The GCC Pilot Project for Arabic Domain Names

How to Resolve Arabic Domain Names

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1. Introduction

Since ICANN has not yet supported full Arabic ccTLD any solution for supporting Arabic domain names would be only accessible locally. Therefore, there should be a hacking solution until Arabic domain names is world-wide supported. Hence, any entity needs to reach GCC Arabic domain names must therefore do some changes in the configuration files of their resolving/caching name servers..

2. Hacking solution for enabling Arabic domains on your Resolver

The Task force has agreed on using the "stub zone" configuration option for any entity that needs to resolve GCC Arabic domain names. A "stub" zone is like a "slave" zone, except that it replicates only the NS records of a master zone instead of the entire zone.

Therefore, if any entity wants to resolve Arabic GCC ccTLD domain names they should configure all the Arabic GCC ccTLD as "stub" zones in the configuration of their name server and point them to the GCC Arabic root servers.

3. Configuring Bind name server

Here is an example on how to configure stub zone using bind version 8 or higher in the file "named.conf" for all the GCC Arabic ccTLDs:

```
// e.g. : add these lines to your named.conf file.
// contact GCC-ADNS Taskforce to get the updated list
zone "xn--mgberp4a5d4ar" {
        type stub;
        file "sa.idn.zone" ;
        masters { 213.42.20.76; 212.26.18.12; };
};
zone "xn--kgbdbap4b0ij" {
        type stub;
        file "ae.idn.zone" ;
        masters { 213.42.20.76; 212.26.18.12; };
};
```

File: named.conf

But our recommendation is to use the "include" statement instead of defining them directly in your "named.conf", as follows:

```
// e.g. : add these lines to your named.conf file.
// contact GCC-ADNS Taskforce to get the updated list
Include "Arabic_ccTLD_stub_zone_files.inc";
```

File: named.conf

Please contact the GCC-ADNS Taskforce to get the up-to-date list) of all stub zones (Arabic_ccTLD_stub_zone_files.inc.

More information
- The GCC ADNS Taskforce website:
  http://www.arabic-domains.org.sa
- Bind DNS server:
  http://www.isc.org/sw/bind/
- The DNS resource directory:
  http://www.dns.net/dnsrd/
- GNU Libidn:
  http://www.gnu.org/software/libidn/