Community Readiness for IDN Variant TLDs
Arabic Script Case

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IDN Variants

Security and Stability Needs

У+0643 У+06A9
xn--mgbai9a5eva00b xn--mgbai9azgqp6j

• 120+ cases of visually same or similar Arabic script characters identified by case study team
  – Strings with these characters must not be allocated independently
  – Such strings may need activation to allow access to users (using different KB)
  – 16 IDN ccTLD applications with 4 applications requesting variants

Security and Stability Challenges

• Consistency of variants
  – Across TLDs
  – Within TLDs

• Manageability of variants using tools
  – Registration
  – Configuration and Maintenance
  – Security and Monitoring

• Usability of variants in applications
  – Browsing, emailing, etc.
  – Searching, privacy, etc.

• Innumerability of variants
Will the introduction of IDN Variant TLDs de-stabilize the Internet and undermine its security?

• Security is certainly a concern if variants are not defined and managed
  – Evident by the fact that Arabic IDN ccTLDs have variants at second level

• Community agreement needed on conservative mechanisms for variants
  – How to implement variants in the root?
    • Synchronized TLDs?
  – How to balance definition and activation?
    • Maximal definition for addressing user confusion
    • Minimal activation for manageability ripple
What is the readiness in forming “Generation Panels” to propose repertoires for the Root Zone? What are the key issues in moving forward?

- Arabic script community has done significant work
  - Arabic Script IDN Working Group (ASIWG)
  - Arabic Language in Internet Domains (RFC 5564)
  - IDN Tables submitted to IANA for IDN ccTLDs
  - Arabic Script Case Study (IDN VIP)

- The community has experience from SLD deployments

- Many community members have high level understanding of Unicode, IDNA and LGR

- Issues moving forward
  - Inclusion of remaining language communities
  - Making LGR process efficient for incremental development
How can the readiness of language communities not yet active in ICANN be supported?

• Two kinds of communities
  – Language community inactive for an active script
  – Language community inactive for an inactive script

• Increased engagement with the relevant community members
  – At national level
  – At script-region level
  – At ICANN LGR level

• Capacity building, where needed to balance linguistic and technology constraints
Thank you