



## **VeriSign Enables Companies to Enhance Their Online Brands in Virtually Any Language Using Internationalized Domain Names**

*More than 40 Around the World Actively Offering VeriSign's IDNs – Gabia, Hangang, I-NAMES, RG Names and YesNIC are Leading Advocates in Korea*

**SEOUL, January 14, 2003** – VeriSign, Inc. (Nasdaq: VRSN), the leading provider of digital trust services, today announced new services that allow non-English speaking Internet users around the world to navigate the Web and to send email in their language of choice. With strategic alliances with leading Korean Internet companies – Gabia, Hangang, I-NAMES, RG Names and YesNIC – VeriSign's Web-based Navigation and iNav™ plug-in services enable Korean users to type a domain name of the Web site they wish to visit in Korean. Additionally, upon resolution, they will continue to see the domain name in Korean, so they can recognize it and bookmark the site for future use.

More than 40 partners around the world are actively selling Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) – domain names using non-English characters – to help companies promote their brand names and reach customers in their local languages by registering native language domain names in .com and .net. IDNs can accommodate virtually all non-English scripts, and support 350 languages.

Web-based Navigation has been installed on VeriSign's 13 DNS server locations around the world, making Internet navigation in virtually any language available globally to every Internet user for .com and .net domains, anywhere in the world. The iNav plug-in software companion provides a complete multilingual experience for popular browser programs like Internet Explorer and email programs like Outlook and Outlook Express. iNav today supports not only .com, .net, .org and other international domain extensions, but also supports top-level domains like .kr, .jp, and is looking to support any ccTLDs and gTLDs in 2003.

“Companies have had to represent their brands using only English character domain names,” said Rusty Lewis, Executive Vice President, VeriSign Global Registry Services. “Working with leading Internet companies in Korea, we can break the English language hold on the Internet and give end users the ability to navigate the Web in Korean and virtually any other language.”

Through the immediate availability of IDNs, leading Korean registrars including, Gabia, Hangang, I-NAMES, RG Names and YesNIC, are enabling the Korean Internet user to reap the benefits and true value of the Internet, ultimately making the Web fully accessible to them.

Internet use is growing rapidly around the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. According to KRNIC research from Autumn 2002, currently 58 percent of the Korean population

is online, but the rate of growth has begun to level off. According to an Ipsos-Reid Study, “The Face of the Web,” (May 21, 2001), in every region where English is not the main language spoken, nine in 10 Internet users prefer to get local information in their own language. The demand for IDNs is expected to be strong as more non-English speakers embrace the Internet in Korea.

According to Gabia’s CEO Kim Hong Kuk, IDNs present an important growth opportunity for the Internet. “Our customers have requested IDNs and we are pleased to be able to offer them,” said Gabia CEO, Kim Hong Kuk. “IDNs make it easier for Internet users to visit Web sites. We expect IDNs to be a profitable market for us.”

“Most Koreans prefer to access the Internet using Korean domain names and IDNs make this possible,” said Chaekyu Park, CEO of Hangang. “We are excited to be partnering with VeriSign to make IDNs a reality. We believe the IDN market will be as large as English domain name market.”

“This is a truly revolutionary time in the history of the Internet,” said Cheong-Jong Lee, CEO of YesNic. “We believe that the adoption of IDNs will enable us to provide our valued customers with the best possible services, ultimately creating an easy environment for them to take full advantage of the Internet.”

The free iNav software can be easily installed with the click of a mouse. Upon installation all IDNs are resolved locally on the user machine. Users can install the iNav plug-in for free by visiting [www.idnnow.com](http://www.idnnow.com). VeriSign created the user-friendly site to educate users and support the adoption of IDNs. The site is translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, and Russian to showcase the software and to help answer questions about IDNs. VeriSign is also working to translate the Web site into Brazilian Portuguese, French, Danish, Swedish, German and Spanish, by February 2003.

#### **About Gabia**

Gabia, Inc. helps people or groups to take advantage of the Internet by providing services like domain name registration, web hosting, customized web-sites and other related services. Gabia was founded October 4, 1999 and became IDN certified in November 2000. They are the second largest domain name registrar in Korea. [www.gabia.com](http://www.gabia.com)

#### **About Hangang**

Established in 1993, Hangang Systems provides domain name registration services, SSL certificates, cable TV billing systems and other products. Hangang Systems began IDN registrations in 2000. [www.doregi.com](http://www.doregi.com)

#### **About YesNIC**

YesNIC was founded in January 2000 and launched IDN registrations in November 2000. YesNIC is the largest domain name registrar in Korea and the second largest in Asia. YesNIC offers B2C direct domain name registration and B2B bulk domain name registration through various resellers and corporate clients. [www.yesnic.com](http://www.yesnic.com)

#### **About VeriSign, Inc.**

VeriSign, Inc. is the leading provider of digital trust services that enable everyone, everywhere to engage in commerce and communications with confidence. VeriSign's digital trust services create a trusted environment through four core offerings—Web presence services, telecommunications

services, security services and payment services—powered by a global infrastructure that manages billions of network connections and transactions a day. Additional news and information about the company is available at [www.verisign.com](http://www.verisign.com).

Statements in this announcement other than historical data and information constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause VeriSign's actual results to differ materially from those stated or implied by such forward-looking statements. The potential risks and uncertainties include, among others: VeriSign's limited operating history under its current business structure; the risk that VeriSign and its acquired businesses will not be integrated successfully and unanticipated costs of such integration; uncertainty of future revenue and profitability and potential fluctuations in quarterly operating results; failure of the combined company to retain and hire key executives, technical personnel and other employees; failure of the combined company to manage its growth and the difficulty of successfully managing a larger, more geographically dispersed organization; failure of the combined company to successfully manage relationships with customers, suppliers and strategic customers; network outages, network capacity constraints or security breaches; failure of the combined company's customers to accept new services or to continue using the products and services of the combined company; and competition in the various markets serviced by the combined company. More information about potential factors that could affect the company's business and financial results is included in VeriSign's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, especially in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. VeriSign undertakes no obligation to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this press release. VeriSign is a registered trademark of VeriSign, Inc. Other names may be trademarks of their respective owners.

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