

# Arabic Domain Names Pilot Project

Communication and Information Technology Commission

Saudi Network Information Center

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ISOC ccTLD Workshop – 11/2007 Jordan



# Agenda

- ❖ About Saudi NIC.
- ❖ Arabic Domain Names
- ❖ ADNPP Introduction
- ❖ ADN Pilot Project.
- ❖ ADN Plug-in Examples.

# About Saudi NIC

- A non-profit entity that is operated by Communication and Information Technology Commission (CITC)
- In charge of administering the domain name space under (.sa) since 1995
- **Mission Statement:**  
to provide an equitable, just and competent technical and administrative management of domain name registrations for Internet community in Saudi Arabia.



# About Saudi NIC: Sub Domains

- **com.sa** : Dedicated only for entities that provide **commercial services**
- **edu.sa** : Dedicated only for **educational and training institutions**
- **sch.sa** : Dedicated only for all types of **schools**
- **med.sa** : Dedicated only for entities that provides **health** services.
- **gov.sa** : Dedicated only for **Governmental** entities
- **net.sa** : Dedicated only for entities that provide **Internet-related** services
- **org.sa** : Dedicated only for **non-profit** organizations.
- **pub.sa** : Dedicated only for **individuals** (including personal names)



# About Saudi NIC: Registration Procedure



## Domain availability

Checking the availability of the domain name using our (whois) service.



## Hosting

Setting up the DNS server then testing them using the tools available on our website.



## Request submission

Filling up and sending the registration form available on our website.

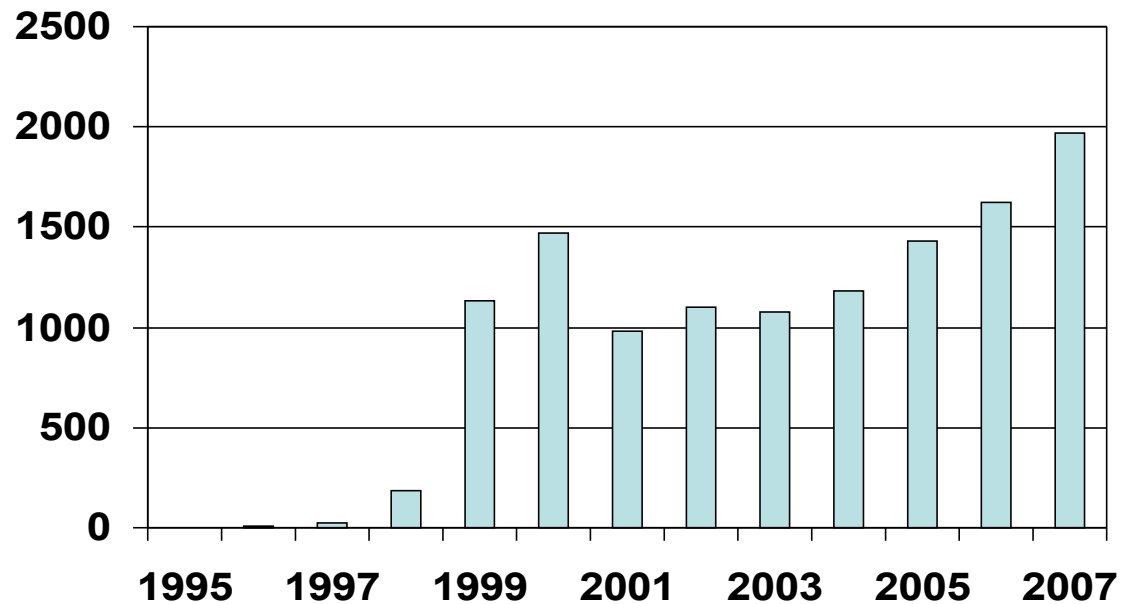


## Official documents

Sending the registration request letter and necessary official documents.

