# 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

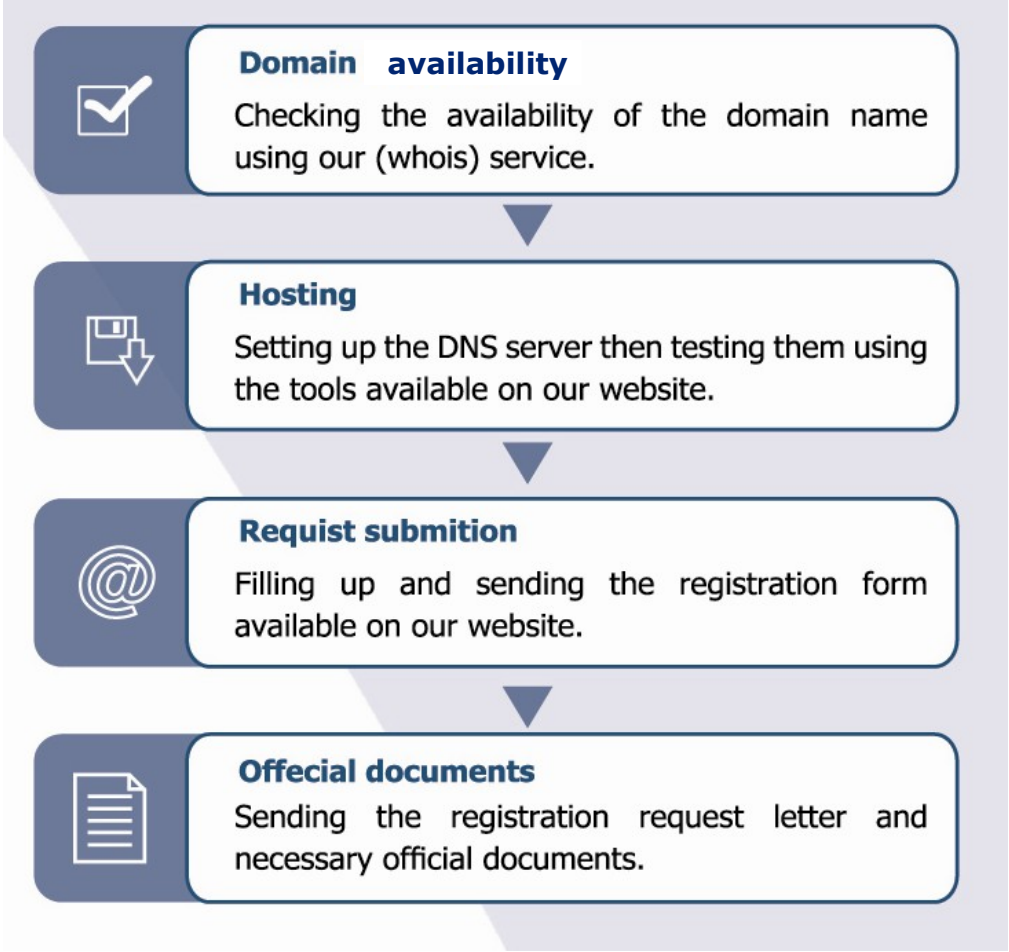
- Mission Statement:

