

Report of Public Comments

Title:	IDN Variant TLDs – LGR Procedure Implementation – Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 1		
Publication Date:	20 June 2014		
Prepared By:	ICANN Staff		
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Section I: General Overview and Next Steps			
<p>To support IDN labels in the root zone, the ICANN community, at the direction of the Board, undertook several projects to study and make recommendations on their viability and delegation. One of these projects is the implementation of the Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels (the Procedure) allowing for the development of Label Generation Rules (LGR) for the Root Zone. The LGR for the Root Zone is a mechanism for creating and maintaining rules with respect to IDN labels for the root.</p> <p>In the context of the implementation of the Procedure, ICANN is pleased to announce that the Integration Panel has released the first version of the Maximal Starting Repertoire (MSR-1). The MSR-1 is the first deliverable from the Integration Panel under the Procedure and will serve as a fixed collection of code points from which Generation Panels may make a selection in constructing the repertoire for their respective LGR proposals.</p> <p>The MSR-1 covers the following 22 scripts: Arabic, Bengali, Cyrillic, Devanagari, Georgian, Greek, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Han, Hangul, Hebrew, Hiragana, Kannada, Katakana, Lao, Latin, Malayalam, Oriya, Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu, and Thai. MSR-1 contains 32,790 code points short-listed from 97,973 PVALID/CONTEXT code points of Unicode version 6.3.</p> <p>This release of MSR-1 sets the stage for the work by Generation Panels. In addition to selecting their repertoire from within the MSR for developing LGR proposals, Generation Panels will also evaluate whether any such code points are variants and if any rules are needed to further constrain the labels generated using these code points. The resulting LGR proposals by the Generation Panels will be released for public comment before they are reviewed by the Integration Panel for integration into the Root Zone LGR. If it becomes necessary to stage the release of the LGR, for example because not all Generation Panels are able to submit proposals at the same time, subsequent versions of the LGR may be released.</p>			

MSR-1 defers some of the eligible scripts, so as to balance timeliness with comprehensiveness. At a later stage, another version of the MSR will be developed to include repertoires from the deferred scripts and make other additions to the repertoire as warranted. It would be the foundation for any subsequent LGR versions. All future versions of the MSR and all versions of the LGR must retain full backwards compatibility.

Section II: Contributors

At the time this report was prepared, a total of twelve (12) community submissions had been posted to the Forum. The contributors, both individuals and organizations/groups, are listed below in chronological order by posting date with initials noted. To the extent that quotations are used in the foregoing narrative (Section III), such citations will reference the contributor's initials.

Organizations and Groups:

Name	Submitted by	Date	Reply to	Initials
HKIRC	Henry Chan	2014-04-28		HC
C-DAC	Neha Gupta	2014-04-29		NG
C-DAC	Akshat Joshi	2014-04-30		AJ
AFNIC	Stéphane Bortzmeyer	2014-04-30		SB
ALAC	ICANN Staff on behalf of ALAC	2014-05-04		ALAC
TF-AIDN	Sarmad Hussain	2014-05-07		SH-1
LGR Integration Panel	Asmus Freytag	2014-05-07	YY	IP-1
LGR Integration Panel	Asmus Freytag	2014-05-07	HC	IP-2
LGR Integration Panel	Asmus Freytag	2014-05-07	NG	IP-3
LGR Integration Panel	Asmus Freytag	2014-05-07	SH-1	IP-4
TF-AIDN	Sarmad Hussain	2014-05-22		SH-2

Individuals:

Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Date	Initials
Yoshiro Yoneya		2014-03-28	YY
Andrew Sullivan		2014-03-28	AS

Section III: Summary of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section is intended to broadly and comprehensively summarize the comments submitted to this Forum, but not to address every specific position stated by each contributor. Staff recommends that readers interested in specific aspects of any of the summarized comments, or the full context of others, refer directly to the specific contributions at the link referenced above (View Comments Submitted).

The comments are herein grouped by the following categories: general, process, code points.

General

AS was pleased with the MSR rationale document from the Integration Panel, including emphasis on the process defined in the procedure. AS also emphasized the need for ICANN to provide appropriate funding of experts to help the Generation Panels.

