Using local language character sets in domain names and email addresses

THNIC Foundation

February 2020
Digital Divide

• Dominant of English in Internet use.
• For those who cannot speak or understand English, much of the internet is out of reach.

![Two Worlds: Languages IRL and Online](Image: Statista)
IDN Deployment

- IETF released guidelines for IDN and EAI
- More than 530 TLDs were offering IDNs (at top and second level) by December 2018
- At the end of 2018, there were 9 million IDNs, comprise 2.5% of the world’s domains

IDN Usages in Thailand
IDN Usages in Taiwan
IDN Usages
Problems

• Web addresses cannot be resolved to the intended resource on the website
• Mail systems cannot send mails to expected recipients
• IDNs are difficult to use and do not work in many contexts
THNIC IDN&EAI Timeline

Launch of **IDN.th**

Launch of **IDN.ไทย**

Launch EAI Service (Crossflow) free version

EAI Service (Crossflow) Enterprise version

2004

2011

2016

2017

2019

• THNG Camp EAI and IDN Hackathon
• รู้จัก.ไทย (**knows.in.th**)
• 2st Thai Websites Test for .ไทย IDN and EAI Readiness
• .ไทย Verified by THNIC

• 1st Thai Websites Test for .ไทย IDN and EAI Readiness
• EAI wiki
IDN and EAI Updates

• Communicated/created awareness to public, administrators and developers
  • Published a dedicated our website (IDN domain) for IDN and EAI Updates
  • Developed (and support) websites (and booklets) for community
  • Notified IT operators/administrators to modify their systems to be EAI ready
  • Joined local developer communities’ meet-ups to let them know about IDN and EAI and benefits for their users

• Provided EAI service and free accounts

• Developed guidelines for configuring a popular adopted email system and used the guidelines in hackathon events

• Tested popular web sites in Thailand in 2017 and 2019 for their EAI readiness
IDN and EAI Updates (cont.)

• Planning and defining local stakeholders, and outcome aimed
• Developing EAI Software Purchasing Guideline in Thai
Universal Acceptance 2019

- Ability to use IDNs across all applications and services associated with domain names

- State of Universal Acceptance
  - major browsers is now quite mature, progress being made in mobile browsers (smartphones, tablets and other, smaller, portable devices)
  - widely deployed email systems have support for EAI
  - social media applications do a good job of displaying non-ASCII scripts and URLs

- “The pace of improvement for Universal Acceptance is glacial. While improvements can be reported, success at the application layer, the interface for human beings, seems a long way off.”

IDN and EAI BoF @ APRICOT 2020

• How to increase the awareness of its significance?
• How to ensure that IDNs and EAI can be used faultlessly?
• Updates of what IDNs and EAI activities have been done

Wednesday, 19 February 2020
Room M1 & M2
Time: 18.00 – 19.00

Please join!