

**Comments of the Domain Disputes and Whois Subcommittee,
of the INTA Internet Committee
on the Draft Final Report of the ICANN
Internationalized Data Working Group**

November 17, 2011

The Domain Disputes and Whois Subcommittee of the INTA Internet Committee is pleased to provide its comments on the Draft Final Report of the ICANN Internationalized Data Working Group.

I. Introduction

The Domain Disputes and Whois Subcommittee (hereinafter the Subcommittee) has reviewed the Draft Final Report of the ICANN Internationalized Data Working Group (the Final Report), in which the Internationalized Data Working Group (IRD-WG) has made several recommendations for continued study of the feasibility and suitability of internationalized domain name registration data. The Subcommittee would like to express its appreciation of the work of the IRD-WG to date. The issues tackled by the IRD-WG are quite complex, and the Subcommittee agrees with the recommendations of the IRD-WG that further study and recommendations would be beneficial.

The Subcommittee urges, however, that such work be conducted expeditiously to provide direction and stability for the evolving Internet landscape, namely, implementation of the impending unrestricted Generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) Program, including the introduction of internationalized domain names as gTLDs, when the application window opens on January 12, 2012.

II. Discussion

Recommendation 1: Selection of a Data Model

In the Final Report, the IRD-WG declined to make a formal recommendation for a preferred Data Model because of (i) the inexact nature of translation systems; and (ii) unresolved policy questions. The Subcommittee appreciates these concerns and believes that further community discussion on the preferred data model is appropriate, but urges that decisions be made in the next calendar year. Despite the diligent work of the IRD-WG over the last two years, a consensus has been difficult to reach. However, due to the pending introduction of IDNs as part of the implementation of the Generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) Program, the Internet community needs prompt and final answers to these important questions.

The Subcommittee strongly agrees with the IRD-WG's recommendation that the Data Model should include language tags with the published registration data, regardless of the model ultimately chosen. If individual data elements in a set of internationalized data associated with a domain name are allowed to be in different languages, then the Subcommittee believes that language tags should be required on a data element by data element basis. Language tags will assist law enforcement as well as intellectual property owners in identifying the owner behind a domain name in the event enforcement actions become necessary and may be a vital determinant in whether such actions are necessary.

Recommendation 2: Commissioned Report on Translation/Transliteration Issues

The Subcommittee supports the preparation of a common issues report on translation, transliteration or transcription of contact information at the request of the GNSO Council and SSAC.

Recommendation 3: Identify a Domain Name Registration Data Access Protocol.

Pursuant to the discussion on Recommendation 1, the Subcommittee agrees that further collaboration would be valuable, but stresses the importance of a timely resolution.

III. Conclusion

The Subcommittee supports the proposal for further study and recommendations to address the unresolved policy issues related to the feasibility and suitability of internationalized domain name registration data.

Thank you for considering our views on these important issues. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact INTA External Relations Manager, Claudio DiGangi at: cdigangi@inta.org.

About INTA & the Internet Committee:

The International Trademark Association (INTA) is a more than 131-year-old global organization with members in over 190 countries. One of INTA's key goals is the promotion and protection of trademarks as a primary means for consumers to make informed choices regarding the products and services they purchase. During the last decade, INTA has served as a leading voice for trademark owners in the development of cyberspace, including as a founding member of ICANN's Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC).

INTA's Internet Committee is a group of over two-hundred trademark owners and professionals from around the world charged with evaluating treaties, laws, regulations and procedures relating to domain name assignment, use of trademarks on the Internet, and unfair competition on the Internet,



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whose mission is to advance the balanced protection of trademarks on the Internet. The INTA Internet Domain Disputes and Whois Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the INTA Internet Committee.

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