NG provided suggestions and clarifications to the rationale document regarding neo-Brahmi script. NG also noted the use of Candrabindu in many languages. IP-3 replied by agreeing with these suggestions in principle.

SH-1 suggested some improvements to the MSR rationale document such as adding more references used for guiding the choices of code points.

ALAC called the Integration Panel to not discriminate against languages with smaller communities. Then Integration Panel has noted the comment. Please refer to Section 5.10 of the Maximal Starting Repertoire — MSR-1 Overview and Rationale document.

ALAC asked ICANN and other parties involved to improve communications and reach, to simplify the documents, and to provide more examples.

ALAC is concerned by the lack of apparent review from Cyrillic, Greek, Georgian, Hebrew, Lao, Latin and Thai communities.

Process

SH-1 and ALAC suggested that the MSR be frozen per script, allowing the respective script communities to review the code points with sufficient time. SH-1 and ALAC suggested that a timeline of future versions of the MSR should be provided.

Code Points

YY requested to add 1,228 Japanese code points to the MSR. IP-1 replied by agreeing to add 3 code points to the MSR, rejecting all the others, and proposing using the Unicode script extensions property to label code points.

HC requested to add 2,677 HKSCS code points to the MSR. IP-2 replied by agreeing to add 2 code points to the MSR and rejecting all the others.

NG and AJ requested to add 5 code points. IP-3 replied by agreeing to add 4 code points to the MSR and rejecting one.

SB concluded that French is supported appropriately in the MSR.

SH-1 requested to add 5 code points. IP-4 replied by rejecting all these requests. SH-2 replied to IP-4 asking to reconsider the rejection of one code point.

AS suggested to provide some statistics on the MSR vs PVALID, such as totals.

For detailed responses from the Integration Panel on individual comments by YY, HC, NG, and SH-1, please see <http://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-msr-03mar14/>

Section IV: Analysis of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section is intended to provide an analysis and evaluation of the comments received along with explanations regarding the basis for any recommendations provided within the analysis.

As part of this public comment process, the Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 1 (MSR-1) received positive reviews from many linguistic communities. However, other communities did not provide comments and therefore some languages and scripts may not have been reviewed. Some of the comments proposed a staged approach to the MSR in order to provide more time for some linguistic communities to provide comments on their respective parts of the MSR. Per the Procedure, it is understood that different script communities will complete their work at different rates and submit respective LGR proposals to ICANN and the Integration Panel at different times. As such, it is expected that there will be iterative releases of both the MSR and LGR to accommodate the addition of new scripts and code points including allowing for already integrated scripts to make necessary additions. This will give an opportunity for the various script communities to review the relevant portions of the MSR at a later stage.

Some requests for adding code points from the linguistic communities include code points that are not IDNA PVALID, therefore not conformant to the protocol. This accounts for a number of the unfavorable replies for inclusion from the Integration Panel.

The next step for ICANN and the Integration Panel is to publish a final version of the MSR-1, with an updated Rationale document based on feedback from the community. These include further details on the use of Expanded Graded Integrational Disruption Scale (EGIDS) and use of additive and cyclical nature of the MSR releases. Following its publication, Generation Panels may use the final MSR-1 to construct their respective LGR proposals.

The ICANN IDN Variant Program Team acknowledges the challenging aspects and importance of script communities' involvement in the implementation of the Procedure. Therefore, the IDN team in close collaboration with ICANN's Communications team, Global Stakeholder Engagement team, and ICANN executive management team for broader outreach to involve additional script communities. The communication plan takes advantage of the resources immediately available to the team such as messaging using the community WIKI, ICANN website, targeted mailing lists, videos and collateral materials. In addition, the outreach efforts focus on identifying venues for LGR procedure discussions, participating in regional and global events and supporting existing and prospective Generation Panel members in all aspects of script LGR implementation work.

The public comment process initiated a dialogue between the Integration Panel, Generation Panels (both seated and prospective) and the community at-large. ICANN will continue to periodically reach out to the community for input to ensure a successful creation of the LGR for the DNS root zone.

The public comment process involved "conversations" between linguistic groups and the Integration Panel, enabling a strong communication channel among the different stakeholders. Further communications should continue through the use of the lgr@icann.org public mailing list.