



Session 2 : IDN operational experience showcase Highlights & Conclusions

1- A contribution to the exchange of information and know-how in multiple languages:

Fay Howard (CENTR) and Marcel Schneider (SWITCH);

2- CJK Experiences and CNNIC's Contribution to the Multilingual Internet:

Feng Wang (CNNIC);

3- Development of Arabic Domain Names System- UN ESCWA perspective:

Ayman El-Sherbiny (United Nations, ESCWA);

4- Arab League Arabic Domain Names (ADN) Pilot Project:

Imad Al-Sabouni (Ministry Communications Damascus, Syria)

Chair: Ayman El-Sherbiny
(United Nations, ESCWA)



Highlights from Presentation 1

“A contribution to the exchange of information and know-how in multiple languages”



- A short introduction of CENTR, an association of Internet Country Code Top-Level Domain Registries (such as .uk in the United Kingdom and .es in Spain)
- CENTR's membership structure and its mission and activities
- The basic principles for the introduction of Internationalized Domain Names, the concept of information culture and the strategic framework outlined in the WSIS action plan and in the UNESCO IFAP recommendation.
- Statistical data on the current use, registration and introduction of IDN's within the CENTR community.
- CENTR IDN Statistics
 - 22% of CENTR FMs do not use Latin Scripts, IDN has had a good pickup for market
 - 42% of CENTR cc TLD member register IDNs
- The presentation emphasized the importance of supporting multiple languages in the Internet and outlined the current state-of-the-art in Europe as represented by CENTR domain name registry members.



Highlights from Presentation 2 “CJK Experiences and CNNIC’s Contribution to the Multilingual Internet”



- Introduced CJK experiences in Multilingual Internet.
- A brief introduction of CNNIC.
- There is great need of Multilingual Internet in China, according to the newest statistical survey report of CNNIC (99.8% of content is in Chinese)
- Multilingual Products of CNNIC
 - Internet Keyword
 - Wireless Keyword
 - Email Address Internationalization
 - Various Multilingual Applications
- A detailed introduction of what CNNIC has done to push Multilingual Internet
 - (including cooperation, technical proposal, application implementation and standardization on several key Multilingual technologies, especially on Internationalized Domain Name and Email Address Internationalization).
- At the end, the presentation analysed the future direction of Multilingual Internet in China.



Highlights from Presentation 3

“Development of Arabic Domain Names System- UN ESCWA perspective”



- Language has been identified as one of the principal barriers to widespread Internet usage in the Arab region; representing a substantial market for using the Arabic language on the Internet.
- In 2003, ESCWA joined other national, regional and international entities in developing Internet domain Names in Arabic.
- The strategy adopted by ESCWA is based on a full-fledged approach that takes into account technology standardization, policy, administrative arrangements, and new applications.
- From 2003-2005, the work, led by ESCWA in developing the intended Arabic Domain Names System (ADNS), resulted in the establishment of an Arabic Domain Names Task Force (ADN-TF), and the development of an Internet-Draft, currently posted on IETF website
 - *Linguistic concerns: language/ user concerns precedes technology, ease of use*
 - *Technical concerns: client side DNS-based (not keyword-based), full compatibility with IDNA*
- In 2005, ESCWA studied technical and operational aspects of ADNS, aspiring to present a more complete description of the different aspects of ADNS with the aim of providing the basis for the full-fledged set of interoperable standards, and supporting the Pilot Project, led by the League of Arab States.
- Currently and at a regional level, ESCWA and the League of Arab States (LAS) are in full coordination.



Highlights from Presentation 4 “Arab League Arabic Domain Names (ADN) Pilot Project”



- o Arabic Domain name System (ADNS) is essential to the Arab community.
- o An overview of the “ingredients” required for designing and implementing a successful, workable Arabic Domain Name System (ADNS), to be adopted by the Arab and Arabic-speaking countries.
- o Supporting the Arabic language in domain names required investigating and addressing a number of questions related to Arabic linguistics and the domain name tree structure.
- o Solutions should be compatible with international standards and rules adopted by the IETF, and in particular the set of IDN standards as defined in RFC 3490, 3491, and 3492.
- o Illustrating the experiences of The Arabic Domain Names Pilot Project (ADNPP) on supporting fully internationalized domain name (i.e., Arabic.Arabic) and offers some recommendations regarding the implementation of idn.idn.
- o Need for speeding up the deployment of idn.idn



Conclusions



- Most of the implementation schemes started from within the local communities that own their respective languages.
 - The Asian experience (CJK) is leading the curve of global deployment.
 - The European non-Latin-character based deployments are progressing.
 - The Arabic Domain Systems is in its pilot phase, pending on few administrative steps (most importantly the registration of “.arb” domain).
- Implementations schemes differed a lot across different regions
 - Keyword-based vs. DNS-based (*which should be considered as complements*);
 - Standardization-led vs. industry-led deployment;
 - TLD-mapping schemes are crucial during transition to full Unicode DNS environment;
 - Usage of alternate roots has already started;
- Complexity and challenges increase as different countries share the same language characters/scripts (*IDN issues are not as vital in Europe as it is for other scripts*).
- The bottom-up approach (from local-to-global) obviously lacks adequate harmonization across regions.
- Challenge for multilingualism vs. preserving the Internet: “what is the right thing for human beings? It is not a matter for to find the best system ; the right question is how to offer better options to users while preserving Global Internet.”
- The audience debated the required degree of coordination.



Actions & Follow-up



- There is a need for increased coordination at the inter-regional (*countries sharing same language characters/scripts*) as well as the intra-regional levels (*across different language groups*).
- Specifically, there is a need for increased ITU / UNESCO involvement in the harmonization of standards and global coordination process (with ITU-T SG17 and other bodies).
- It is important to organize similar events on the regional level in order to promote multilingualism.
- UN Regional Commissions can play a role in regional coordination and local empowerment.