ICANN New gTLD Program
DNS Stability Evaluation Process

DNS Stability Evaluation

The DNS Stability evaluation for strings that are proposed by new gTLD applicants is described in Section 2.2.1.3 of the *Applicant Guidebook*. Each proposed string will be evaluated by the DNS Stability Panel (DSP) to determine (a) whether or not the string complies with the requirements of section 2.2.1.3.2 of the *Applicant Guidebook,* and (b) whether or not the delegation of the string as a top-level domain name label would raise significant security or stability issues. For each applied-for string, the DNS Stability evaluation will produce either a "pass" or a "fail" result during Initial Evaluation. This result is not subject to Extended Evaluation.

The process and criteria for the new gTLD DNS Stability Evaluation are similar to and consistent with those that currently apply to the ongoing IDN ccTLD Fast Track DNS Stability Evaluation, with the exception that string similarity issues are outside the scope of the new gTLD DNS Stability Evaluation. The DSP includes members of the IDN ccTLD Fast Track DNS Stability Panel, who are experts in Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), IDNs for Applications (IDNA), DNS security and stability, character coding issues, and writing systems.

Process

The DNS Stability Evaluation proceeds through the following 3 steps:

1. Perform tests to determine whether or not each applied-for string conforms to the technical string requirements specified in Section 2.2.1.3.2

of the Applicant Guidebook (Parts I, II, and III). A string that conforms to all of the requirements proceeds to the next step. A string that does not conform to all of the requirements receives a "fail" evaluation result.

2. Review each applied-for string that conforms to all of the technical string requirements to identify security or stability issues that might arise from the delegation of the string as a top-level domain name label (if any). If no issues that require additional consideration are identified, the string receives a "pass" evaluation result.

3. For any issues identified in step 2, determine whether or not the applied-for string (a) complies with relevant standards, and (b) does not create a condition that would adversely affect the throughput, response time, consistency, or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems. If both (a) and (b) are true, the string receives a "pass" result. If either (a) or (b) is not true, the string receives a "fail" result.