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Internationalized Domain Names from a Cultural Perspective

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Each language reflects a unique world-view and culture complex, mirroring the manner in which a speech community has resolved its problems in dealing with the world, and has formulated its thinking, its system of philosophy and understanding of the world around it. In this, each language is the means of expression of the intangible cultural heritage of people ...

The Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger of Disappearing

Stephen Wurm, UNESCO, 2001

My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip. So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip.

Great Expectations, Charles Dickens

Member States and international organizations should promote appropriate partnerships in the management of domain names, including multilingual domain names.

*Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of
Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace*

UNESCO General Conference 2003

This document gives guidelines for a character set – with certain accompanying obligations – containing the letters and other characters that governmental agencies must be able to use for writing personal names, corporate names and geographic names for computerized processing.

*Character set guidelines for writing names
in Swedish electronic administration*

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å LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH RING ABOVE (U+00E5)

ä LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH DIAERESIS (U+00E4)

ö LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH DIAERESIS (U+00F6)

é LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH ACUTE (U+00E9)

ü LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH DIAERESIS (U+00FC)

Plus -

á LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH ACUTE (U+00E1)
à LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH GRAVE (U+00E0)
ã LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH BREVE (U+0103)
â LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH CIRCUMFLEX (U+00E2)
å LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH RING ABOVE (U+00E5)
ä LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH DIAERESIS (U+00E4)
ã LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH TILDE (U+00E3)
ą LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH OGONEK (U+0105)
ā LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH MACRON (U+0101)
ǎ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH CARON (U+01CE)
æ LATIN SMALL LETTER AE (U+00E6)
ạ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH DOT BELOW (U+1EA1)
ǎ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH HOOK ABOVE (U+1EA3)
ǣ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH BREVE AND ACUTE (U+1EAF)
ǧ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH BREVE AND DOT BELOW (U+1EB7)
ǎ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH BREVE AND GRAVE (U+1EB1)
ǣ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH BREVE AND HOOK ABOVE (U+1EB3)
ǣ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH BREVE AND TILDE (U+1EB5)
ǣ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND ACUTE (U+1EA5)
ạ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND DOT BELOW (U+1EAD)
ằ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND GRAVE (U+1EA7)
ẵ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND HOOK ABOVE (U+1EA9)
ẵ LATIN SMALL LETTER A WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND TILDE (U+1EAB)
ć LATIN SMALL LETTER C WITH ACUTE (U+0107)
č LATIN SMALL LETTER C WITH CARON (U+010D)
ċ LATIN SMALL LETTER C WITH DOT ABOVE (U+010B)
ç LATIN SMALL LETTER C WITH CEDILLA (U+00E7)
ď LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH CARON (U+010F)
đ LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH STROKE (U+0111)
ð LATIN SMALL LETTER ETH (U+00F0)

é LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH ACUTE (U+00E9)
è LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH GRAVE (U+00E8)
ê LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH CIRCUMFLEX (U+00EA)
ě LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH CARON (U+011B)
ë LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH DIAERESIS (U+00EB)
ę LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH OGONEK (U+0119)
ē LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH MACRON (U+0113)
ê LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH DOT ABOVE (U+0117)
ẹ LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH DOT BELOW (U+1EB9)
ě LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH HOOK ABOVE (U+1EBB)
ẽ LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH TILDE (U+1EBD)
Ế LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND ACUTE (U+1EBF)
ệ LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND DOT BELOW (U+1EC7)
ề LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND GRAVE (U+1EC1)
Ễ LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND HOOK ABOVE (U+1EC3)
Ễ LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND TILDE (U+1EC5)
ə LATIN SMALL LETTER SCHWA (U+0259)
ğ LATIN SMALL LETTER G WITH BREVE (U+011F)
ǧ LATIN SMALL LETTER G WITH CARON (U+01E7)
ġ LATIN SMALL LETTER G WITH DOT ABOVE (U+0121)
ĝ LATIN SMALL LETTER G WITH CEDILLA (U+0123)
ḡ LATIN SMALL LETTER G WITH STROKE (U+01E5)
ħ LATIN SMALL LETTER H WITH STROKE (U+0127)
i LATIN SMALL LETTER I (U+0069)
ı LATIN SMALL LETTER DOTLESS I (U+0131) 2)
í LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH ACUTE (U+00ED)
ì LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH GRAVE (U+00EC)
î LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH CIRCUMFLEX (U+00EE)
ï LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH DIAERESIS (U+00EF)

ĭ LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH OGONEK (U+012F)
ĩ LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH MACRON (U+012B)
ï LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH CARON (U+01D0)
ị LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH DOT BELOW (U+1ECB)
ỉ LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH HOOK ABOVE (U+1EC9)
ĩ LATIN SMALL LETTER I WITH TILDE (U+0129)
j LATIN SMALL LETTER J (U+006A)
k LATIN SMALL LETTER K (U+006B)
ķ LATIN SMALL LETTER K WITH CARON (U+01E9)
ķ LATIN SMALL LETTER K WITH CEDILLA (U+0137)
l LATIN SMALL LETTER L (U+006C)
ĺ LATIN SMALL LETTER L WITH ACUTE (U+013A)
ļ LATIN SMALL LETTER L WITH CARON (U+013E)
ļ LATIN SMALL LETTER L WITH CEDILLA (U+013C)
ł LATIN SMALL LETTER L WITH STROKE (U+0142)
m LATIN SMALL LETTER M (U+006D)
n LATIN SMALL LETTER N (U+006E)
ń LATIN SMALL LETTER N WITH ACUTE (U+0144)
ň LATIN SMALL LETTER N WITH CARON (U+0148)
ñ LATIN SMALL LETTER N WITH TILDE (U+00F1)
ņ LATIN SMALL LETTER N WITH CEDILLA (U+0146)
ŋ LATIN SMALL LETTER ENG (U+014B)
ó LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH ACUTE (U+00F3)
ò LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH GRAVE (U+00F2)
ô LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH CIRCUMFLEX (U+00F4)
ö LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH DIAERESIS (U+00F6)
õ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH DOUBLE ACUTE (U+0151)
õ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH TILDE (U+00F5)
ō LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH MACRON (U+014D)
ǒ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH CARON (U+01D2)

