
Public Comment Summary Report

Additional Unicode Scripts for Support in Internationalized Domain Names

Open for Submissions Date:

Wednesday, 5 January 2022

Closed for Submissions Date:

Tuesday, 15 February 2022

Summary Report Due Date:

Tuesday, 15 March 2022 (extended from Tuesday, 8 March 2022)

Category:

Technical

Requester:

ICANN org

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Open Proceeding Link:

<https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/additional-unicode-scripts-for-support-in-internationalized-domain-names-05-01-2022>

Outcome:

To determine which additional scripts to support in IDNs beyond the 28 shortlisted in the [Maximal Starting Repertoire](#) (MSR), the community was asked to provide input on the recommendations presented in the report on [Evaluating Unicode Scripts for Use in IDNs](#) based on categorization of the Unicode standard. Comments received call for not supporting scripts which may present security or stability concerns, but on the other hand allowing any script for which there is sufficient justification.

Based on the two viewpoints, ICANN org will aim to devise a mechanism addressing any security and stability concerns around IDNs while supporting the needs of the relevant script communities through IDNs.

Section 1: What We Received Input On

Based on its mission to support IDNs, ICANN org has developed resources for 26 of the 28 widely used scripts shortlisted in the [Maximal Starting Repertoire](#) (MSR). As this work matures, ICANN org aims to work on any additional scripts for IDN implementation. The [Unicode Standard](#) encodes 159 scripts in its latest version, 14.0.0. In [Annex # 31](#), this standard categorizes 159 scripts as "Recommended," "Limited Use," or "Excluded" for use in defining identifiers. As IDNs are also identifiers based on the Unicode Standard, this categorization of scripts is also relevant for the second-level and top-level IDN labels.

The community was asked to provide feedback on the analysis and the recommendations presented in the report developed by the experts on [Evaluating Unicode Scripts for Use in IDNs](#) to guide ICANN org's continuing work on the implementation of IDNs.

Section 2: Submissions

Organizations and Groups:		
Name	Submitted by	Initials
Registries Stakeholder Group	Registries Stakeholder Group	RySG

Individuals:		
Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Initials
Gopal Tadepalli	Anna University	GT

Section 3: Summary of Submissions

GT supports the recommendations in the report [Evaluating Unicode Scripts for Use in IDNs](#) that *Limited Use* scripts could be used for IDNs at the second level but *Excluded* scripts should not be used for IDNs. GT suggests using Unicode's work on Grapheme Clusters to help determine the rules for IDN labels.

RySG suggests that registry operators be allowed to support any of the *Limited Use* and *Excluded* scripts identified by the Unicode standard, "if a reasonable justification is made by a registry operator, this way, communities that use those scripts are not excluded from representation on the Internet from a domain name registration standpoint." RySG notes that ICANN may create Reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs) for the Second Level for *Limited Use* and *Excluded* scripts. However, RySG notes that ICANN may want to do this reactively, rather than proactively. The latter offers diminishing returns since it would be difficult to assess the demand for scripts in these categories. RySG also notes that in some cases a script has been re-categorized by the Unicode standard in the different versions of UAX#31.

RySG also notes that any changes in the IDN tables have an impact on the registry operations and in such cases any changes should be done "in the best interest of the registrars and registrants that they serve." Finally, RySG suggests that "Both GNSO and ccNSO could be leveraged to develop a policy to address the recommendations in the Technical Report, taking into account the interests of a variety of stakeholders."

Section 4: Analysis of Submissions

GT supports the conclusions drawn by the report on [Evaluating Unicode Scripts for Use in IDNs](#), limiting second level domains to *Recommended* and *Limited Use* scripts and not allowing for IDNs in *Excluded* scripts as categorized by the Unicode standard. RySG suggests that there should be more flexibility exercised to make sure that when IDN support is needed by a community and “a reasonable justification is made by a registry operator”, a script could be supported, e.g., by having a Reference LGR for the Second Level. Thus, none of the scripts should be excluded from IDNs.

RySG notes that the ccNSO and GNSO may also be leveraged to develop a policy to guide how to support *Limited Use* and *Excluded* scripts for IDNs in a secure and stable manner. RySG also adds that where existing IDN tables need to be updated, a stable solution is needed for registrars and registrants.

Section 5: Next Steps

The input from the community will be reviewed by ICANN org to devise a mechanism to balance these points of view, making sure that any security and stability concerns around IDNs are addressed while supporting the needs of the relevant script communities through IDNs. This should be done in a way that ICANN could maintain operational transparency and consistency in the IDN table review processes.