IDN ccTLDs for Indian Languages and Scripts - Status and Vision

07.11.16
11:00-12:00
MR 1.02, HICC, Hyderabad
Linguistic Diversity in India vs. Internet Stats

**Linguistic Diversity**
- 22 constitutionally recognized languages
- 29 languages with 1 million plus speakers
- 3954 newspapers published in 35 languages
- 146 languages used in radio networks
- 97.7% of Indians speak 20 odd Indo-Aryan and Dravidian languages
- 2.32% of India's population speak about 97% of other languages
- 1576 rationalized mother-tongues and 1796 not yet classified

**Internet Stats**
- Internet Penetration Rate
  - World Average = 46.4%; Asia = 40.2%; India = 21%
- Total No: of Internet Subscribers is over 340 million
- 93% out of the total is mobile wireless
Status of IDN ccTLD in India (.Bharat)

- .Bharat IDNs in 15 languages covering 7 scripts were delegated by end of December 2014
  - Devanagiri Script - Hindi/ Boro/ Dogri/ Sindhi/ Maithili/ Marathi/ Konkani/ Nepali
  - Gujarati Script - Gujarati
  - Bengali Script - Manipuri/ Bengali
  - Tamil Script - Tamil
  - Telugu Script - Telugu
  - Gurumukhi Script - Punjabi
  - Arabic Script - Urdu

- IDN domain count in the registry - over 22,000
  - Half is reserved domain names
  - Half is actually registered domain names

- NIXI has recently applied for 8 more languages to IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process
  - Publicly posted on ICANN’s website
  - IANA delegation procedure underway
Contd..

- Malayalam Script - Malayalam
- Bengali Script - Assamese
- Kannada Script - Kannada
- Oriya Script - Oriya
- Perso Arabic Script - Kashmiri
- Perso Arabic Script - Sindhi
- Devanagiri Script - Sanskrit

• Promos for IDN ccTLD
  1,00,000 to be distributed free with a .in domain
IDNs: One step closer to a multilingual Internet

• IDNs are a good start!
• But, only 2% of the total domain names are IDNs
• Out of total IDNs, 90% are being accounted for by Latin, Han and Cyrillic scripts
• Other factors for a multilingual Internet:
  – Availability of content in relevant languages
  – Having unicode supported fonts, inputs methods, Universal Acceptance of new domain names including IDNs and associated email IDs, in Internet applications and services
• English is the predominant language of the Internet
  – 52.9% of all websites are in English
  – 6.45% are in Russian
  – 5.5% are in Japanese and German
  – All other languages < 5%
  – Hindi < 0.1%
A few Government Initiatives

• ISClI (Indian Standard Code for Information Exchange), 1991
  – First attempt to develop Indic fonts
• TDIL (Technology Development for Indic Languages)
  – Works on developing tools and resources for enabling ICT in local languages
  – Web standardization initiative to enable web related standards in 22 languages
• GoI is a member of Unicode Consortium
  – Indian languages are today a part of unicode standards, and can be used via standardized keyboards.
• Vikaspedia to create content in 22 languages besides English
• Ministry of Electronics & IT
  – Issued a directive mandating all mobile manufacturers to support text input in English, Hindi and one more local language by July 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2017
  – Also, reading of text should be possible in all 22 languages
Vision

- Better digital inclusion when Internet moves from urban to rural areas
- At least all governmental websites all 22 languages with respective IDN URL
- More content and services in regional languages
- ICT Capacity building to bridge the digital divide
THANK YOU 😊