  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

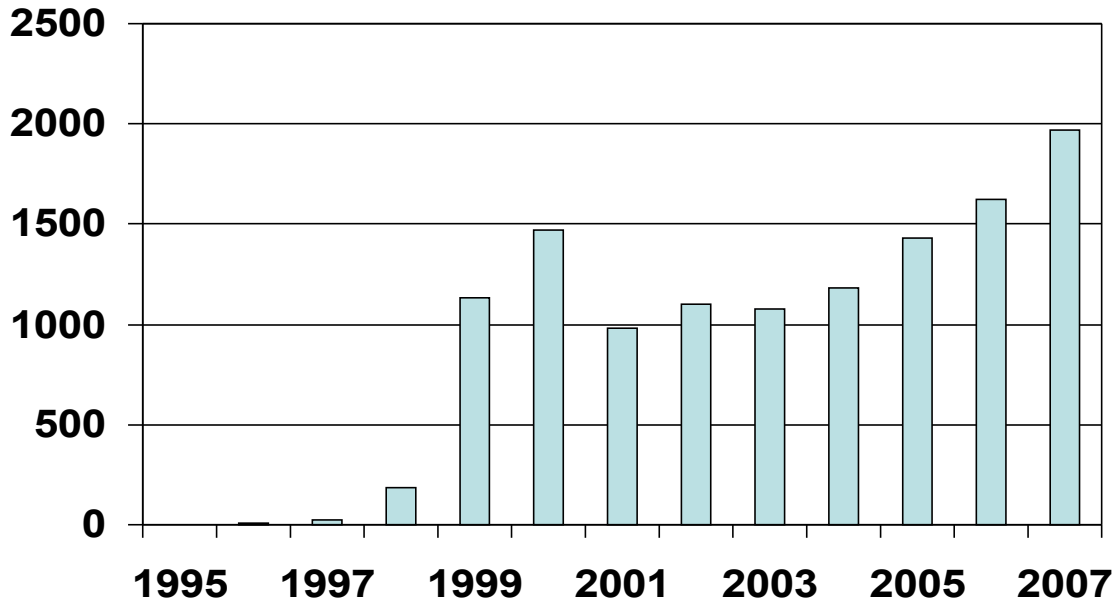
- **com.sa** : Dedicated only for entities that provide **commercial services**
- **edu.sa** : Dedicated only for **educational and training institutions**
- **sch.sa** : Dedicated only for all types of **schools**
- **med.sa** : Dedicated only for entities that provides **health** services.
- **gov.sa** : 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



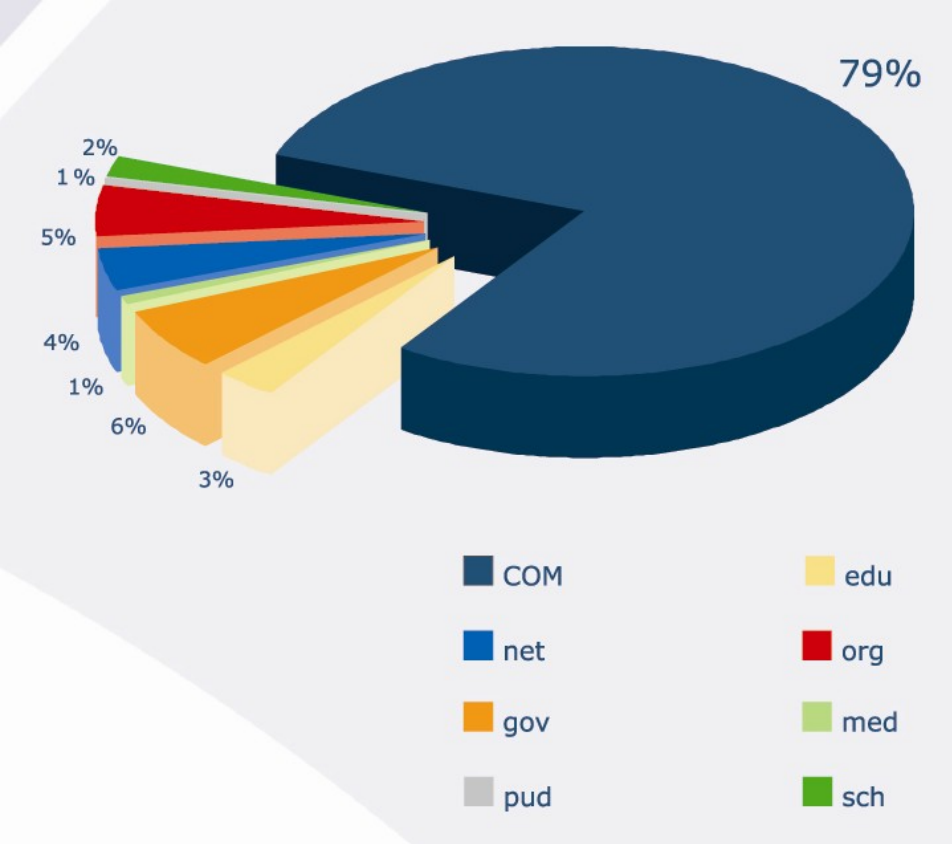
# About Saudi NIC: Statistics

- 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
www.asharqalawsat.com
www.asharq-alaowsat.com
www.elsharkelaosat.com
...

E-government Site
يسّر
www.yasser.gov.sa
www.yaser.gov.sa
www.yasir.gov.sa
www.yassir.gov.sa
...

# 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

- 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 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.
- Seconds 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

# ADN Examples: IE7

# ADN Examples: FireFox

# Comments

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Comments or Question

# Thank you

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