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Cooperation and liaison with other organizations: international organizations

Report of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Summary**

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers is a global organization formed in 1998 whose mission is to ensure the secure and stable operation of the Internet's unique identifier system. It also facilitates policy development by stakeholders from around the globe reasonably related to those technical functions. Its multi-stakeholder model brings together thousands of participants from governments, large and small businesses, technical experts, civil society, researchers, academics and end users from all over the world.

The organization is responsible for managing and coordinating the domain name system to ensure every address is unique and that all users of the Internet can find all valid addresses. It does this by overseeing the distribution of unique Internet Protocol addresses and domain names (see www.icann.org for more information).

Part of the hierarchy of the domain name system includes the identification of top-level domains, the last label that comes after the dot in a domain name. These include generic top-level domains such as .com and country-code top-level domains, such as .ca and .th. The generic top-level domains and country-code top-level domains in the domain name system include internationalized top-level domains as well.

Internationalized domain names programme update

The fast track process for internationalized country-code top-level domains enables countries and territories that use languages based on scripts other than Latin to offer domain names to users in non-Latin characters. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers enabled this process for countries to request top-level domains that reflect their country name in local scripts.

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The fast track process was launched on 16 November 2009, and all activities related to the development and implementation of the fast track process can be found at http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track. A complete list of countries and territories that have completed string evaluation is available at http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/string-evaluation-completion-en.htm.

As at 11 January 2023, a total of 62 labels from 43 countries and territories have been successfully evaluated for delegation through the fast track Process. Of those, 61 labels from 42 countries and territories have been delegated in the root zone. The most recent evaluation includes the internationalized country-code top-level domain in the Hebrew language and script for Israel.

Internationalized country-code top-level domains from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers are only granted to requesting countries if they match the country or territory name in an official language and script (non-Latin) for the country and territory as listed in the *Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names 2007*, and subsequent updates, or the selected name is documented as a meaningful representation of their country name by an internationally recognized linguistic expert.

Within the fast track process, the organization has historically utilized assistance from the Group of Experts to identify internationally recognized experts for those countries and territories which may need such expertise in their requests. In addition, it sought assistance from the Group of Experts in creating examples of documentation that would demonstrate that a requested top-level domain is a meaningful representation of a country name.