



# URL Internationalization

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IDN working group

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# URL Internationalization

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- In discussion for at least 4 years
- Nearly a superset of DNS I18N
- “URLs” include mailto: and other forms which include host and domain names
- In most cases, change “URL” to “host name” doesn’t change argument



# The Compatibility Dilemma

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- Much current software won't work with new feature
- Want new feature everywhere

## **Solution**

- Don't change *existing* protocol element
- Introduce *new* protocol element (IURL, Ihostname) which has desired features
- Plan for software upgrade of handle new protocol element in addition to old



# Categories of software that need upgrade

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*Section numbers from draft-masinter-url-i18n-05*

- 3.2 User enters (types, dictates) URL (hostname) into software
- 3.3 System generates (assigns) URL (hostname) to resource
- 3.4 User selects (clicks on) URL (hostname) from set of choices
- 3.5 System displays (prints) URL (hostname) for user to read
- 3.6 System resolves (looks up) URL (hostname) to get resource
- 3.7 URL (hostname) is embedded in document



# Other common issues

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- Normalization
- Avoiding names with different encodings but identical written forms
- Care with delimiters & punctuation
- Care with bidirectional names and BIDI marks



# Please

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- Don't create an IDN system that cannot be used with IURLs
- Change IURL syntax if necessary