



The Tunisian experience in managing Arabic Domain Names

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Introduction



- ATI was founded in early 1996
- National Operator of Internet Services and Solutions.
- Provides Internet access and services for institutions and organisations.
- Administrates the country's link and backbone.
- Manages the IP resources.
- Organises seminars and trainings for Internet community.

Introduction



- Manages the ccTLD (.tn)
- Develops Internet strategies, new applications and services in Tunisia.
 - E-commerce
 - E-government
 - E-learning
 - IPv6
 - Arabic Domain Names

Figures



- Population of Arab world is about 300 millions.
- Only 9 millions are using Internet (3 %)
- 99 % of Arab Internet Users were at least french or english speakers (on 1995) , only 55 % on 2001.
- Women represents only 4% of Arab Internet Users (42% in Europe)
- Arabic is the sixth spoken language in the world but it doesn't appear on the Top 10 of common used languages on Internet.

Why Arabic Domain Names ?

- Latin languages can not represent Arabic characters
- Preserve Arabic entity
- Make NTIC affordable for arabic only speaking people.
- Make Internet affordable for little arabic children in their mother tongue.

Why Arabic Domain Names ?



- Participate in bridging the digital divide.
- Encourage Arab users to widely use Internet
- Boost electronic applications use : e-commerce, e-learning, e-government...
- Encourage arabic content on web sites.
- offer to the well-known arabic entities to keep using their arabic names on Internet.

The Arabic Internet Names Consortium



- AINC was founded in 30 April 2001
- The Arabic Internet Names Consortium mission is to teaches, communicates, innovates, generates wealth, governs, does business, rule-makes and progresses in all walks of life through the use of digital technology. It is an entity that has a digital nervous system, which provides the unlimited knowledge management resources for further progress and knowledge creation.

The Arabic Internet Names Consortium



10 Committees was set up :

- **Technical Committee**
- **Policies Committee**
- **Arab Government Relations Committee**
- **Events Committee**
- **Membership Committee**
- **International Relations Committee**
- **Linguistic Committee**
- **Financial, Administrative & Legal Committee**
- **ccTLD Committee**
- **ABLINC Committee**

Arabic Domain Names Project



- Tunisian Internet Agency was involved in the process of setting up arabic domain names since August 2000
- A project paper was prepared and approved by the government .
- 2 committies was set up (technical and linguistic) collaborating in closer manner with the AINC committies.
- Many universities and researches centers participated in setting up a solution for using arabic domain names.

Arabic Domain Names Project



- Tunisia hosted the third annual AINC meeting on April 2002.
- ATI has set up a technical solution for resolving arabic domain names on November 2002.
- The solution offert a resolution of domain names by using a plug-in application.
- The application was launched for test in January 2003. Many ISPs was involved in this process.

Arabic Domain Names Project



- A new upgraded version of the application was launched on november 2003.
- About 30 tunisian arabic domain names are by now used in tunisia only.
- The technical team is now studying the implementation of other services (e-mail, ftp,etc..).

Arabic Domain Names Project



- A project paper was prepared and sent to the world bank to finance this project in collaboration with ATI.
- The purpose of the project is the implementation, the deployment and the standardization of the solution in coordination with MINC, AINC and other international organisations.



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