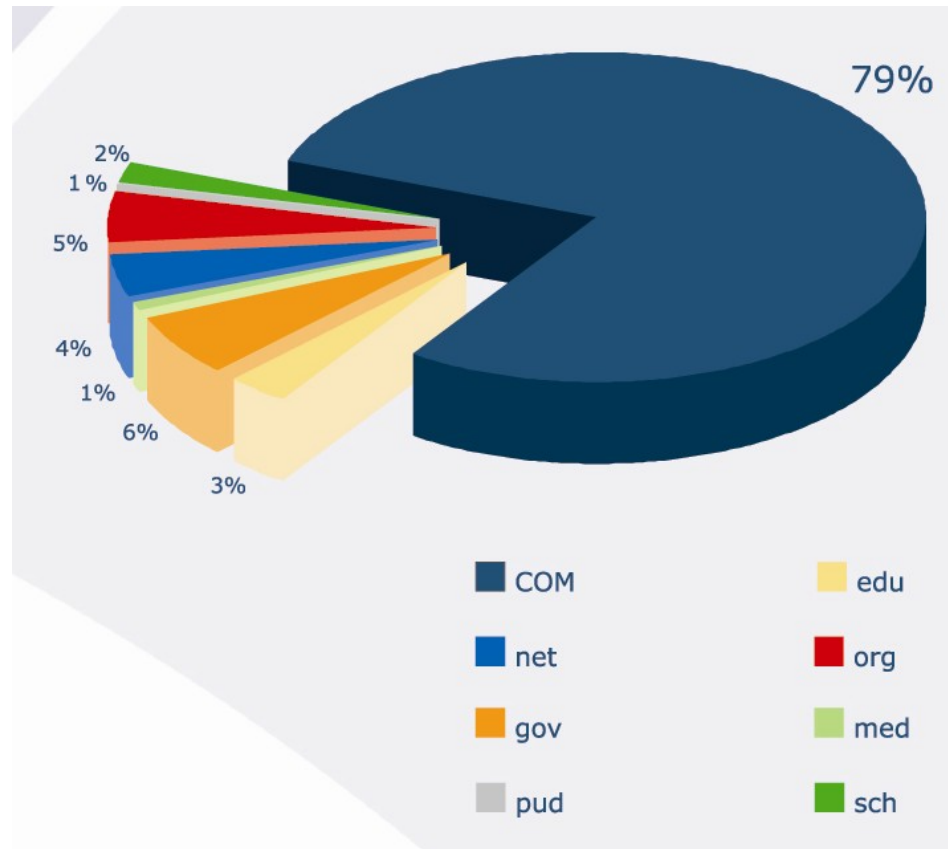
# About Saudi NIC: Statistics

- Total number of registered domain names per year by the end of 2006, there are 12,113 active domain



# About Saudi NIC: Statistics (cont)

- Total number of registered domain names per sub-domain by the end of 2006



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# ADN Introduction: What is the problem?

- Current ASCII-based DNS are incapable of representing Arabic characters
- Difficulty to reach Arabic sites using English DNS (pronunciation & spelling problems)
- Full Arabic DNS will encourage Arab users to widely use the Internet

Arabic News paper

صحيفة الشرق الأوسط

[www.al-sharqalawsat.com](http://www.al-sharqalawsat.com)

[www.asharqalawsat.com](http://www.asharqalawsat.com)

[www.asharq-alaowsat.com](http://www.asharq-alaowsat.com)

[www.elsharkelaosat.com](http://www.elsharkelaosat.com)

...



E-government Site

يسر

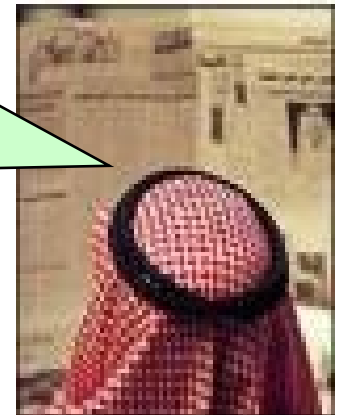
[www.yasser.gov.sa](http://www.yasser.gov.sa)

[www.yaser.gov.sa](http://www.yaser.gov.sa)

[www.yasir.gov.sa](http://www.yasir.gov.sa)

[www.yassir.gov.sa](http://www.yassir.gov.sa)

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# ADN Introduction: Internet in the Arab World

- **Statistics**
  - Population of Arab world: 275 B (5% of world population)
  - Arab Internet users represent 0.9 % of world users
  - Less than 10% who can speak English in the Arab world
- **Obstacles facing Internet use**
  - Low level of telecommunication infrastructure
  - Lack of adequate regulations
  - High cost
  - Computer Illiteracy
  - Language barrier
    - Contents
    - Tools and applications
    - Domain names

# ADN Introduction: Why do we need ADN ?

- Arabic language differs from Latin-based languages.
- Some proposed solutions, e.g. (ICANN IDN): mixing two scripts : `نطاقcom.sa`.
  - Dose not solve the problem since the user will have to write in two different languages (left-to-right and right-to-left)

# ADN Introduction: Arabic Language Characteristics

- Consists of **28** characters.
- Writing direction from **Right-to-Left**.
- **Diacritics** are used for pronunciations which lead to different meanings as well
- Two sets of **numerals** are used (Arabic and Arabic-Indic)
  - 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
  - ٠, ١, ٢, ٣, ٤, ٥, ٦, ٧, ٨, ٩
- **Abbreviation** is not common
- ...

