

CLDR Address Formatting

Attendees:

- Mike McKenna
- Rajeev ____
- Shane Carr
- Fredrik Roubert
- ...

Discussion:

- Rajeev
 - Looking to solve problems about addresses.
 - For example, labels: address line 1, line 2
 - Mandatory fields: street, ... ?
 - Ordering: post code first or last?
 - As a standard, we don't have anything for addresses. A Unicode standard could become of it.
- Fredrik
- Mike McKenna
 - There are some standards:
 - UPU
 - S42, which has evolved into ISO 19160-4, which is used for international transmission
 - Google libaddress input; there's a database you go into that tells you what addresses there are in an XY input, and what is the English name, which is useful to a degree
 - The ISO standard is such a fine level of detail that you end up with a union of everything, a splatter, and yet it isn't complete across all regions
 - Google libaddress input has a good structure for input
 - There was an attempt ~10 yrs ago to bring it into CLDR, but it died
- Fredrik
 - I worked on it. (But I neither started it, nor finished it.) The standards are very good and you should read them. A lot of Google stuff uses these symbol names internally. But we discovered that very few people follow the standards for anything. So we have in these tables the mapping from the real world to the standard, and the library implements the standard.
 - A good example is the Republic of Serbia. There are two postal code systems: the legal one, and the one actually used. We need to support both.
 - If you want to start data collection, this is a good starting point.
- Rajeev

- ...
- Mike
 - Most enterprises use multiple verification services. Provides API for layouts with required/not required with autofill.
- Validations are bare minimum for mandatory.
- Financial applications - street address and PO box.
- libaddressinput sufficient for freeform?
- Based on countries, there are addresses with building numbers and landmarks. Postal addresses may not exist in farms and lands (eg: Sweden, Cape Verde, India, ...).
- Validation for address formatting with CLDR? We should get the form ready but not the validation. Define what things should be collected from users. What are labels, mandatory fields.
- Labels are interesting when shipping from one country to another - not in libaddress
- surfaces zip, postal codes differences
- recognizes that data is constantly changing. do labels change? labels should not change - postal codes may change. Province or not a province - but labeling should not change. Keep the scope small.
- ISO model should be stable for labeling.
 - Source of address is obtained by Google searching
- Would Google accept community contribution? Can we move ownership from Google to CLDR. CLDR would be more exposed. Since Google isn't passionate about ownership, moving ownership to CLDR would not be a problem.
- CLDR - need postal authority, community contribution may not be sufficient.
- CLDR labeling - need ownership to create proposal for directions going forward to define set of labels. Will need someone who is financially motivated to keep the data up-to-date.
- Google cares about billing address for credit card - not shipping. Amazon would be a good candidate to start. Banks would be motivated.
- To form a committee, need chair, membership, progress with project management. CLDR committee - bring proposal with working group that can drive project to the finish line. (like #holidays)
- Issue is that someone (and finding that someone) needs to have the ownership in order to drive any of the initiatives to begin the process - and bring it to the finish line.
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