International Domain Name Committee

Proceedings Report

Shanghai, China

October, 2002

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Creation of IDN Committee

At the September 10, 2001 meeting in Montevideo, the ICANN Board passed a resolution establishing a new IDN Committee "to serve as a general coordination body for the work on policy issues identified in the IDN Working Group Report and such other policy issues that the IDN Committee shall identify."

Members of the IDN Committee

- Vincent Wen-Sung CHEN

  (TWNIC)

- Mouhamet DIOP
  (ICANN Address Council Observer,
  ICANN Director elect)

- Patrik FÄLTSTRÖM
  (IETF/IESG)

- Qiheng HU

  (Internet Society of China)

- Masanobu KATOH

  (   )
  (Committee Chair, ICANN Director)

Administrative support was provided by:

- David G THOMPSON

- John KLENSIN
  (Former IAB Chair)

- Sang-Hyon KYONG
            (   )
  (ICANN Director)

- Stuart LYNN
  (ICANN President)

- Elisabeth PORTENEUVE
  El bieta PORTENEUVE
  (ICANN Names Council)

- Mohd Sharil TARMIZI

  (GAC Vice Chair)

- Andrew J McLAUGHLIN

ICANN IDN Activities Timeline

- **March 2001- Creation of ICANN Board IDN Working Group (Melbourne)**

- **June 2001- IDN Working Group Status Report (Stockholm)**

- **September 2001- IDN Working Group Final Report (Montevideo)**

- **September 2001- Creation of IDN Committee (Montevideo)**

- **June 2002- Final Proceeding Report of IDN Committee (Bucharest)**

- **June 2002- Extension of IDN Committee until Shanghai (Bucharest)**

Key Issues Considered before Bucharest

- **IDN.IDN Keywords**

- **Permissible Code Points**

- **Non ASCII TLDs**

- **Registrar Selection Process**

- **UDRP Review**

The IDN.IDN Keyword Issue

- The IDN Committee strongly recommends against the introduction of Internet keyword services that utilize the period, or dot (".") or Unicode characters that can be mistaken for it, as the separator between the different name segments.

- This recommendation is particularly emphatic in the case of non-ASCII Internet keyword offerings.

- The IDN Committee recommends that ICANN and its Domain Name Supporting Organization (particularly the registries and registrars) consider how best to educate Internet users about the differences between DNS domain names and Internet keywords.

The Permissible Code Point Issue

- By 'permissible code point' issues, we refer to the problems that might arise from the use of certain non-ASCII characters included in the Unicode Standard within IDN domain name labels.

- At present, the DNS host name specifications limit permissible code points in domain name labels to a restricted subset of 7-bit ASCII.

- In addition to the characters of every language that could be identified and standardized by the Unicode Consortium, the Unicode Standard contains several sets of "characters" that do not, in fact, appear in any conventional human language.

The Permissible Code Point Issue (2)

- The IDN Committee has communicated a recommendation to the IETF that it should proceed conservatively, using an "inclusion-based" approach to the definition of "Internationalized Hostnames", so as to leave out – at least temporarily – the sets of potentially problematic characters, most notably:

  - line and symbol-drawing characters;

  - symbols and icons that are neither alphabetic nor ideographic language characters, such as typographical dingbats;

  - punctuation characters; and

  - spacing characters.

- These comments were submitted for IESG review

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLD
- Introductory Comments

A comprehensive selection and implementation process for non-ASCII TLDs would include a number of steps, including:

- Finalization of IDNA standard;
- The decision whether and when to proceed and adopt non-ASCII TLDs
- Root zone implementation testing;
- Selection of registry operators; and
- Registry-level testing and deployment.

The focus of the next three slides is a preliminary selection framework for non-ASCII TLDs themselves.

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs
Brief Explanation of the Six Categories

1. Semantic association with Geographic Units

A TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to recognized geographic unit, as is the case with the existing ASCII ccTLDs.

2. Semantic association with Languages

A TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to the name of a language. For example, the Arabic word for "Arabic."

3. Semantic association with Cultural Groups or Ethnicities

A TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to a cultural group or ethnicity that is not defined by recognized national boundaries. For example, the Kurdish or Swahili peoples.

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs
Brief Explanation of the Six Categories (2)

4.   Semantic association with Existing Sponsored TLDs

A non-ASCII TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to an existing ASCII sponsored TLD.

