Recent ICANN work on IDNs and Internationalized Registration Data

Steve Sheng

12 March 2013 @ IETF 86
Goals

• Brief weirds WG on relevant ICANN work
  – Internationalized Registration Data Working Group Final Report
  – IDN Variants & Whois

• Identify implications for protocol work
Internationalized Registration Data Working Group Final Report
Is it suitable to internationalise Domain Name Registration Data?

- Yes
- Registrants have the right to be monolingual, which is the expectation and motivation behind IDNs
- It is unreasonable to assume all of them know or can enter the registration data in languages other than their local language
what data element is suitable to be internationalised & what standards?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fields</th>
<th>Internationalize?</th>
<th>Output Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domain Names</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Both A-label and U-label</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Server Names</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Both A-label and U-label</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsoring Registrar</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>US-ASCII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone/fax</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>ITU.T E 164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>RFC 6531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Status</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>exact EPP status where applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>RFC 3339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entity Names and Addresses</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Local languages/scripts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Should contact data be translated/transliterated into a single language / script?

• Central issue: balance the needs and capabilities of the local registrant with the need of the (potential) global user of this data

• Recommend a GNSO issues report; interim advice is to provide language and script tags in Whois output to enable users of data to translate or transliterate themselves
Implications for protocol development

Translation or transliteration: currently still in development with possibly the following outcome:

1. Only localized data
2. Localized data + translation / transliteration

• Scenario 2 is used in some ccTLDs
• Observation: the better structured the address object, the easier it is for automatic translation / transliteration system
IDN Variants and Whois
IDN Variants

- Variants may bring a paradigm shift for WHOIS
  - 1 – 1 look up => 1 – Many or Many – 1 look up
- Active variants vs. blocked variants
  - Recommendations: Query of an activated variant should return information of the canonical label + indicating variant relationship
  - Query of an reserved variant should be a matter of local registry policy