

Unanswered Questions from 5 March Applicant Update Webinar

Q: If the reply provided by the applicant is not sufficient to answer the Clarifying Questions (CQs), will there be a follow-up question from the respective evaluator? Or will the application simply fail?

The New gTLD Program does not provide for a second round of CQs during Initial Evaluation (IE). ICANN will perform a completeness check prior to releasing IE results. As part of this completeness check, outreach to applicants may be made by ICANN if the application is missing certain information. The applicant will have the option to do nothing and have their results released, or to have their application held and provide more information. If they choose the latter, they will have five days to provide the missing information. If new information is provided, this information will become part of the application. The evaluators will complete their evaluation based on the most current application information, which will include any new information provided. If the new information introduces inconsistencies in the application, creates new issues, or is still insufficient for the evaluators to award a passing score, the application will be scored and results posted without further notice.

Q: Why were singular and plural applications, for example: loan/loans, not considered to be in contention?

The role of the String Similarity Panel was to assess whether a proposed gTLD string created a probability of user confusion due to a *visual* match or *visual* similarity with any reserved name, any existing TLD, any requested IDN ccTLD, or any new gTLD string applied for in the current application round. (See Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.1.1.)

Per the Applicant Guidebook, applied for strings that were deemed to create a probability of user confusion due to a *visual* match or *visual* similarity with any reserved name, any existing TLD, any requested IDN ccTLD, or any new gTLD string applied for in the current application round were placed into contention sets.

Based on the results of the String Similarity Panel, it appears that the Panel did not find the plural version of a word to be visually similar to the singular version of that same word.

For more information on string contention procedures, please refer to [Module 4 \[PDF, 428 KB\]](#) of the Applicant Guidebook.

Q: If I think that there is a string that is confusing with mine do I need to object to every applicant to make sure I hit the one that might eventually win? In other words, what happens if there's a string similarity objection against one specific application in a contention set, and then that application is withdrawn? Is the objector's application still in a contention set with the remaining applications in the original contention set?

A party with standing may file an objection on as many applications as they wish; so long as a separate objection is filed for each application. If one or more applications in a contention set is/are withdrawn because someone objects on string similarity grounds, the contentions set still exists if there are two or more applications remaining in the contention set.