

Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP Working Group

Activities Update

ICANN Los Angeles Meeting

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What is the Task of the Working Group

- Charted to answer two questions:
 1. Whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script.
 2. Who should decide who should bear the burden translating contact information to a single common language or transliterating contact information to a single common script.
- In addition, the Group also considers related questions such as:
 - What are the benefits of transformation (translation or transliteration) in light of potential costs?
 - Should transformation be mandatory in all gTLDs?
 - Should transformation be mandatory for all registrants or only those based in certain countries and/or using specific non-ASCII scripts?

Recent Developments

- Input from SO/ACs and SG/Cs has been received and discussed.
- ICANN has published a feasibility study showing that:
 - No responding registrar or registry is currently transforming registrant data; and
 - Provisioning and querying protocols are lacking either support or deployment for internationalized registration data, and that none of the tools tested is providing a high level of accuracy and consistency in its transformation of internationalized registration data.
- The Group has discussed a straw man proposal and is currently in the process of drafting its Initial Report – though a clear consensus has not yet emerged among members.



Next Steps and More Information

- Face-to-face meeting in Los Angeles (Monday 15:00-16:30) to discuss the option of either recommending for/ against mandatory transformation of contact information.
- WG will publish an Initial Report shortly after ICANN 51.
- Initial Report will be put out for Public Comment and Reply Period.
- Publication of Final Report for ICANN 52 or shortly after.
- More information: <https://community.icann.org/x/FTR-Ag> and
 - Working Group Charter: www.tinyurl.com/ttcharter.
 - Working Group Wikipage: www.tinyurl.com/ttwikipage.
 - Issue Report: www.tinyurl.com/ttissuereport.



Thank You and Questions

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Why is it Important?

- Continued internationalization of the domain name system.
- Need to allow for standardized query of international registration data and assurance of its functionality.
- Ongoing reforms of gTLD Directory Services (e.g. Expert Working Group) makes the need to establish GNSO policy on translation/transliteration of contact information pressing.
- There also is an EWG to define requirements for internationalized registration data and the corresponding data model for gTLD registries.



Background on the Issue



- Text requests and content returned by Domain Name Registration Data Services (such as WHOIS) are encoded using US-American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII), based on the English alphabet.
- Currently, there are no standards or conventions for all WHOIS protocol implementations to signal support of character sets other than US-ASCII.
- It is anticipated that a new Domain Name Registration Data Service may not be ASCII-centric.

Background on the Issue, Cont.



- ***Translation*** is the process of conveying the meaning of some passage of text in one language, so that it can be expressed equivalently in another language.
- ***Transliteration*** is the process of representing the characters of an alphabetical or syllabic system of writing by the characters of a conversion alphabet.

Background on the Issue, Cont.

- “Contact Information” enables someone using a Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service (such as WHOIS) to contact the domain name registration holder.
 - It includes: the name, organization, and postal address of the registered name holder, technical contact, as well as an administrative contact.
- The RAA specifies the data elements that must be provided by registrars; but it does not require that these data elements be translated or transliterated.



Thank You

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