Domain Name Composition Policy

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Classification

Public

Contents

Definitions

In this document:

Active Variant means a Variant of a domain name that has been activated by the registrant and has name server information associated with it such that it can be resolved by users of the DNS.

ASCII means the American Standard Code for Information Interchange. ASCII is an encoding scheme based on the ordering of the English alphabet. ASCII is set of common numerical Code Points for computers and other devices that work with text.

Code Point means an assigned code that uniquely identifies a character or glyph in certain languages and scripts. These Code Points are unique numbers for each character, or an aspect of a character such as an accent mark. The Code Points used by the Service are described further in the Unicode standard—please refer to the definition of Unicode for further information.

Diacritic means a mark that is placed over, under, or through a letter in some languages to show that the letter should be pronounced in a particular way.

ICANN means the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, its successors and assigns.

Primary Domain Name means the initial domain name, which may or may not have Variants associated with it.

Registrar means an entity that is authorised to offer domain name registration services in relation to the TLD.

Service means the services that we provide in relation to the TLD.

TLD means Top Level Domain and for the purpose of this policy **the TLD** shall be شبكة.

Unicode means the single scheme that provides a unique number for each character or glyph across a variety of languages and scripts. The Unicode standard contains tables that list the Code Points for each character identified. The Unicode standard and tables are available at the following link http://www.unicode.org.

Variant means two domain labels or two domain names that are considered to be 'equivalent' to each other.

We, **us** and **our** means International Domain Registry Pty Ltd trading as dotShabaka Registry or our designated representatives.

Inactive Variant means a Variant of a Primary Domain Name that has not been activated and thus is not provisioned within the DNS. An Inactive Variant will not function on the Internet. An application to activate an Inactive Variant may be considered, however Blocked Variants may not be activated under any circumstances, the activation of any Inactive Variant is at all times subject to our policy.

Blocked Variant means an Inactive Variant of a Primary Domain Name that may not be activated and thus is not provisioned within the DNS. An Inactive Variant will not function on the Internet.

You and **your** means the person or entity receiving or accessing the Service.

About this document

This document describes our policy regarding how domain names in the TLD are to be composed.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe our policy on domain name composition, to make users of the Service aware of how domain names in the TLD are composed.

There are technical requirements for the composition of domain names and, as the TLD is specifically for domain names in the Arabic script, additional requirements exist beyond those required for a 'traditional' ASCII domain name.

We have developed this policy with reference to applicable industry standards, ICANN mandated requirements, and to meet our operational requirements for the TLD. This includes compliance with:

- *Guidelines for the Implementation of Internationalized Domain Names*, Version 3.0—available at the following link http://www.icann.org/en/resources/idn/idn-guidelines-02sep11-en.htm; and

- *Internationalized Domain Names in Applications (IDNA): Protocol (IDNA2008)*—available at the following link http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5891.

Concepts about domain names

What a domain name looks like

We use the word 'label' to describe a sequence of characters. A domain name is made up of one or more labels, separated by a period ('.'), for example مثال.شبكة, or أسماء.مثال.شبكة.

Labels that may be used to make a domain name are subject to composition requirements described in this document.

Levels of domain names

A domain name is often described in relation to its 'level': A 'second level' domain name consists of one label before the TLD (for example مثال.شبكة); a 'third level' domain name consists of two labels before the TLD (for example أسماء.مثال.شبكة.); and so on.

All domain names in the TLD will be composed of Arabic characters and will be 'Internationalised Domain Names' as described in the following sections.

Internationalised Domain Names

A domain name consisting of characters other than those in basic Latin ASCII characters (upper and lowercase letters A-Z and numbers 0-9) is called an Internationalised Domain Name or 'IDN'.

Internationalised Domain Names can be represented in two forms; a 'User Form', which is how the domain name appears in the chosen script, and a corresponding 'DNS Form', which is how the domain name is represented technically in the DNS.

