

CCNSO – Study Group on Emoji

Update

ICANN 65



June 2019

Purpose of the Study Group on Emoji

The study group is established to provide to ccTLD community, the ccNSO Council a comprehensive overview of the issues associated with the use of Emoji as second level domains, and the need for and current practice by ccTLD managers to allow Emojis as second level domains.

If considered appropriate by the Study group, the Study group may advise on a course of further actions, if any.

Examples of domain names which include emojis



Why have a ccNSO Study Group on Emojis: Board Resolutions

- ⦿ Resolved (2017.11.02.10), the Board requests that the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) engage with the SSAC to more fully understand the risks and consequences of using a domain name that includes emoji in any of its labels, and inform their respective communities about these risks.
- ⦿ Resolved (2017.11.02.11), the Board requests that the ccNSO and GNSO integrate conformance with IDNA2008 and its successor into their relevant policies so as to safeguard security, stability, resiliency and interoperability of domain names.

Why be involved?

- ⦿ Use of emoji, regardless of definition of emoji, will violate both the IETF created standard IDNA2008 as defined in RFC 5890 et.al. and the ICANN Board recommendation to conform to that standard.
 - The latter is because of this a violation of the agreement between ICANN and IETF to respect the decisions developed by the respective organizations.

Scope of Activities of SG

- ⦿ Summarise the issues associated with the use of emoji as second level domains as identified by SSAC in its reports (see references)
 - Included in the draft report
- ⦿ Liaise with SSAC to seek further clarification and input if considered needed and appropriate by the group,
 - better understand the threats that accepting the registration and use of emoji as second level domains create for Internet users and
 - related issues;
- ⦿ SSAC representatives are actively participating in the work of the Study Group.

Scope of Activities of SG

- ⊙ Liaise with relevant departments of ICANN to seek further clarification and input if considered needed and appropriate by the group, for example to better understand the threats that the use of emoji create for Internet users and related issues
 - These representatives are actively participating in the work of the Study Group.

Scope of Activities of SG

- ⦿ Provide an overview of the references in the Fast Track Implementation Plan and Draft overall IDN ccTLD policy to IDNA 2008 and its successor, which disallow emoji. If not included suggest a course of action to include it in the overall draft IDN ccTLD policy.

Results to date

- ⦿ Liaised with the ccTLDs who are currently accept registration of emoji to solicit their views and perspective and provide an overview from their perspective;
 - There is no authoritative list of ccTLDs which allow the registration of domain names which include emoji.
 - Members of the study group performed some analysis of zone files to determine which ccTLDs could potentially allow such registrations.
- ⦿ Initially ccTLD Managers registries were sent a letter requesting to confirm if they were accepting registration of such domains. Initially only 2 replies were received.
- ⦿ Second round of contact to inform ccTLD Managers they were included in draft report that is public, to inform them and seek their perspective.

Results to date: Initial List of ccTLDs contacted

.CF (Central African Republic)	.MP (Northern Mariana Islands)
.FM (Federated States of Micronesia)	.ST (São Tomé and Príncipe)
.GA (Gabon)	.TK (Tokelau)
.GG (Guernsey)	.TO (Tonga)
GQ (Equatorial Guinea)	.TV (Tuvalu)
.JE (Jersey)	.UZ (Uzbekistan)
.LA (Laos)	.VG (British Virgin Islands)
.ML (Mali)	.VU (Vanuatu)
.WS (Samoa)	

Results to date

- ⊙ Prepared sessions at ccNSO meeting, to solicit your views and to present and discuss the results of the study to the ccTLD community
 - This was undertaken at each ICANN meeting since the creation of the study group
 - Concern raised: Approach Study Group is taking may be stifling evolution of the DNS

Results to date: other Activities

- ⦿ Given the low response rate to the letter from the community at the request of ESG staff to undertake some research into ccTLDs which potentially accept the registration of domains which include emoji. This research identified 16 ccTLDs which (probably) accept the registration of domain names which contain emoji.
 - The research also looked into registrars which support the registration of domains which include emoji for these ccTLDs.
 - The ccTLD Managers identified have been approached as well prior to publication of the draft report

2nd Round of ccTLDs contacted

.AZ (Azerbaijan)	.GE (Georgia)
.CF (Central African Republic)	.MP (Northern Mariana Islands)
.FM (Federated States of Micronesia)	.ST (São Tomé and Príncipe)
.GA (Gabon)	.TK (Tokelau)
.GG (Guernsey)	.TO (Tonga)
GQ (Equatorial Guinea)	.TV (Tuvalu)
.JE (Jersey)	.UZ (Uzbekistan)
.LA (Laos)	.VG (British Virgin Islands)
.ML (Mali)	.VU (Vanuatu)
.WS (Samoa)	

Results to date:

Comments from ccTLDs in 2nd round

- ⊙ Registrar is not officially accredited, Registry is working on implementation of direct prohibition on registration of domain names containing emoji. Seeking recommendation and suggestion on how to implement prohibition
- ⊙ Might be some confusion with the comments of the existing Registry Operator, was in the process of change. Number of allowed characters is now limited. Possibly erroneous statement in report, request to be removed from your final report.
- ⊙ Observation that although registry does not disallow the registration of SLDs with any unicode code point (including emojis) we have to date received ZERO complaints about this from any of our registrants or any third parties. Not a single complaint or issue has arisen in many years.

Results to date: Observations ESG

- ⦿ Potential for confusability with emoji is significant but is currently contained given the small number of registries which accept the registration of domain names which include emoji.
- ⦿ Some in the emoji domain name industry have proposed Whitelisting as a potential solution to address confusability

Draft Chair's Recommendations

- ⦿ Promote, Continue and Foster a full and frank dialogue with ccTLDs accepting emojis as second level domains
- ⦿ Define and communicate consistently what is and what is not an Emoji
- ⦿ Methods used by ESG to identify ccTLD accepting Emojis were not systematically developed, nor applied consistently across namespaces. To understand the full scope of the issues, a systematic and consistent research approach is advised to provide a sound basis for well-informed and evidence based discussions and recommendations

Next steps

- ⦿ The ESG is now looking for your comments and feed-back on draft report
- ⦿ ESG to discuss final set of recommendations
- ⦿ Following the consultation the study group will finalize its report and submit it to the ccNSO council as soon as possible post ICANN 65 Marrakech.

Questions