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GENERAL

1. What is an Internationalised Domain Name (IDN)?

An IDN is a domain name that contains one or more non-Latin characters. For the purpose of this launch, both Chinese and Tamil characters will be available under the strings of “.新加坡” and “.சிங்கப்பூர்”, which mean “Singapore” in Chinese and Tamil respectively.

2. I've heard of ASCII domain names. What is the difference between an IDN and an ASCII domain name?

An ASCII domain name simply means a domain name consisting entirely of Latin characters like “abc.com.sg” or “abcdef.edu.sg”. An ASCII domain name would not have non-Latin characters within it whereas an IDN would have at least one non-Latin character contained within.

3. How will my IDN be shown on the WHOIS?

When queried for, your IDN will show up in the WHOIS in the character script you applied for.

REGISTRATION

1. Does the IDN need to match my company name or any existing ASCII domain name which I have now?

No, the IDN you apply for does not need to match with your company name nor any ASCII name you might currently hold.

2. Can I have a mixture of different scripts in my IDN?

ASCII and Chinese/Tamil

An IDN can contain a mixture of ASCII and Chinese, or ASCII and Tamil characters in the prefix portion. If the suffix is in Chinese, the IDN script used in the prefix will need to be in Chinese as well. Similarly, if the suffix is in Tamil, the IDN script used in the prefix will need to be in Tamil. For example, “happy 开心.新加坡”, “开 open.新加坡” or “appleசிங்கப்பூர்.சிங்கப்பூர்”. Please note that the prefix cannot be in full ASCII.

Chinese and Tamil

An IDN will not be available in a mixture of Chinese characters and Tamil characters. For example, “happyஹாப்பி.新加坡” and “ஹாப்பி开心.新加坡” will not be allowed to be registered.

3. Who can I register with?

SGNIC accredits a list of registrars with whom end-users can register their domain names with. Each registrar will have its own price packages and value-added services. You may wish to take your time to look through the different offerings before deciding on the one which best suits your needs.

4. I have an existing name and I want to register for an IDN. Do I need to go back to the same registrar?

No, you do not need to go back to the same registrar to register for the IDN.

5. Can I register in any domain name category?

SGNIC will only be launching IDNs at the second level. As such, you can only register names under “.新加坡” and “.சிங்கப்பூர்”,

6. When can I register?

There are 3 registration phases as shown below:

Sunrise Phase 1	4 July – 15 August 2011
Sunrise Phase 2	12 September – 8 November 2011
General Launch	14 December 2011 onwards

7. How much do I need to pay for an IDN?

Please refer to the IDN Launch Guidelines or to the participating registrars.

8. What happens if someone registers for the same IDN?

Before the General Launch of IDNs, if two or more registrants register for the same IDN and both are equally qualified for registration of the IDN, they will be invited to bid for it. Registrants will be notified by SGNIC if they need to go for bidding. The IDN will be awarded to the highest bidder. Registrations after General Launch will be on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information on bidding, please refer to the section on “Bidding” or to the IDN Launch Guidelines.

9. Are there any IDNs which are reserved and not available for registration?

SGNIC maintains a list of potentially offensive, sensitive or undesirable words which cannot be registered. In addition, single-character IDNs and numeric IDNs are only available before the General Launch and will be reserved (i.e not available for registration) during the General Launch. Please note that numeric IDNs are not available for Tamil.

PRIORITY REGISTRATIONS

1. What are priority registrations and how do you implement them?

If there is only one application for the IDN, the IDN will be allocated to the registrant. If there is more than one application for the same CDN and one of them is by a trademark holder of the name, the CDN will be allocated to the trademark holder.

Two examples are listed below:

(a) “花园” is a mark registered in Singapore. Its proprietor submits an application to register the IDN “花园.新加坡”. There are also submissions from others applying to register “花园.sg”. SGNIC will allocate the IDN to the trademark proprietor.

(b) “花园.新加坡” is being applied for by a new registrant. There are no other applications for the same IDN. SGNIC will allocate the IDN to the applicant.

