



Report on Universal Acceptance at ICANN54

Universal Acceptance, the idea that all domain names will work equally well in all applications, made material progress during the ICANN54 meeting in Dublin.

At the full-day UA Workshop held on Sunday, more than 50 people participated in developing more than a dozen tasks (each with owners and deadlines) to be progressed before the ICANN55 meeting in Marrakesh in February 2016.

These tasks include:

- Progressing work on Documentation – including a clear definition of UA Readiness, CIO/Systems Architect guidelines and data based talking point memos.
- Creating models for regional, national and local UA initiatives.
- Further establishing relationships with complimentary organisations.
- Pursuing a structured evaluation process for popular website evaluation.
- Developing ‘Good Practice’ guides for Linkification.

At the Public Forum on Universal Acceptance we heard:

- About the fundamental need for UA to be pursued so that all people, regardless of their ability to read or write Latin based scripts, can maximize their use of the Internet.
- A review of work to date on the definition of UA readiness.
- Of the challenges, often significant, required to adjust systems to be UA ready.

We also got an update from the ICANN CIO on their efforts – and challenges – in their pursuit of UA Readiness. With their inventory of supported systems complete, they’ve identified the systems that they can change, and those that rely on third parties. They are now working to adjust those systems that they can change and enter into negotiations with suppliers where possible.

Join the Universal Acceptance Working group. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ua-discuss>

The next face-to-face meeting on Universal Acceptance will be held in Washington, DC on 14 & 15 January.