The Arab TLD

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Motivation

• The Arab TLD was on the agenda of the Arab team since day 1.
• Two needs
  – Express the existence of the Arab Identity on the Internet: .arab
  – Create a “usable” system for TLD registration in Arabic “عربي.”
• At that time (2005) no process for new TLDs
Arab TLD choices

- Either a ccTLD (a la .eu). Problem: very stringent requirements, mainly the presence of a two digit abbreviation, long process and no IDN was envisaged at that time.
- Or gTLD, which is still not open yet.
- For the Arab community it does not really matter: The end is the most important.

Current status

- New ICANN process for gTLD creation.
- Arab team doing due diligence and closely monitoring the process, and sending comments.
- Several issues still on the list of the Arab team requirements:
  - Treat Arab TLD as a geographic TLD.
  - Fees are still too high, especially for most of Arab countries.
Last evolution

• For the gTLD: Agreement with ITU to file the request on behalf of the LAS. The LAS will make an open tender to bring in an operator to set up the TLD once obtained.
• Setup of a steering committee to follow-up on project evolution procedures.
• Arab Team prepared a set of reference conditions.
• On the ccTLD track: Interesting evolution. The ccNSO are revising their bylaws. Maybe a golden opportunity to pass .Arab as a ccTLD.