5.   Semantic association with Existing Unsponsored TLDs

A non-ASCII TLD string that to a typical reader would be clearly linked to the existing unsponsored ASCII gTLDs, such as .com, .net, .org, .info, .biz, or .name.
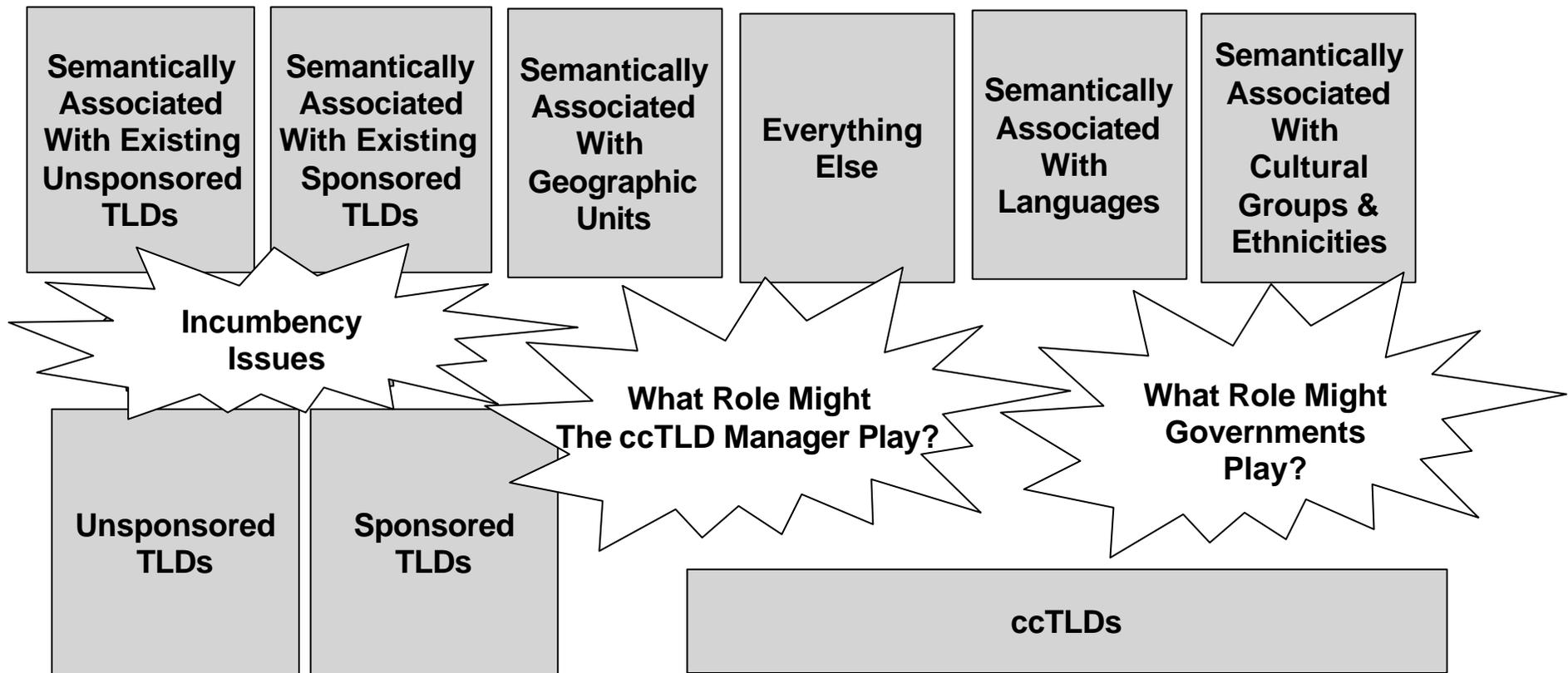
6.   Everything else

In this category, we mean to include every word, abbreviation or other string that is not semantically associated with one of the previous five categories.

A Preliminary Framework for non ASCII TLDs
Summary Diagrammatic View

Preliminary Potential non ASCII TLDs

Semantically Associated With Existing Unsponsored TLDs	Semantically Associated With Existing Sponsored TLDs	Semantically Associated With Geographic Units	Everything Else	Semantically Associated With Languages	Semantically Associated With Cultural Groups & Ethnicities

Incumbency Issues

What Role Might The ccTLD Manager Play?

What Role Might Governments Play?

Unsponsored TLDs	Sponsored TLDs

ccTLDs

Current Situation

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Preliminary Registry Selection Process

