

Multilingualism in practice the IDN Fast Track

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Why IDNs?

- There is demand by community
 - Help people access the Internet using their native languages
 - Promote cultural diversity and help preserve languages
- In promoting “Internet Multilingualism” it is important to realize that IDN is not the only element
 - Content and application development in local languages

Why Fast Track?

- IDN cc PDP (policy developing process) would take 2-7 years
- Fast Track is a quick feasible method for introducing IDN ccTLDs
- Purpose of IDNC WG was to develop and report on feasible methods, if any, for introduction of a limited number of non-contentious IDN ccTLDs and not pre-empt on IDN policy development process
- IDNC WG should take into account and be guided by:
 - Need to preserve the security and stability of the DNS
 - Compliance with the IDNA protocols & IDN guidelines
 - Input and advice from the technical community
 - Current practices for the delegation of ccTLDs

Recommendations of IDNC WG

- The final report identifies three-stage methodology:
 - 1. Preparation in territory to enter Fast Track;
 - 2. Due diligence;
 - 3. Delegation process
- Requirements for eligibility under fast track
 - Identify the language and script
 - Select string
 - Support by community
 - Language table
 - Meaningful string
 - Technical committee
- The WG recommended Request For Information to be send to all territories to ascertain their interest in obtaining an IDN ccTLD string through the Fast Track

Living languages in the World

Table 1. Distribution of languages by area of origin

Area	Living languages		Number of speakers
	Count	Percent	Count
Africa	2,092	30.3	675,887,158
Americas	1,002	14.5	47,559,381
Asia	2,269	32.8	3,489,897,147
Europe	239	3.5	1,504,393,183
Pacific	1,310	19.0	6,124,341
Totals	6,912	100.0	5,723,861,210

Part of the Ethnologue, 15th Edition, Raymond G. Gordon, Jr., Editor.
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Multilingualism in practice

Some examples

- http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=BG
 - http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=RUA
 - http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=CZ
 - http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=MX
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- Ethnologue is main source for ISO 639-3
 - ISO 639-3 is a code that aims to define three-letter identifiers for all known human languages i.e. is a list that aims to capture all known human languages.

Some examples

- Zapotec, Elotepec A language of Mexico ISO 639-3: zte
Population 200 (1990 census).
- Region Western Oaxaca, west of Zimatlán, 1 village.
- Alternate names Zapoteco de San Juan Elotepec, Papabuco
- Dialects 68% intelligibility of Santa María Zaniza (closest), 10% of Texmelucan.
- Classification Oto-Manguéan, Zapotecan, Zapotec
- Language use Speakers are older adults. Speakers also use Spanish.
- Comments Mountain slope.

Example 2

- Nahuatl, Eastern Huasteca A language of Mexico ISO 639-3: nhe
Population 410,000 (1991 SIL).
- Region Huautla, Hidalgo is the center; also in Puebla and Veracruz. 1,500 villages.
- Alternate names Eastern Huasteca Aztec, Náhuatl de Hidalgo, Náhuatl de la Huasteca Oriental
- Dialects Southeastern Huasteca Nahuatl. 85% intelligibility between Eastern and Western Huasteca Nahuatl. Survey of other dialects needed. Southeastern Huasteca Nahuatl may need separate materials.
- Classification Uto-Aztecan, Southern Uto-Aztecan, Aztecan, General Aztec, Aztec
- Language use Bilingual level estimates for Spanish: 0 50%, 1 10%, 2 10%, 3 10%, 4 19%, 5 1%.
- Language development Radio programs. NT: 1984.
- Comments SVO; long words, affixes; nontonal. Mountain mesa. Scrub forest. Sea level to 2,000 meters. Swidden agriculturalists.

Example 3

- Spanish ISO 639-3: spa Population 28,173,600 in Spain (1986). Population total all countries: 322,299,171.
- Region Central and southern Spain and the Canary Islands. Also spoken in Andorra, Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela.
- Alternate names Español, Castellano, Castilian
- Dialects Andalusian (Andalú, Andaluz, Andalusí), Murcian, Aragonese, Navarrese, Castilian, Canary Islands Spanish, American Spanish. Leonese has similarities to Asturian, and may be extinct. Lexical similarity 89% with Portuguese, 85% with Catalan, 82% with Italian, 76% with Sardinian, 75% with French, 74% with Rheto-Romance, 71% with Rumanian.
- Classification ...
- Language use Official language. 60,000,000 second-language speakers.
- Language development Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1553–2000.

