



UASG

Notes from events at ICANN61 in Puerto Rico

V 2018-03-22

Executive Summary

The UASG is making good progress and has clear plans established for addressing Universal Acceptance and EAI issues. But there may be a need to revisit its communications within the Internet Industry as not all at the ICANN 61 meeting were aware of what the UASG has achieved.

The path forward for the rest of the calendar year include:

- Focusing on IT Executives in Government agencies. IT in Government has 'purpose beyond profit' and can be considered interested in serving their communities.
- Explicitly focusing in China, India and Thailand and taking advantage of opportunistic events in other geographies.
- Getting Programming Language Libraries reviewed, revised and published. This will make remediation efforts by developers even easier.
- Continuing with our target audiences of Doers and Directors within the IT Software space.
- Continuing with the efforts to get EAI more widely useable. This will eliminate an excuse by IT Teams to delay remediation.

IDN Variants and Universal Acceptance

We received a report on the progress of the Root Zone Label Generation Panels and their experiences around variants of characters of labels.

The question raised was whether this would have an impact on Universal Acceptance work.

The short answer is no, not directly, but they could have an impact indirectly.

- The Label Generation Panels have been focusing on labels in the root zone. It's expected that these rules will probably be adopted for second levels within individual registries.
- The registries will need to determine how to allocate variants of a string. Often, but not always, the variants are reserved for the registrant of the original 2nd level domain. Sometimes, the variants are blocked entirely, sometimes they may be allocated with a redirect to the original registration, and sometimes no action at all is taken.
- Mailbox providers should also be aware of the variant issue when they allocate mailboxes. From the mail protocols, Don and DON and DoN and dOn are different mailboxes. Most mailbox providers address this through normalisation. Similar issues revolve around variants in non-English scripts.

Actions:

- **The UASG should address this issue of variants in the local part in their Good Practice Guide section in the EAI documentation and the Quick Guide to EAI.**
- **The UASG to review UASG007 to see ensure that it references the LGR.**
- **Dennis agreed to provide a short (~one page) appendix for use in UASG007 and the EAI Documentation.**



Communications

The UASG Workshop went through the Communications Update and addressed several questions:

- A new talking point focused on supporting an individual's choice of digital identity will be added to the existing three talking points.
- An intervention from Crystal of Donuts suggests that there has been insufficient communications to the Internet industry itself, particularly smaller registrars and resellers, on the UA & EAI issues. **Action: UASG to provide a briefing paper aimed specifically to the Internet Industry that provides links to existing documents.**
- The UASG should have presence at the next GDD Summit, ideally through a member of the UASG community who will be there already.
- **There is a desire to have a small panel of Internet Industry CIOs review UASG015A – CIO's Blueprint to becoming UA Ready. Volunteers sought.**
- Supporting the .brand applicants. It's been suggested that the UASG provide some neutral advice for .brand registries on things that they should consider prior to launch. The recently released Neustar report could provide some background. **Action: The UASG to review the Neustar report and consider its (UASG) position on providing advice to .brands.**
- Generally feeling that there is insufficient experience of organisations becoming UA Ready to support an awards program. Instead, the UASG will encourage existing Open Source Software awards evaluations to include a provision that nominations should include support for all Domain Names and all Email Addresses.
- Social Media: The UASG is becoming more active in Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, WeChat, YouTube) and members of the UASG are encouraged to subscribe, like, and share UASG published material. Actions: All to do this.
 - Twitter: @UASGTech
 - LinkedIn: Universal Acceptance Steering Group – UASG
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uasgtech/>
 - YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZQcTPv4Q2TRdx4w7V1ouw/featured>
- There was a generally feeling that the UASG should actively avoid submission of our communications material outside of IT professional media.
- Community agreed that a focus on IT Executives in Government would be a good professional focus through the end of this year. Don noted that the UASG was talking with the GAC and working with ICANN GSE Team to reach out to this cohort. Also noted that this was a core metric for the soon to be appointed Technical Marketing resource.
- The meeting agreed that India, China and Thailand would be the geographic areas of principle effort through the end of the year. Other geographies would be address opportunistically.

EAI

Downgrading

Background: When a non-ASCII mailbox name is transported through email ecosystem, it will cause uncertain (but generally bad) results when encountering a non-EAI Ready component in the email econ system.



During the development of the RFCs, the IETF tried many, many different options for downgrading. None of them work.

The UASG Position on Downgrading is:

- *There should be no transformation of a mailbox name that is not in ASCII during transit through email ecosystem.*
- *The sending system MAY substitute a pre-determined alias in ASCII when it 'owns' the mailbox and sending part of the email when it knows a transit will encounter a non-EAI ready email component.*

The UASG should consider including an appendix in the EAI documentation with a history of the transformations that were tried and rejected during the development of the EAI RFCs. *NB: This came up in subsequent email discussion*

EAI Evaluation

A contract is being let to develop the evaluation criteria and the criteria for software and services to be evaluated. This work is expected in April 2018.

People are welcome to submit suggestions for Use Cases during the public consultation period of the this first phase of the project.