2. How do I know if I qualify for priority registration?

You may wish to check with the registrar of your choice or refer to the IDN Launch Guidelines on the different registration phases.

3. What constitutes a qualifying trademark under Sunrise Phase 2?

A qualifying trademark is a trademark which is:

- Registered in Singapore with the Intellectual Property of Singapore (IPOS) for the name sought to be registered as the CDN
- Represented in the characters intended for the IDN and not being a device mark or numeral mark combined with a device mark or composite mark and without regard to any punctuation marks or spaces
- Valid and subsisting in Singapore as of the date of application for the IDN

BIDDING

1. How will I know if I need to go for bidding?

You will receive a notification from SGNIC if you need to go for bidding. Further details like bid deposit amount, bidding date, bidding mechanism, etc will be provided within the notification.

2. Why do I need to pay a bid deposit if I need to go for bidding?

This is so as to ensure that all applications received (and which are subject to bidding) are sincere participations.

3. Must I pay 7% GST on my bid amount?

Yes, all bid amounts and allocation fees will be subject to 7% GST.

4. If my bid is not successful, will my bid deposit be returned?

Yes, bid deposits will be refunded to applicants who are unsuccessful in their bidding.

5. If I go for bidding, do I still need to pay my registrar the registration fees for the IDN?

Yes, on top of the final bid price, the normal domain registration fees will still be payable to the registrar.

VARIANTS

1. What are Variants and how do I get them?

Variants are only applicable for Chinese IDNs. When a Chinese IDN is registered, a Full Traditional version and a Full Simplified (if any) version of the name will also be given to the registrant as a bundle at no extra costs. All other character combinations (whether in simplified or traditional form), if any, will be considered as a Variant of the original name applied for.

Please check with the registrar of your choice for the list of variants your Chinese IDN might be associated with. It is entirely up to you if you wish to activate the Variant(s) or not. Each activation of a Variant will be charged at a fee. You may check with your preferred registrar for the fee charges.

2. What happens to the Variants which I do not activate?

Variants which are not activated will not be resolvable and will not be available for registration by others as well.

3. Do I need to activate my Variant(s) at the point of registration?

You do not need to activate the Variant(s) at the point of registration and can choose to do the activation at a later stage. You may wish to check with your preferred registrar for fee charges.

4. If I activate a Variant only 2 months after registration of the Chinese IDN, does that also mean that the Variant will expire 2 months after the Chinese IDN expires?

No. The validity of a Variant will follow that of the original Chinese IDN applied for. For example, if a Chinese IDN was applied on 1 January 2011, it will expire on 31 Dec 2011. A variant of the Chinese IDN was activated on 1 March 2011 but it will still follow the expiry date of the CDN and will thus expire on 31 Dec 2011.

5. How will my Variants be shown on the WHOIS?

When a Chinese IDN is queried for on WHOIS, its associated activated variants of a Chinese IDN will not be shown, only information on the Chinese IDN will be shown. Similarly, when an activated variant is queried for, only it will be shown on WHOIS, the associated parent Chinese IDN and other variants under the parent Chinese IDN will not be shown. For more information on variants, please refer to the section on “Variants”.

TECHNICAL

1. What is Unicode and what is it used for?

Unicode is a universal character set supporting every written script/language. It provides a universal way of encoding characters of any language, regardless of the computer system or platform being used.

2. What is Punycode and what is it used for?

Punycode uniquely and reversibly transforms a unicode string into an ASCII string for use with internationalized domain names in applications, such that these domain names (like IDNs) may be represented in the ASCII character allowed in the Domain Name System of the Internet.

3. Do I need to convert my IDN into punycode format for registration?

The registrar with whom you register the IDN with would be able to process the conversion for you.

4. Can my IDN be used as a nameserver?

Yes, however the punycode version would need to be used.

5. How do I use IDN with my email?

At present, most email clients and mail transport agents (MTAs) do not support Internationalised email addresses i.e. IDNs, and there are obstacles to full compatibility with existing email systems.