From: VeriSign Global Registry Services [info@verisign-grs.com]

Sent: Friday, May 11, 2001 1:40 PM

To: ross@tucows.com
Subject: IDN Registrar Survey

Dear Ross,

VeriSign Global Registry Services is ready to move to Resolution Phase 3.3 as early as May, 19th, 2001.

This will place the ACE representation of your registrants'

internationalized domain names into the com,

Registrars to convert data and systems.

net, and org zones. While we have received many emails urging us to move forward to this phase, there are

issues that you, the registrar, should be aware of:

- 1) The IETF will almost certainly choose an ACE other than RACE. After this selection occurs there will need to be a coordinated deployment amongst VeriSign GRS and the IDN
- 2) At the time the new ACE is identified, the final prefix probably will not be.
- 3) Prior into deployment to production, all registrars will need to re-certify for the new ACE.

Knowing this, VeriSign GRS would like to obtain your input on the following so that we may define the

approach that works best for the majority of our IDN registrars. Therefore,

we would greatly appreciate

your responses to the following survey questions. To be included in the survey results, please make sure to

respond to Customer Service at info@verisign-grs.com no later than 0400 hrs UTC May 16th (00:01 hrs EDT May 16th).

- 1) What is the general expectation of your IDN registrants with respect to when ACE encoded
- internationalized domain names should be placed in the com, net and org zones? Please choose one of the following:
- A. As soon as possible
- B. Once the IETF has finalized a complete IDN standard, however long that takes
- C. Once the IETF has finalized a complete IDN standard, IF that occurs within the next six (6) months
- D. Once the IETF has finalized the ACE, however long that takes
- E. Once the IETF has finalized the ACE, IF that happens within the next 30

days

- 2) How would you categorize the customer service inquiries you receive related to IDN? Check all that apply:
- A. Resolution timing
- B. Resolution Software (clients, browsers, etc)
- C. Language/character availability
- D. Name Prep
- 3) Please answer True or False
- A. The majority of our customers (registrants) want to see resolution of IDNs as soon as possible. (T/F)
- B. As a registrar, we would like to have resolution at the second-level domain for IDNs as soon as possible even if it means conversion efforts may need to occur later. (T/F)
- 4) What are your technical as well as customer support expectations from VeriSign GRS for converting existing IDNs from RACE to the eventual new ACE? (Free form response)

Thank you again for completing this survey. Please direct answers to info@verisign-grs.com.

Best Regards,

Chris Sheridan Customer Service VeriSign Global Registry Services www.verisign-grs.com

From: VeriSign Global Registry Services [info@verisign-grs.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2001 4:06 PM

To: ross@tucows.com

Subject: Resolution Phase 3.3 and the IDN Survey Results

Dear Ross,

VeriSign GRS would like to thank those IDN certified registrars that provided feedback to our recent survey.

The results of the survey clearly indicated that registrants (your customers) strongly favor moving to resolution as soon as possible. At the same time, there was a clear message from the registrar community that if VeriSign GRS is to proceed with placing the ACE representation of internationalized domain names into the .com, .net and .org zones, the registrar community expects VeriSign GRS to provide appropriate assistance in migrating from RACE to whatever the new ACE may be once the final ACE is selected by the IETF IDN working group.

This has always been the intention of VeriSign GRS. It is important to note though that the timing of placing "ACE in the zones" does not eliminate the need for migrating from RACE to the new ACE nor would delaying the placement of ACE in the zones reduce the level of effort required to perform the conversion. Therefore, in response to registrant demand, we have decided to move ahead with Resolution Phase 3.3 while reaffirming our commitment to assisting registrars in future conversion efforts.

VeriSign GRS will begin placing the RACE encoded version of the internationalized domain names into the .com, .net and .org zones on May 29th, 2001. Details of the deployment will be posted to the full IDN mailing list on Tuesday, May 22nd.

In addressing the survey concerns, VeriSign GRS is committed to a migration process that is as seamless as possible. Once a final ACE is determined, there will be substantial development effort for both VeriSign GRS and IDN-certified registrars to modify software to permit the registration of domains in that new ACE. Therefore, the notification may be about three months prior to deployment into production. Prior to going into production, the software will be placed in the IDN OT&E environment for a 30-day period before being moved into the IDN Production Testbed environment.

