URL Internationalization

IDN working group
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URL Internationalization

- 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

- 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

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

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

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