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- ❖ **ADNPP Introduction**
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# ADNPP Introduction

- ANDPP stands to Arabic Domain Name Pilot Project.
- Implementing a test bed for Arabic domain names (ADN) in the Arab world.
- This will allow all Arab countries to early experience the use of Arabic domain names:
  - ✓ identify their needs.
  - ✓ agree on standards.
  - ✓ locate possible problems.
  - ✓ and develop required tools and policies.
- The project is not commercial and had been initiated by a non profit organizations
- ADNPP works under the supervision of the Arab League



# ADNPP Introduction: The Goals

- Establish and implement Arabic domain names.
- Increase the Internet use in the Arab world by making the Internet easier to use for native Arabic speakers.
- Gain experience and knowledge of using Arabic domain names and share it with the Internet community.
- Test the implantations of Arabic domain names based on the guidelines drafted by the “Arabic Team for Domain Names”.
- Develop necessary tools required for Arabic domain names and DNS.

# ADNPP Introduction: The Current Participants

- ✓ **United Arab Emirates**
- ✓ **Saudi Arabia**
- ✓ **Qatar**
- ✓ **Oman**
- ✓ **Palestine**
- ✓ **Egypt**
- ✓ **Tunisia**
- ✓ **Syria**
- ✓ **Jordan**



United Arab Emirates

[United Arab Emirates Network Information Center](#)



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Network Information Center](#)



State of Qatar

[Internet Qatar](#)



Sultanate of Oman

[Oman Telecommunications Company](#)



State Of Palestine

[Ministry of Telecom and IT](#)



Arab Republic Of Egypt

[Ministry of Communications & Information Technology](#)



Republic Of Tunisia

[Tunisian Internet agency](#)



Syrian Arab Republic

[Tunisian Internet agency](#)



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

[National information technology center](#)





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- ❖ **ADN Pilot Project Results.**
- ❖ ADN Plug-in Examples.

# ADN Project Results

- The ADN project passed on two stages.
- Stages divided depends on the technical solution.
- First stage is: Distribute the ADN zone file on the all Arab ISPs who want to participate in the pilot project.
- Second stage is: develop client tool and plugs-in to does the converting the ADN to IDN.

# ADN Project Results

- Distribute the ADN zone file on the all Arab ISPs who want to participate in the pilot project.
- Advantage:
  - No needs to client processing.
- Disadvantage
  - Difficult to coordinate and make every ISP to join the project so users can reach ADN.
  - Some ISPs lack technical experiences to work with IDN.
  - MS browser IE (Ver. 6 or less) does not support IDN.
  - The proxies problems.
  - Restricted to Saudi Arabia.

# ADN Project Results

- Developed browser plug-in to convert the ADN (دليل.الأردن) to (IDN (xn--ugb6bax.adn.jo).
- The plug-in developed to MS IE 6, IE7 and FireFox.

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# ADN Examples: IE6

internet.sa — internet.sa - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorite

Address http://إنترنت.السعودية/

Address http://إنترنت.السعودية/ Go

اتصل بنا نبذة عن

بحث

internet@sa  
تشغيل تجريبي  
الإنترنت في السعودية

الرئيسية الأخبار تعلم الإنترنت خدمات وإحصاءات  
أنت هنا الرئيسية \

اخترنا لك - رابطة الأسبوع

جوجل

محرك البحث الأكبر على شبكة الإنترنت، يوفر خدمة البحث في الشبكة العنكبوتية وفي الصور والأخبار والمجموعات والكتب. مزيد من الروابط

قائمة المصطلحات

أخر الأخبار

## طلب مرئيات العموم في تطوير الهيكلية التنظيمية لمكافحة الرسائل الاقتصادية (SPAM)

1430-08-2007

دعت هيئة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات جميع أفراد العموم سواء في المملكة أو في الخارج للمشاركة في طلب المرئيات الخاص بمكافحة الرسائل الاقتصادية (SPAM)

دعت هيئة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات جميع أفراد العموم سواء في المملكة أو في الخارج بما في ذلك الأفراد والمنظمات العامة، والهيئات التجارية للمشاركة في طلب المرئيات الخاص بمكافحة الرسائل الاقتصادية (SPAM) وأشارت الهيئة الى ان طلب مرئيات العموم يهدف إلى تزويد الأطراف المعنية بفرصة لتقديم آرائهم لهيئة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات فيما يخص المبادئ الهيكلية التنظيمية لمكافحة الرسائل الاقتصادية ومساعدة هيئة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في مياغة قراراتها النهائية بشأن المبادئ العامة المقترحة والمنصوص عليها في الوثيقة

# ADN Examples: IE7



# ADN Examples: FireFox





# Comments



Comments or Question

# Thank you

شكرا

xn--mgbti4d

- Mohammed Alhamed, [mhamed@citc.gov.sa](mailto:mhamed@citc.gov.sa)
- Bander Al-Thakafi, [bthakafi@citc.gov.sa](mailto:bthakafi@citc.gov.sa)