During the OT&E period, the testing process will include providing real data for each registrar. We plan to provide each registrar a report and tab delimited file of their RACE encoded domains and the equivalent new ACE encoding. The report and file should be used as the basis for conversion preparation and testing of new registration code.

One of the concerns expressed in the survey responses dealt with the

perceived risk that domains might be invalidated by the change in ACE. Please recall that the uniqueness of an IDN derives from its sequence of Unicode code points, and the allowable Unicode code points are determined by the name preparation Internet-Draft. Based on statements made in the IETF IDN Working Group, we believe that further changes to the name preparation process are highly unlikely. The only risk of a domain being invalidated relates to length. ACE algorithms produce ASCII encodings of Unicode code points. There is a possibility that the selected ACE could produce longer encodings for certain IDNs than the current RACE algorithm. If an IDN's encoding under the new ACE exceeds the maximum label length of 63 characters imposed by the DNS standards, that IDN will become invalid. Occurrences will be handled on a case by case basis.

Clearly, the biggest expectation of the responding registrars is assistance and guidance with conversion to a new ACE. VeriSign GRS is committed to a standards based approach that paves the way for the successful deployment of internationalized domain names within .com, .net and .org. With over 900,000 IDNs registered to date, the demand for IDNs is apparent. We intend to provide the required assistance to make the conversion as smooth as possible.

Again, thank you to those who provided feedback to the survey. If you have not provided feedback to date, please feel free to make us aware of any of your issues about the deployment of internationalized domain names.

If you require additional information, please contact VeriSign Global Registry Services at info@verisign-grs.com.

Best Regards,

Pat Kane VeriSign Global Registry Services www.verisign-grs.com info@verisign-grs.com

From: VeriSign Global Registry Services [info@verisign-grs.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2001 4:21 PM

To: ross@tucows.com

Subject: RE: Resolution Phase 3.3 and the IDN Survey Results

Dear Ross,

Thank you for contacting VeriSign Global Registry Services.

Customer Service will forward your request to the IDN Project Manager.

If you require additional information, please contact VeriSign Global Registry Services at info@verisign-grs.com.

Best Regards,

Will Shorter VeriSign Global Registry Services www.verisign-grs.com info@verisign-grs.com

----Original Message----

From: Ross Wm. Rader [mailto:ross@tucows.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2001 4:12 PM

To: info@verisign-grs.com

Subject: RE: Resolution Phase 3.3 and the IDN Survey Results

Are high-level responses going to be made available? (ie - 22 registrars voted positive for option b and 72 voted negative for option b?)

Our position was (I think) not representative of your findings and I am interested in knowing where we stand globally amongst all of the registrars.

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-rwr
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> ----Original Message----
> From: VeriSign Global Registry Services [mailto:info@verisign-grs.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2001 4:06 PM
> To: ross@tucows.com
> Subject: Resolution Phase 3.3 and the IDN Survey Results
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> Dear Ross,
> VeriSign GRS would like to thank those IDN certified registrars that
> provided feedback to our recent survey.
> The results of the survey clearly indicated that registrants (your
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> customers) strongly favor moving to resolution as soon as possible. At
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> assistance in migrating from RACE to whatever the new ACE may be once
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> required to perform the conversion. Therefore, in response to registrant
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> the registration of domains in that new ACE. Therefore, the notification
> may be about three months prior to deployment into production. Prior
> to going into production, the software will be placed in the IDN OT&E
> environment for a 30-day period before being moved into the IDN
> Production Testbed environment.

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> During the OT&E period, the testing process will include providing real > data for each registrar. We plan to provide each registrar a report and > tab delimited file of their RACE encoded domains and the equivalent new > ACE encoding. The report and file should be used as the basis for > conversion preparation and testing of new registration code.

