Dear Domain Name Industry Stakeholder,

On 20 April 2021, ICANN org provided an overview of several updates we have been working on to make the International Domain Name (IDN) table review process more consistent, efficient, and transparent. These updates are designed to address issues raised by the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) in 2019 and their request for ICANN org to provide more transparency in the IDN table review process. Since the RySG communication, ICANN org has been working to update its processes to review IDN tables to improve the security and stability of IDN implementation.

Those process improvements continue with the launch this week of the new IDN Service: Add, Modify, or Remove ("IDN Service") service request in the Naming Services portal (NSp). The IDN Service is a dedicated Registry Service Evaluation Policy (RSEP) process for registry operators to add, modify, or remove an IDN service. Previously, to make those requests, registry operators would submit a standard RSEP request in NSp. Now, a registry operator looking to add an IDN service for the first time, add another language to its existing IDN service, or remove the IDN service in its entirety, will use this new request type, rather than submit a standard RSEP service request.

This new, specific IDN Service request uses the approach registry operators are familiar with when submitting a standard RSEP service request, while allowing ICANN org to facilitate the IDN Service request from submission to the eventual publication of IDN tables within the IANA Repository. The new service enables ICANN org to coordinate directly with the IANA Services group to ensure the IANA Repository of IDN Practices is updated. This eliminates the extra steps to send a separate request to the IANA Services group to upload new or updated IDN tables and removes the additional IANA Services approval request from the Registry Operator administrative contacts before IDN tables are posted in the repository.

The creation of the IDN Service request, along with the pilot version of the IDN Review Tool that launched on 4 June 2021 provides a more efficient, consistent, and transparent process for registry operators and registry service providers to update IDN tables. You can find more information about the IDN Review Tool from the recorded webinar.

ICANN org appreciates the input from the RySG and the community to institute this new service and we look forward to our continued collaboration. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about this approach, please feel free to reach out to ICANN org's Global Support.

Sincerely,

Russ Weinstein
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