Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs: Overview and Progress

@ ICANN London Meeting (June '14)

Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN)

Middle East Strategy Working Group (MESWG)

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Community Driven Way forward:
Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs

- Creation and oversight by community based Middle East Strategy Working Group (MESWG;

  https://community.icann.org/display/MES/MESWG+Members)

- TF-AIDN Objectives: a holistic approach
  - Arabic Script Label Generation Ruleset (LGR) for the Root Zone
  - Second level LGRs for the Arabic script
  - Arabic script Internationalized Registration Data
  - Universal acceptability of Arabic script IDNs
  - Technical challenges around registration of Arabic script IDNs
  - Operational software for registry and registrar operations
  - DNS security matters specifically related to Arabic script IDNs
  - Technical training material around Arabic script IDNs

Membership

- Currently **26 members** – applications still being received
- From **15 countries** – Australia, Egypt, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and UAE
- Speaking than **nine languages** – Arabic, Malay, Saraiki, Sindhi, Pashto, Persian, Punjabi, Torwali, Urdu, with **expertise** in use of Arabic script from East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, North Africa and Africa
- Coming from **diverse disciplines** – academia (linguistics and technical), registries, registrars, national and regional policy bodies, community based organizations, technical community

Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs

- Membership open, community based

- Details and interests of members posted by MESWG

- Discussions publicly archived

- Details at http://lists.meswg.org/mailman/listinfo/tf-aidn

- Background and Introduction to TF-AIDN
  - https://community.icann.org/display/MES/Task+Force+on+Arabic+Script+IDNs

- Workspace, news and document archive
  - https://community.icann.org/display/MES/TF-AIDN+Work+Space

- Email Archive
  - http://lists.meswg.org/pipermail/tf-aidn/

Arabic Script TLDs Assigned or Delegated

1. الجزائر
2. عمان
3. ايران
4. امارات
5. بازار
6. پاکستان
7. الاردن
8. بهارت
9. المغرب
10. السعودية

11. سودان
12. مليسيا
13. شبكة
14. سورية
15. تونس
16. مصر
17. قطر
18. فلسطين
19. موقع

SUMMARY OF THE CODE POINTS

Color	Description	No. Of codes
	DISALLOWED by MSR	48
	ALLOWED by MSR	227
	Not Allowed by IDN2008	64
Total		339
Submitted to MSR		172
Discussion on codes to be handed over to LGR		Work is under process

IDN Variants Needs and Challenges

Security and Stability Needs

پاكستان پاکستان
U+0643 U+06A9

xn--mgbai9a5eva00b xn--mgbai9azgqp6j

- 120+ cases of visually same or similar Arabic script characters identified by case study team
  - Variants must not be allocated independently
  - Variants may need activation to allow user access (w/ different KB)
- 16 IDN ccTLD applications with 4 applications with variants

Security and Stability Challenges

- Consistency and innumerability
  - Consistent across and within TLDs
  - Minimal activation for manageability
- Management tools
  - Registration
  - Configuration and Maintenance
  - Security and Monitoring
- Usability in applications
  - Browsing, emailing, etc.
  - Searching, privacy, etc.

Progress

Work Accomplished
- Arabic Script Generation Panel
- Principles for Inclusion, Exclusion, and Deferral of Arabic Script Variants
- MSR Analysis and Feedback
- Principles on Variants
- Code Points for LGR

Outreach to the Community
- Launch at the Arab IGF Meeting in Algiers
- Presentation during the IGF in Bali
- Outreach during the ME DNS Forum
- Presentation to the community at ICANN Singapore
- Presentation to the community at the APTLD Meeting

Current Work and Next Steps

- XML Manual [June 30, 2014]

- Finalize the discussions on Code Points [August 28, 2014]

- Finalize the discussions on Variants [September 30, 2014]

- Whole Label Rules – Aug – Oct 14
  - Document principles for whole label variants
  - Define whole label variants
  - Release for Public Comments

- Finalization – Nov –Dec 14
  - Finalize LGR for Arabic script
  - Submit to ICANN/IP
  - Release for Public Comments

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Thank You