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> the conversion as smooth as possible.
> Again, thank you to those who provided feedback to the survey. If you
> have not provided feedback to date, please feel free to make us aware of
> any of your issues about the deployment of internationalized domain
> names.
> If you require additional information, please contact VeriSign Global
> Registry Services at info@verisign-grs.com.
> Best Regards,
> Pat Kane
> VeriSign Global Registry Services
> www.verisign-grs.com
> info@verisign-grs.com
```

From: owner-idntestbed@verisign-grs.com on behalf of VeriSign Global Registry Services

[info@verisign-grs.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2001 7:43 PM idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

Subject: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

All IDN Registrars,

VeriSign GRS intends to move to Resolution Phase 3.3 On Tuesday, May 29th, 2001. The following will take place:

- 1) New IDN registrations will immediately be placed on Active status. Registrations will no longer be placed on Registry-Hold.
- 2) Existing IDN registrations will be migrated from Registry-Hold Status to

Active Status. This process will take several days. No database outage will be required. A note will be sent to all registrars when the conversion

of the status is complete for all registrations.

3) When the registrations become Active, they will be picked up by the zone

generation process for placement into the .com, .net or .org zones. Since

conversion process will run over several days, an existing IDN registration may take as long as four days after the deployment to get into the zone. When Customer Service emails the notification indicating the conversion is complete, all IDNs will be in the zone within 24 hours. Once the conversion

process has begun, all new registrations will appear in the zone updates within the same timeframes as traditional ASCII registrations.

4) Resolution Phase 3.1 and 3.2 behavior will no longer exist. If a registration has no associated name server, it will no longer go to the Testbed Confirmation page. The end-user will receive a not found message.

This deployment will not require an outage and will be rolled into the IDN Production Testbed Environment.

If you require additional information, please contact Customer Service at info@verisign-grs.com.

Best Regards,

Chris Sheridan Customer Service VeriSign Global Registry Services www.verisign-grs.com

info@verisign-grs.com

From: owner-idntestbed@verisign-grs.com on behalf of Paul Hoffman / IMC [phoffman@imc.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2001 9:31 PM idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

Subject: Re: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

At 7:43 PM -0400 5/22/01, VeriSign Global Registry Services wrote: >VeriSign GRS intends to move to Resolution Phase 3.3 On Tuesday, May 29th, >2001.

It is extremely likely that the IETF IDN WG will be changing the encoding for IDN strings in the near future, as VGRS is well aware. Changing to Phase 3.3 could cause registrars irreparable damage and will certainly confuse the registrars customers.

Why does VGRS want to do something that will cause registrars to have to make multiple changes to their registration process instead of simply waiting about a month until it becomes clear what the new ACE will be?

Further, VGRS stated earlier that the exit criteria for Phase 3.2 was "Availability of open source ACE toolkits for application developers." To date, no toolkit has appeared. There are ACE conversion routines, of course, but no toolkits. Because of this, there are literally no applications that support IDNA today.

How can you move to Phase 3.3 when you have not even met your stated exit criteria for Phase 3.2?

Further, VGRS said that the purpose of Phase 3.2 was "To enable those administering internationalized zones to identify issues relevant to the administration of zones containing ACE-encoded internationalized domain names." Well, one of those issues is that the standard is about to change.

Now that this very significant issue has been identified, shouldn't VGRS spend the time to help the registrars prepare for the new encoding?

- >1) New IDN registrations will immediately be placed on Active status.
- >2) Existing IDN registrations will be migrated from Registry-Hold Status to

>Active Status.

>3) When the registrations become Active, they will be picked up by the zone

>generation process for placement into the .com, .net or .org zones.

All of these will pollute the com/net/org zones for which VGRS is responsible. Why would VGRS want to put entries into the zones that

VGRS knows will soon become useless?

What does VGRS plan to do to explain to end users about all the changes?

Nothing in your message indicated that VGRS had ICANN's approval for this hasty move. Does VGRS have ICANN's approval? If so, could you say where; if not, shouldn't that be obtained first?

Answers to these questions would be much appreciated. Thanks!

- --Paul Hoffman, Director
- --Internet Mail Consortium

From: owner-idntestbed@verisign-grs.com on behalf of Gomes, Chuck [cgomes@verisign.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 9:02 AM

To: 'Paul Hoffman / IMC'; idntestbed@verisign-grs.com
Subject: RE: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

What damage will be caused to registrars? The same ACE conversion will have

to be done whether it is done before 3.3 or after.