The ability to register domain names in characters other than ASCII characters is a relatively recent innovation and as such these two forms exist to allow the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names whilst maintaining backwards compatibility with legacy infrastructure and software. This is due

to the fact that much of the infrastructure of the Internet assumes domain names consist of only Latin characters.

As a result of needing to use these two forms, some additional steps are required to ensure that Internationalised Domain Names both function correctly in the DNS and that the domain names are meaningful to end users.

An example of an Internationalised Domain Name in the two forms is:

- User Form: مثال.شبكة (Note: Right to Left)

- DNS Form: xn--mgbh0fb.xn--ngbc5azd

Labels that may be used to internationalise domain names have composition requirements in addition to those specified for Latin only domain names. These additional requirements are also explored in this document.

Composition requirements

We validate all attempts to create domain names against these technical composition requirements prior to allowing a domain name to be created.

In the case where only one of the forms (User Form or DNS Form) is requested, then its corresponding form will be determined automatically by the Service; both forms must meet the following composition requirements of this policy.

Each label in the DNS Form of the domain name must:

- Begin with xn - -;

- Contain between 5 to 63 characters;

- Consist only of Latin characters (a-z, A-Z), digits (0-9) and hyphens (-); and

- Not end with a hyphen (-).

Each label in the User Form of the domain name must:

- Contain a minimum of one character;

- Not contain any Diacritics;

- Only use the characters described in this policy;

- Not begin with a digit, neither 'western Arabic' digits (0-9) nor 'eastern Arabic' digits (٠-٩);

- Not contain both Western Arabic digits (0-9) and Eastern Arabic digits (٠-٩);

- Neither begin with, nor end with a hyphen (-);

- Not contain hyphens (-) in the third and fourth positions;

- Be the equivalent of a valid DNS Form.

Languages and characters available for domain names

We will only allow Internationalised Domain Names composed of Arabic characters and Code Points described in the table at the following link http://www.iana.org/domains/idn-tables/tables/xn--ngbc5azd_arab_1.0.txt.

The request for an Internationalised Domain Name must include a language tag. The language tag is an important part of the process of creating an Internationalised Domain Name and must be present. Only one language tag per domain name is allowed and at present only the Arabic language and associated language tag will be accepted.

Variants

To reduce confusion that may be caused by certain Arabic characters that are similar to one another, we use Variants. The form of the domain name in the Arabic characters selected at the time of registration is known as the Primary Domain Name.

The intent of Variants is that if the Variant were to be substituted for the Primary Domain Name by a user, the same end result would be achieved.

Creating a domain name may not result in a Variant, however where it does the Variant will be associated with the Primary Domain Name throughout the lifecycle of that domain name. Our domain name lifecycle is described in our Domain Name Lifecycle Policy which can be found at the following link www.dotshabaka.com.

Where a Variant exists it will have the same domain name information as the Primary Domain Name and the Variant will follow the same domain name lifecycle as the Primary Domain Name. In effect the Primary Domain Name and all associated Variants are one registration and are treated as such within the Service.

By default, all Variants are Inactive Variants when the Primary Domain Name is created,

Activation of Inactive Variants

Inactive Variants may be activated at the request of a registrant at any time during the lifecycle of the Primary Domain Name. A Blocked Variant may not be activated, and requests to do so will be denied.

Variants may only be activated by the registrant's Registrar. The maximum number of Active Variants must not exceed five in total; requests to activate two or more Variants may be subject to review by us.

Provisioning of Variants

It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that any details required for the correct operation of the Active Variants are in place. An Active Variant must not be managed independently of the Primary Domain Name, either in the DNS or by any other means. Active Variants must be used for the same website, email and other associated services as the Primary Domain Name

Registrants may not sell, rent, lease or otherwise relinquish control to another party, of any Active Variant to their Primary Domain Name.

Definition and review

This document has been prepared and published to represent our policy regarding the administrative and technical management of the TLD.

We may discontinue or amend any part or the whole of this policy from time to time at our absolute discretion.

Definitions

We, us and our means International Domain Registry Pty Ltd trading as dotShabaka Registry, related entities and respective officers, employees, contractors or sub-contractors.

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