Hebrew and IDN

ccTLD ICANN meeting - Rome, March 2004

Benny Lipsicas, Doron Shikmoni
ISOC-IL
benny@isoc.org.il

Israel Internet Association (ISOC-IL)
איגוד האינטרנט הישראלי

Attributes of Hebrew

- Special alphabet:

אבגדהוזחטיכךלמםנן
סעפףצץקרשת

- 27 Chars (22 Basic chars + 5 Ending forms)
- Bidirectional:
    - Letters: written Right To Left ("RTL")
    - Digits: written Left To Right ("LTR")
- Other bidirectional languages: Arabic, Farsi, Urdu …

IDN

(1) <u>RFCs</u>:   LTR scrpits & RTL scrpits MUST NOT be on same label (3454).

<u>Result</u>:   www.שלום.co.il ✓
www.hello-שלום.co.il ✗

(2) <u>ICANN</u>: TLD to remain in Latin characters.

<u>Result</u>: Hebrew Domain Names must be a combination of RTL & LTR <u>labels.</u>

www.שלום.co.il
ול.לא.לישון.עכשיו 🛑

Israel Internet Association (ISOC-IL)
איגוד האינטרנט הישראלי

Problems with "mixed" domains (1)

(1) Confusion between levels:

but:

Israel Internet Association (ISOC-IL)
איגוד האינטרנט הישראלי

Problems with "mixed" domains (2)

(1) Confusion between levels (cont.):

4th level   3rd level   2nd level   TLD

www.שלום.co.il

but:

2nd level   3rd level   4th level   TLD

וו.לא.רוצים.לישון

Israel Internet Association (ISOC-IL)
איגוד האינטרנט הישראלי

Problems with "mixed" domains (3)

(2) Non-trivial typing: host.בלגן.איזה.il

LTR mode in Browser:

▶ host.איזה.בלגן.il   Alt+shift

RTL mode in Browser:

Alt+shift   host.בלגן.איזה.il ◀

Result

(1) Attactivness of Hebrew Domain Names is questionable.

(2) Original goal of IDN missed?

Solution?

(1) A uni-directional Domain Name (i.e. Hebrew TLD ...)

(2) Careful implementation policy and user education, i.e., non-technical.

Israel Internet Association (ISOC-IL)
איגוד האינטרנט הישראלי

Thank You!

‫!תודה רבה‬