If there is any confusion caused for registrar customers (registrants), it would be essentially the same in 3.2 as 3.3. A smooth conversion plan and good communication with registrars and registrants would need to be an essential feature whether it is done during Phase 3.2 or Phase 3.3.

What multiple changes would registrars have to make if we move to Phase 3.3 before the ACE is announced? If we delay Phase 3.3 until the ACE is announced, VeriSign GRS and the registrars will have to convert to the new ACE. If we move to Phase 3.3 before the ACE is announced, VeriSign GRS and the registrars will have to convert to the new ACE. Sounds like one change in either scenario to me.

Chuck Gomes

----Original Message----

From: Paul Hoffman / IMC [mailto:phoffman@imc.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2001 9:31 PM

To: idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

Subject: Re: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

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Now that this very significant issue has been identified, shouldn't VGRS spend the time to help the registrars prepare for the new encoding?

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All of these will pollute the com/net/org zones for which VGRS is responsible. Why would VGRS want to put entries into the zones that VGRS knows will soon become useless?

What does VGRS plan to do to explain to end users about all the changes?

Nothing in your message indicated that VGRS had ICANN's approval for this hasty move. Does VGRS have ICANN's approval? If so, could you say where; if not, shouldn't that be obtained first?

Answers to these questions would be much appreciated. Thanks!

- --Paul Hoffman, Director
- --Internet Mail Consortium

Participants on the Verisign Global Registry Services idntestbed list are requested to not cross-post messages.

From: owner-idntestbed@verisign-grs.com on behalf of Ross Wm. Rader [ross@tucows.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 9:28 AM

To: Gomes, Chuck; 'Paul Hoffman / IMC'; idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

Subject: RE: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

> If there is any confusion caused for registrar customers (registrants), it

- > would be essentially the same in 3.2 as 3.3. A smooth conversion plan and
- > good communication with registrars and registrants would need to be an
- > essential feature whether it is done during Phase 3.2 or Phase 3.3.

I completely agree Chuck. When we will see a plan that features these attributes?

-rwr

From: owner-idntestbed@verisign-grs.com on behalf of Gomes, Chuck [cgomes@verisign.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 10:09 AM

To: 'ross@tucows.com'; Gomes, Chuck; 'Paul Hoffman / IMC'; idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

Subject: RE: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

Valid question Ross. As I recall from the message that was sent to the IDN registrars, more details are coming this week. A few details were provided in that message. I'll ask our Customer Programs staff to provide more information here.

Chuck

----Original Message----

From: Ross Wm. Rader [mailto:ross@tucows.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 9:28 AM

To: Gomes, Chuck; 'Paul Hoffman / IMC'; idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

Subject: RE: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

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-rwr	

From: owner-idntestbed@verisign-grs.com on behalf of Paul Hoffman / IMC [phoffman@imc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 10:55 AM

To: Gomes, Chuck; idntestbed@verisign-grs.com
Subject: RE: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

At 9:01 AM -0400 5/23/01, Gomes, Chuck wrote: >What damage will be caused to registrars? The same ACE conversion will have >to be done whether it is done before 3.3 or after.

If VGRS chooses to do that, you're right. A more sensible approach, and one that would be easier on registrars and end users, would be to wait until the IETF IDN WG has a stabilized set of documents, and then move to Phase 3.3. That would combine both changes (the new encoding and then new resolution) into a single move.

VGRS has not explained why they are in a rush to make this change now.

Nor did VGRS answer any of the other questions I asked, most notably the ones about VGRS not following its own rules and possibly not having ICANN approval. Such answers would be greatly appreciated. For reference:

>Why does VGRS want to do something that will cause registrars to have >to make multiple changes to their registration process instead of >simply waiting about a month until it becomes clear what the new ACE >will be?

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--Paul Hoffman, Director --Internet Mail Consortium

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Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 10:55 AM

To: 'Paul Hoffman / IMC'; Gomes, Chuck; idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

Subject: RE: [IDNList] IDN Testbed Resolution Phase 3.3

We set some criteria for moving from phase to phase per ICANN's recommendation. Regarding the exit criteria for Phase 3.2, there are development kits available.

Why move ahead? Registrants want resolution and have been saying that loud and clear.

Chuck

----Original Message----

From: Paul Hoffman / IMC [mailto:phoffman@imc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 10:55 AM

To: Gomes, Chuck; idntestbed@verisign-grs.com

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