			Consideration By ICANN Board
	Support from the Relevant Community of Interest	Independent Evaluation Panel	
Technical Competence	Commitment to TLD Service and Trusteeship Obligations		
Baseline Considerations	**Community Considerations**	**Independent Evaluation**	
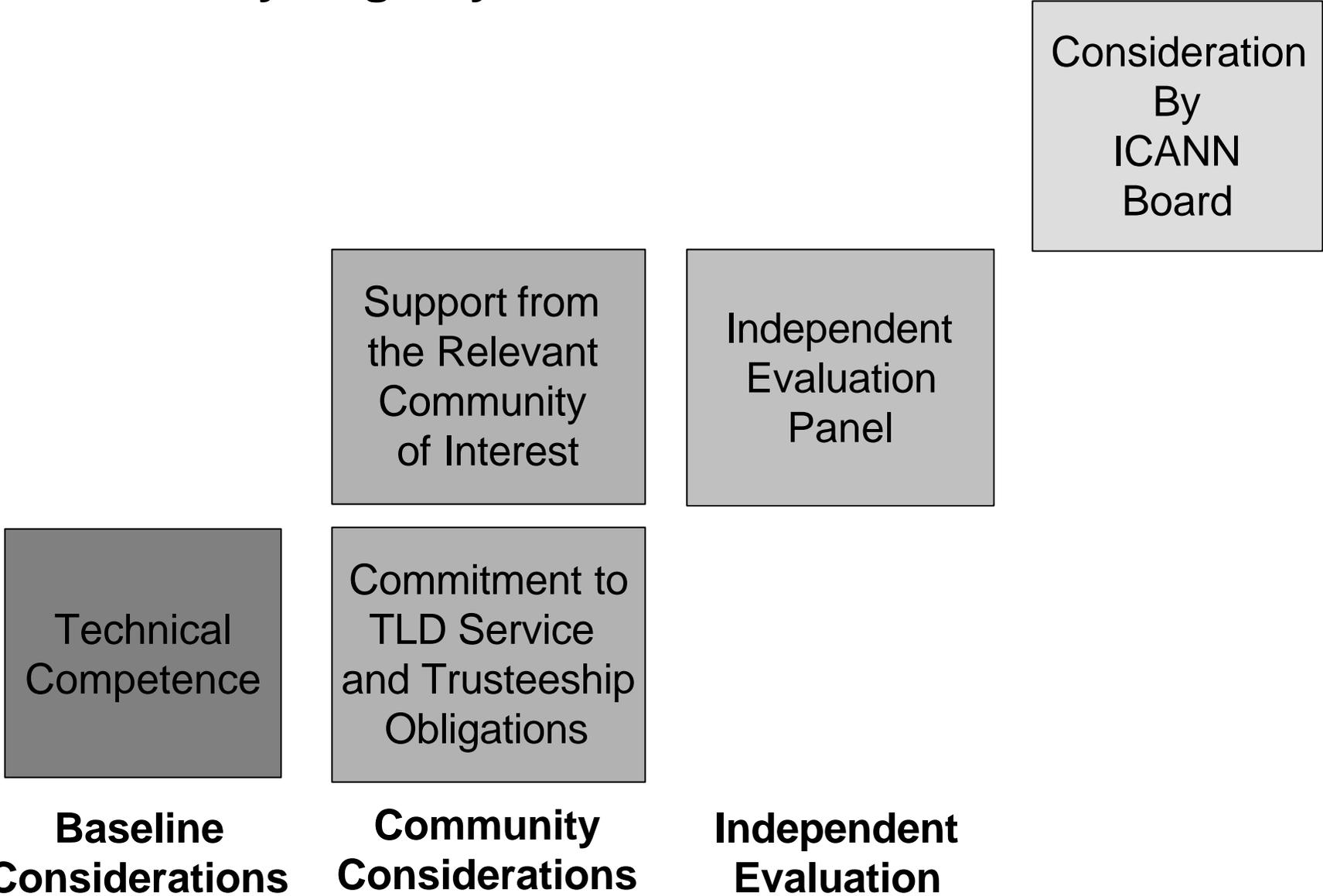
UDRP Review

1. Internationalized domain names is highly likely to dramatically increase the opportunities for cybersquatting.

2. The IDN Committee continues to urge the UDRP Review Working Group to consider IDN issues as it performs its review

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IETF (IESG) approval of Internet-Drafts, Oct. 24, 2002

- **Internationalizing Domain Names In Applications (IDNA)**
  <draft-ietf-idn-idna-14.txt> as a Proposed Standard.

- **Nameprep: A Stringprep Profile for Internationalized Domain Names**
  <draft-ietf-idn-nameprep-11.txt>

- **Punycode: An encoding of Unicode for use with IDNA**
  <draft-ietf-idn-punycode-03.txt>

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Issues for Further Consideration

- **Permissible Code Point Issue – e.g. CJK (Chinese-Japanese-Korean) issue -- Registration and Administrative Guidelines (?)**

- **Second-level IDNA Implementation – Need to slow down (?)**

- **Whether and when to proceed and adopt non-ASCII TLDs – Need to wait and see (?)**

- **Need dialogue and coordination among registries doing SLD/IDN implementation?**

- **User Interface Issues (?)**

Recommendations

- **Public Awareness and Education**

- **Continue ICANN IDN Committee – (1) to serve as a general coordination body for the work on policy issues, and (2) to advise the Board as needed in the area of IDN**

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Thank you very much.

Questions?