œ LATIN SMALL LIGATURE OE (U+0153)
ø LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH DOT BELOW (U+1ECD)
ǿ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH HOOK ABOVE (U+1ECF)
ố LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND ACUTE (U+1ED1)
ộ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND DOT BELOW (U+1ED9)
ồ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND GRAVE (U+1ED3)
ỗ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND HOOK ABOVE (U+1ED5)
ỗ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH CIRCUMFLEX AND TILDE (U+1ED7)
ơ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH HORN (U+01A1)
ớ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH HORN AND ACUTE (U+1EDB)
ợ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH HORN AND DOT BELOW (U+1EE3)
ờ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH HORN AND GRAVE (U+1EDD)
ở LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH HORN AND HOOK ABOVE (U+1EDF)
ỡ LATIN SMALL LETTER O WITH HORN AND TILDE (U+1EE1)
í LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH ACUTE (U+0155)
ř LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH CARON (U+0159)
ŗ LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH CEDILLA (U+0157)
ś LATIN SMALL LETTER S WITH ACUTE (U+015B)
š LATIN SMALL LETTER S WITH CARON (U+0161)
ș LATIN SMALL LETTER S WITH CEDILLA (U+015F)
ß LATIN SMALL LETTER SHARP S (U+00DF)
ť LATIN SMALL LETTER T WITH CARON (U+0165)
ť LATIN SMALL LETTER T WITH CEDILLA (U+0163)
ț LATIN SMALL LETTER T WITH STROKE (U+0167)
ú LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH ACUTE (U+00FA)
ù LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH GRAVE (U+00F9)
û LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH CIRCUMFLEX (U+00FB)
û LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH RING ABOVE (U+016F)
ü LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH DIAERESIS (U+00FC)

ŭ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH DOUBLE ACUTE (U+0171)
ų LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH OGONEK (U+0173)
ū LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH MACRON (U+016B)
ů LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH CARON (U+01D4)
ȳ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH DOT BELOW (U+1EE5)
ǔ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH HOOK ABOVE (U+1EE7)
ũ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH TILDE (U+0169)
Ƶ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH HORN (U+01B0)
ƶ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH HORN AND ACUTE (U+1EE9)
Ʒ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH HORN AND DOT BELOW (U+1EF1)
Ƹ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH HORN AND GRAVE (U+1EEB)
ƹ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH HORN AND HOOK ABOVE (U+1EED)
ƺ LATIN SMALL LETTER U WITH HORN AND TILDE (U+1EEF)
ŵ LATIN SMALL LETTER W WITH ACUTE (U+1E83)
Ẁ LATIN SMALL LETTER W WITH GRAVE (U+1E81)
Ẃ LATIN SMALL LETTER W WITH CIRCUMFLEX (U+0175)
Ẅ LATIN SMALL LETTER W WITH DIAERESIS (U+1E85)
ý LATIN SMALL LETTER Y WITH ACUTE (U+00FD)
ỳ LATIN SMALL LETTER Y WITH GRAVE (U+1EF3)
ÿ LATIN SMALL LETTER Y WITH CIRCUMFLEX (U+0177)
ÿ LATIN SMALL LETTER Y WITH DIAERESIS (U+00FF)
ȳ LATIN SMALL LETTER Y WITH DOT BELOW (U+1EF5)
ȳ LATIN SMALL LETTER Y WITH HOOK ABOVE (U+1EF7)
ỹ LATIN SMALL LETTER Y WITH TILDE (U+1EF9)
ż LATIN SMALL LETTER Z WITH ACUTE (U+017A)
ż LATIN SMALL LETTER Z WITH CARON (U+017E)
ž LATIN SMALL LETTER Z WITH DOT ABOVE (U+017C)
ẓ LATIN SMALL LETTER EZH (U+0292)
ž LATIN SMALL LETTER EZH WITH CARON (U+01EF)
þ LATIN SMALL LETTER THORN (U+00FE)

This covers two of the legally recognized
minority languages in Sweden:

Finnish
and
Meänkieli

It partially covers two more:

Romani

and

Sami

which both cross multiple national boundaries
and are also written in Cyrillic script.

But it does not include

Yiddish

which is written in Hebrew script,
from right to left.

And it does not cover the languages spoken by
other minority communities, such as

Arabic
and
Persian

which are written in Arabic scripts, and used
by immigrant groups that are larger than
several of those with official status.

The situation in Sweden displays a substantial degree of sociolinguistic complexity, and illustrates cultural and technical challenges that must be addressed by any TLD registry that wishes to support IDN.

The .museum gTLD has its center of operation in Stockholm and is contributing its experience in broadly international multicultural contexts to this effort.

One goal of this collaboration is a general methodology for dealing with situations where a single country is home to a number of speech communities with strong senses of autonomous cultural identity, and where those communities may extend beyond the national boundaries.

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