AT-LARGE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement

On the Draft Final Report on Policy Aspects Regarding Introduction of Single Character IDN TLDs

Introduction
By the Staff of ICANN

The statement on the Draft Final Report on Policy Aspects Regarding Introduction of Single Character IDN TLDs was originally drafted by James Seng, member of the At-Large Advisory Committee and published on 12 December 2010.

The first revision of this statement (the present document) incorporates suggested modifications by the members of the ALAC Executive Committee.

On 24 December, the Chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, asked the At-Large Staff to start a five-day online ALAC vote on the document.

The online vote ended on 28 December and resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with 13-0 votes. Edmon Chung `abstained from participating in this ballot` due to his previous engagement in the creation of the Draft Final Report on Policy Aspects Regarding Introduction of Single Character IDN TLDs.

You may review the complete vote result under:
https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=1508Z3mi38mH3YDdc5Nyb5hh

On 3 January 2011, the At-Large Staff transmitted the statement to the public consultation process on Draft Final Report on Policy Aspects Regarding Introduction of Single Character IDN TLDs on behalf of the At-Large Advisory committee.

(End of Introduction)

ALAC Statement on Draft Final Report on Policy Aspects Regarding Introduction of Single Character IDN TLDs

On 10th December 2010, the joint ccNSO and GNSO IDN Working Group (JIG) published the Draft Final Report on the policy aspects of introducing Single Character IDN TLDs for public comment.

After reviewing the report, the ALAC is pleased to submit the following comments:

On 10th May 2010, ALAC submitted the ALAC Statement on IDN Issues. In this statement, we expressed our belief that "every culture and language is unique" and "IDN are complex issues that varies from language to language, culture to culture".

Many languages around the world use scripts where a complete word is written as a single character. This is the case, for example, with Chinese. Therefore, we support the recommendation that Single Character and Two Characters IDNs at the Top Level and Second Level should not be restricted in general and be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

We believe that an IDN Evaluation Panel could be established to review applications for Single Character or Two Characters IDNs. The IDN Evaluation Panelists should be composed of relevant individual experts and community representatives. The IDN Evaluation Panel could also assist with the review of contentious IDN ccTLDs, for example, the Bulgarian .бг request.

ALAC, with our network of 129 At-Large Structure across the world reaching many thousands of Internet Users in 106 countries and territories which includes those where IDN single characters is desired by Chinese, Japanese and Korean speakers as well as others, would be pleased to contribute community representatives to the IDN Evaluation Panel.

Furthermore, we noted that the JIG is working on IDN TLD Variants. As stated in our May 2010 statement, we encourage ICANN to "Act Global, Be Local" in the handling of IDN issues. We believe IDN TLD Variants are of utmost importance to certain communities around the world and we encourage the JIG to complete its work as soon as possible.