Relevance of language requirement for Fast Track

- Purpose of Fast Track is to introduce a limited number of non-contentious IDN ccTLD associated with a territory listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard
- Identify the language and script for the string and language table.
 - The language must be an ‘official’ language
 - The script in which the language is represented has to be non-Latin
- Official language criteria: an ‘official’ language is one that has a legal status in the Territory or that serves as a language of administration .
 - Source: “Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names”, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names, United Nations, New York, 2002.
- Meaningfulness of string to be selected for IDN ccTLD
A string is meaningful if it is in the Official Language and:
 - a is the name of the Territory; or
 - a part of the name of the Territory that denotes the Territory in the language; or
 - a short-form designation for the name of the Territory, recognizably denoting it in the indicated language

What is relevant language in context Fast Track?

- Requirement official language:
 - If the language is listed for the relevant Territory as an ISO 639 language in Part Three of the “Technical Reference Manual for the standardization of Geographical Names”, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (the UNGEGN Manual) (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/default.htm>); or
 - If the language is listed as an administrative language for the relevant Territory in ISO 3166-1 standard under column 9 or 10; or
 - If the relevant public authority in the Territory confirms that the language is used in official communications of the relevant public authority and serves as a language of administration.
- More than one official language:
 - it may be possible for the Territory to use the Fast Track for the delegation of one IDN ccTLD in each of those languages

Requirements relating to script

- Relevance of script criterion:
 - Unicode Character Standard primarily encodes scripts rather than languages.
- Fast track limited to non-Latin scripts
 - IDNC WG defined non Latin as any script that does not contain the twenty-six letters listed in the US-ASCII character set (a-z), either in their basic forms or with combining marks.
- Note: Territories using the same script are encouraged to cooperate in developing a language/script table, in accordance with IDN guidelines.

Other requirements relating to language/script

- Submission of Language/Script table
 - In accordance with Repository of IDN Practices — Procedures (<http://www.iana.org/procedures/idn-repository.html>)
 - Procedures may need to be updated
- Compliance with IDNA Protocol and IDN Guidelines
- String needs to meet technical requirements
 - Requirements based on IDNA protocol and IDN guidelines
 - Requirements may need to be updated to comply with IDNA protocol when completed

What can be done in territory?

- Start selecting string for IDN ccTLD
 - Meaningful representation of name of territory in official language
- Start Documenting endorsement for selected string
 - The selected delegate: typically initiates the process and provides the needed information and documentation
 - The relevant public authority associated with the selected IDN ccTLD,
 - Parties served by the IDN ccTLD. They are asked to show that they support the request and that it meets the interests and needs of the local Internet community
- Prepare language/script table
 - Territories using the same script are encouraged to cooperate in developing a language/script table, in accordance with IDN guidelines.
- Start selection IDN ccTLD Manager
 - Requirements current practices delegation
 - In territory process & requirements
 - In cases not selected, relevant public authority performs role
- Note: only actors in territory, no involvement external entities (including ICANN)

Next steps

- Public comments received on IDNC final report:
 - <http://forum.icann.org/lists/idn-cctld-fast-track/>
 - ICANN staff is preparing overview of comments to be posted
- ICANN Staff is working on the implementation plan
- An RFI letter will shortly be sent out to governments and ccTLD managers
- IDNA Protocol is updated
- A revision of the IDN Guidelines will take place soon
- IANA is considering what additional information might be required to be submitted by the applicant
- ICANN regional managers to provide support to potential applicants in their respective regions

Future

- IDN ccTLD policy development process
 - Issue report will be available at Cairo
 - Duration: 2-7 years
- Some core issues relating to multilingualism
 - Should a language/script have a specific status in a territory
 - Should an IDN ccTLD string be “meaningful” in those languages?

Your input will be needed!

Relation Fast Track and IDN ccPDP

- IDNC WG final report input to process
- Practical experience of Fast Track (implementation) input policy development process
- Fast Track is considered experimental:
 - is not precedent setting
 - Special attention to security and stability
 - Fast Track is ongoing process until overall policy has been adopted by the ICANN Board

Useful links and contacts

- IDN area: provides information on all developments
 - <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/>
- Fast Track activities: provides updates pertaining to the Fast Track process
 - <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/>
- Next ICANN meeting will take place in Cairo on 2-7 November
 - <http://cai.icann.org/>
- For more information on how to participate in IDN activities contact
 - Tina Dam, Director, IDN Program
 - Massimiliano Minisci, Regional Liaisons manager
 - Veni Markowski, Regional Liaisons manager