ICANN Registry Request Service

Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

Domain name exceptions

Technical description of Proposed Service:

We would like to be able to offer certain 2-character domain names. In particular:

www.ub.cat
UB is the acronim of "Universitat de Barcelona" the oldest (15th century) and currently biggest university in Barcelona. They are now using www.ub.edu and www.ub.es and would like, as all the other catalan speaking universities currently do, use .CAT too.

www.ua.cat
Similar to UB but for "Universitat d'Alacant"
uda.cat is not an option as it's known (stationery, logo, etc) as UA.

www.uv.cat
Same as above but for "Universitat de València".
udv.cat is not an option as it's known (stationery, logo, etc) as UV.

These Universities are members of .CAT community and members of the puntCAT Foundation.

Consultation

Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?:

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We received inquires (email and phone) form different Universities. In particular, UB (Universiti of Barcelona) and UV (University of València) were the most interested ones. UA (University of Alacant) mentioned thay could also be interested, but no more

UB and UV do not correspond to any existing ccTLD, whilst UA does (Ukraine). We may not contact Ukraine ccTLD manager yet until UA officials show more interert.

UB is really interested and asking for it often. UV showed some interest but they have not been askig so often; nevertheless they may show renewed interest once we tell them it is possible to register uv.cat

a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?:

We received the request directly from the interested Universities. It is a bottom up request.

b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?:

We are not changing processes, no need to consult with registrars.

c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

N/A

d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

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Request came from the interested end users (Universities). They expressed by email and phone their interest in having a .cat domain.

Universities are an important part of this sponsored cultural and linguistic TLD.

e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

.cat registry endorses this request as it comes from key members of the community (Universities).

f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were(or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?:

Nobody should object for the 2-letter domains not listed ISO 3166 (ie. ub.cat and uv.cat).

Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:

Service can be offered as soon it is approved.

Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

Ability to offer 2-letter .cat domain names to a closed list of Universities.

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ub.cat (Barcelona University) is the one that has shown more interest and is willing to use it whenever possible.

The domains would be offered as any other domain but directly assigned to these specific institutions.

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

We will use the same process we have to unlock defensive registrations. It is a proven system.

Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.:

RSTEP report on GNR's two-character name proposal,

http://www.icann.org/registries/rsep/RSTEP-GNR-proposal-review-team-report.pdf.

and what is said in page 10:
"Our technical evaluation of this proposed registry service with respect to the likelihood and materiality of effects on security and stability concludes that it does not create a reasonable risk of a meaningful adverse effect on security and stability."

about the potential technical concerns over two-character names.

Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

.cat TLD Sponsorship Agreement
Appendix 6, section B
http://www.icann.org/tlds/agreements/cat/cat-appendix6-22mar06.htm

"All two-character labels shall be initially reserved. The reservation of a two-character label string shall be released to the extent that the Registry reaches agreement with the government and country-code manager, or the ISO 3166 maintenance agency, whichever appropriate. The Registry may also propose release of these reservations based on its implementation of

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measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes."

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN:

None

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?:

None

Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:

No amendments are necessary as Appendix 6 section B already offers this possibility:

"All two-character labels shall be initially reserved. The reservation of a two-character label string shall be released to the extent that the Registry reaches agreement with the government and country-code manager, or the ISO 3166 maintenance agency, whichever appropriate. The Registry may also propose release of these reservations based on its implementation of measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes."

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

Satisfy the need of identification and brand and logo use of certain cultural institutions and key players in the Catalan cultural arena. In particular, Universities.

Competition

Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition?

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If so, please explain.:

N/A. Registrant will be able to use the registrar of its choice.

How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?:

None

What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?:

None

In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?:

No

Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.:

There is no need for it.

Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.:

Does not apply

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Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).:

Does not apply

Security and Stability

Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?:

No.

Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of reponses to Internet servers or end systems:

N/A

Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?:

RSTEP report on GNR's two-character name proposal:
http://www.icann.org/registries/rsep/RSTEP-GNR-proposal-review-team-report.pdf

Page 10:
"Our technical evaluation of this proposed registry service with respect to the likelihood and materiality of effects on security and stability concludes that it does not create a reasonable risk of a meaningful adverse effect on security and stability."

That is, any possible technical concerns were addressed favorably by the report.

Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

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None from 3rd parties. Barcelona University is well known in the community by its 2-letter acroniim (UB, see attached document) and is a legitimate candidate to use it.

Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?:

N/A

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

N/A

Appendix A (UBdotCAT_Domain_Request.pdf)

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

The formal petition from Barcelona University (attached). requests from UV (University of València) were done by phone.

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Appendix {A(UBdotCAT_Domain_Request.pdf)
(Seen on Next Page)

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

Universitat de Barcelona

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585
08007 Barcelona
Tel. 934 035 416
Fax 934 035 357

4 December 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

The University of Barcelona (http://www.ub.edu) has requested permission to register the web domain:

www.ub.cat

The puntCAT Foundation (http://www.domini.cat), the body responsible for the creation, management and supervision of the registration of domain names terminating in .CAT, has informed us that the server name must be more than two letters long.

The report we enclose explains the significance of the initials UB (ub.cat). For many years, these two letters, UB, have been used to refer to our university.

We hope very much that you will allow us to use the domain name that we have requested, www.ub.cat.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Jordi Matas i Dalmases
Vice-rector of Institutional Relations, Communication and Language Policy