IDNConnect and IDN interoperability: a report for ccTLDs

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IDNConnect overview

- Online event occurred Sept. 23-27, 2003
- Attended by eight organizations testing a wide variety of types of IDN-enabled software
- Main purpose was to help companies find bugs in their own software: no specific results would be published
- IDNConnect is sponsored by the Japanese Domain Names Association

IDNConnect results

- Most testers reported that the event helped them find bugs in their software (and that the bugs are now fixed!)
- Many testers will use the IDNConnect testbed to re-test their software again later
- Final IDNConnect report is available at <http://www.idnconnect.jdna.jp/>

How the test was run

- Approximately 120 tests of all parts of IDNA, Nameprep, and Punycode

- Most testers used the IDNConnect name server to test web clients

- Some testers used IDNConnect data files to test software libraries

- Some testers used IDNConnect POP server to test mail clients

Status of the testbed

- Testbed is freely available for download from the IDNConnect web site
- Testbed is aimed at developers, not end users
- Testbed is evolving
  - New tests being added based on suggestions
  - Some tests being fixed
  - More explanation is being added

What IDNConnect means for ccTLDs (1)

- Most participants said that their software already worked as expected, and that bugs were for "edge cases"

- There was little or no misunderstanding of the IDNA specifications

- Some ccTLDs and their associated vendors participated and (privately) reported good results

What IDNConnect means for ccTLDs (2)

- ccTLDs can safely start implementing and promoting IDNs in their countries
- Registration protocols were not tested, but future testing should be fairly straight-forward
- Use the IDNConnect testbed for ccTLD IDN tools such as zone editors and registration software