



**.INFO
German
Script IDN
Launch
ä,ö,ü (Umlaut)
domains**

*ICANN IDN
Workshop*

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Ram Mohan

rmohan@afilias.info

Afilias™
GLOBAL REGISTRY SERVICES

Overview

- German script IDN registrations in .INFO commenced in the March 2004
 - Registration of umlauts only: ä, ö, and ü
- All registrations on a first come, first served basis
- .INFO IDN names be registered in accordance with IETF IDN standards (ie., Punycode only)
- Afilias maintained a separate list of “IDN registrars” on its website
 - Registrars interested in selling .INFO IDNs contacted the registry, for specialized support

Market Potential

- Germany is the #2 market for .INFO registrations
 - Over 265,000 registrations and 135,000 live, dedicated sites
- There are over 100 million German-speakers world wide¹
 - 90% of German businesses are online and 56% of companies have their own Web site
 - It is estimated that in 2004, 62million Germans will be online (7% of the world's population)²

1) <http://glreach.com/bgc/de/german.php3>

2) <http://www.glreach.com/globstats/>

Punycode Submissions Only

- Aug 2003 Afilias adopted ICANN IDN guidelines
 - <http://www.icann.org/general/idn-guidelines-20jun03.htm>
 - All .INFO IDNs will be registered in Punycode only (“xn-names”)
- Punycode is a simple and efficient transfer encoding syntax
 - Afilias provides an IDN RTK to registrars
 - The RTK allows registrars to submit Punycode format .INFO IDN names
 - Registrars must convert names into Punycode before sending to the Registry

Registration Process at the Registrar

- Registrar may accept IDN registrations in their preferred encoding (e.g. UTF-8, ISO 8859-1, etc.) from their customers
- Upon receipt of the IDN registration request, the registrar must process it:
 - Convert the submitted request to Unicode codepoints
 - Normalize the submitted request based on Nameprep procedures
 - Registrars must use the “ToASCII” procedure (provided in your RTK)
 - Encode the processed request in Punycode form
 - Declare this Punycode name as a German script IDN name
 - Verify (using EPP_Check command) that this name is not already registered
 - Submit this German-tagged Punycode IDN name to the .INFO Registry for creation (EPP_Create)

Registration Process at Registry

- Registry will check the following conditions prior to successful creation:
 - Is the name in “xn--” format
 - Is the name tagged as “German”
 - Is the name unique (ie. not exist in registry)
 - Does the name contain a valid German script character
 - All other normal domain name creation rules apply, such as:
 - Sufficient funds
 - Registrar accredited
 - Registrar account in good standing

Other Registry Considerations

- No extra connections for registrars planned for IDN registrations
- No queue system for registrations planned – first come first serve only (No Sunrise or Landrush)
- Names registered in first 30 days subject to Registry Lock & Server Hold status
- Dispute resolution via UDRP or local jurisdictional authorities

Whois

- IDN Domain name displayed in Punycode, Unicode Hex and Unicode HTML
- Registrars could integrate Unicode HTML output (existenzgr#252;ndun) into their Web applications to display umlauts on web browsers (existenzgründung.info)

Whois Excerpt

```
Domain ID:D110-LRMS
Domain Name: XN--EXISTENZGRNDUNG-8VB.INFO
Created On: 27-Nov-2003 21:23:02 UTC
Expiration Date: 27-Nov-2005 21:23:02 UTC
Sponsoring Registrar: R3-LRMS
Status: INACTIVE
Status: OK
IDN Script: DE
Unicode Hex: U+0065 U+0078 U+0069 U+0073
U+0074 U+0065 U+006E U+007A U+0067 U+0072
U+00FC U+006E U+0064 U+0075 U+006E U+0067
Unicode HTML: existenzgr#252;ndun
```

ABOVE

***Both Port 43 and
Web-based Whois
will display the same
information***

IDN Display: Punycode Converter

The screenshot shows the Afilias website's Punycode Converter tool. The header includes the Afilias logo and a search bar for ".info" domains. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options like "All About .INFO" and "WHOIS Search". The main content area features the title "Punycode Converter" and instructions on how to use the tool. It includes a text input field with the example "xn--existenzgrundung-1mb.info" and a "Convert" button. Two annotations with blue arrows point to the input field: one says "Accurate but meaningless" and the other says "Meaningful but doesn't work in Internet Explorer, Email". A "Local Language to Punycode Converter" section is also visible, noting that only German script is currently supported.

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Search for a Name
www. .info
Advanced WHOIS Search

WHAT'S NEW?
[Registration for .INFO German script IDNs started March 10. Get your name today. English | Deutsch](#)

REGISTER A NAME
You can register .INFO domain names through any Afilias-authorized registrar. It's easy! [Learn how here.](#)

Local Language to Punycode Converter
Note: Currently, only the German script is supported by .INFO

Punycode: xn--existenzgrundung-1mb.info
Unicode: existenzgrundung.info

Convert Unicode to Punycode
 Convert Punycode to Unicode

Accurate but meaningless
Meaningful but doesn't work in Internet Explorer, Email

All About .INFO
[Register a .INFO Domain](#)
[.INFO WHOIS Search](#)
[.INFO FAQs](#)
[News and Events For Registrars](#)
[About Afilias](#)

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Other Issues

● IDN EMAIL

- Emails in <ASCII@IDN.INFO> format should work
- Emails in <IDN@IDN.INFO> format will probably not work
- ALL IDN EMAIL FUNCTIONALITY IS UP TO ISPs and other Email service providers

● Zone File

- All IDN .INFO names will be in Zone File, in ASCII “xn--” format ONLY
- Binary forms of IDNs *may* be made available in a separate report

Intellectual Property

- In order to facilitate Intellectual Property disputes, names registered from **start of real-time registrations** till 30 days after start of real-time registrations will be placed on **REGISTRY LOCK**
- ALL fields of names registered in first 30 days will be locked for a further 60 days
 - No updates to contact information or nameservers will be allowed until completion of additional 60 days
 - Allows a “stand-still” period for Intellectual Property disputes to be filed

What have we learnt? Where do we go?

- IDN implementations are only technology implementations
 - The real challenges are in the intersection of technology with social, political & economic policy
 - IDN is not about geography ... perhaps not even about language
- We ran into many temptations to “stray” along the way ...
 - Mixed script registrations
 - Unilaterally claiming to “own” a language
 - Non-standard implementations
 - Pre-emptive client software
- Although IDN technology is complex, Afilias’ experience is proof that TLD operators can learn and implement IDNs quickly yet deliberately, flexibly yet in compliance with standards

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Questions?

rmohan@afilias.info