out what language/script you want to use
- Deep technical question....but DNS protocol people need to answer it, and they need input from people in the field to do so

Possible paths

- Is there a DNS problem here at all?
 - Maybe what people want is impossible
 - Maybe what people want can be done with existing technology
 - Registry provisioning, applications best practices
 - Some DNS constructs already exist: CNAME, DNAME
 - If there's no new work, let's not do it.
- If there is, we need to define clearly what new technology we need, and what it needs to do

Current status: Problem statement

- S. Woolf as principal editor, current draft is under <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-yao-dnsexid-ident>
- The term we're using is “aliasing”
- We need more information about what behavior people want so we can figure out if we need to add new features to DNS to support it
- No commitment to any particular proposal (BNAME, shadow, C+DNAME,.....) until we figure out if there's a problem!