Additional contracts will be let to exercise the evaluation criteria.

And a third contract will be let to run the complete evaluation.

EAI Day

The Comms team to be asked to produce a program and schedule for launching EAI Day. Once the scope is understood, a date can be published.

Test EAI Accounts

A number of people asked where they could get EAI addresses to experience the situation directly: Both Coremail and XgenPlus offer such services:

<https://www.datamail.in/>

<http://zh.icoremail.net/>

Local Initiatives

The group agreed on the focus on India, China and Thailand.

There was a request to get some metrics for measurement of success and achievement.



Partnerships

The group agreed that a partnership with the W3C for embedding UA within its standards and test suites was useful.

Don to continue discussions for a sponsorship agreement with the W3C.

The group felt that partnerships with ISOC and ALS's should be pursued again. Participants agreed to use their relationships with ISOC and with the ALAC to help encourage engagement.

Within ISOC, the establishment of a Special Interest Group could be a next step. This will require a minimum cohort (~30 people) to get established.

UA @ ICANN IT

ICANN IT reported on the history and achievements of their UA projects.

A phased approach has been pursued where support for long-ASCII names is the first step which will be followed by support of IDNs and EAI

Note that there have been tangential benefits achieved by ICANN IT through their pursuit of UA:

- They have created an inventory of ALL the applications that the organization has as well as the platforms that they use
- They have created a Data Dictionary so that they can find all instances of any data field. ICANN IT have already seen benefits of this as they address the GDPR issue.

ICANN IT expect completion for support of long-ASCII names by the end of 2018. Support for EAI Addresses is dependent on third party application support.

ICANN IT has also released a Web Crawler that can perform a level of UA Evaluation.

<https://github.com/uasg/uac-crawler>. **The UASG is reviewing this for usefulness and putting into a production environment.**

Brazilian Engagement

After a meeting with representatives for Brazilian software and business associations organized by Daniel Fink and Rodrigo De La Parra:

- Don to send a customized version of the UASG editorials. Daniel to organize translation if necessary
- Don to introduce group to the UASG.Tech website, including the Help Wanted ads for Open Source evaluation and remediation work.

Other Engagements

The UASG had the following engagements at the ICANN61 meeting

- Joint meeting with the GAC: <https://61.schedule.icann.org/meetings/647651>
 - Lars gave an excellent presentation



- There were interventions from France and China, both identifying the importance of the work
- Presentation to the Registries
 - This reinforced the idea that more work needs to be done within the Internet Infrastructure community to ensure that they are aware of the issues and solutions.
- Presentation to the ccNSO
- Presentation to the Brand Registries Group

Issues to think about

During the meeting a number of items to think about came up. These include:

- What does 'Done' look like. How will the UASG know that it is done given that there will never be 'perfect'?
- Succession Planning:
 - Given that the current charter limits the Chair and Vice-Chair roles to two terms of two years, and given that the Chair and two vice-chairs will be completing their 2nd term in the 1st quarter of 2019, what are the characteristics that the UASG should be looking for in a Chair and Vice-Chairs?

Action Items

1. **The UASG should address this the issue of variants in the local part in their Good Practice Guide section in the EAI documentation and the Quick Guide to EAI.**
2. **The UASG to review UASG007 to see ensure that it references the LGR.**
3. **Dennis agreed to provide a short (~one page) appendix on the relevance of LGRs for use in UASG007 and the EAI Documentation.**
4. **UASG to provide a briefing paper aimed specifically to the Internet Industry that provides links to existing documents.**
5. **There is a desire to have a small panel of Internet Industry CIOs review UASG015A – CIO's Blueprint to becoming UA Ready. Volunteers sought.**
6. **The UASG to review the Neustar report and consider its (UASG) position on providing advice to .brands.**
7. **Members of the UASG to sign up for the following social media channels:**
 - a. Twitter: @UASGTech
 - b. LinkedIn: Universal Acceptance Steering Group – UASG
 - c. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uasgtech/>
 - d. YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZQcTPv4Q2TRdx4w7V1ouw/featured>
8. **The UASG Position on Downgrading is:**
 - a. ***There should be no transformation of a mailbox name that is not in ASCII during transit through email ecosystem.***
 - b. ***The sending system MAY substitute a pre-determined alias in ASCII when it 'owns' the mailbox and sending part of the email when it knows a transit will encounter a non-EAI ready email component.***
9. The UASG should consider including an appendix in the EAI documentation with a history of the transformations that were tried and rejected during the development of the EAI RFCs.



10. The Comms team to be asked to produce a program and schedule for launching EAI Day.
11. **There was a request to get some metrics for measurement of success and achievement.**
12. **Don to continue discussions for a sponsorship agreement with the W3C.**
13. **The UASG is reviewing the ICANN IT Sponsored webcrawler this for usefulness and putting into a production environment.**
14. Don to send a customized version of the UASG editorials to Brazilian contacts. Daniel to organize translation if necessary
15. Don to introduce the Brazilian group to the UASG.Tech website, including the Help Wanted ads for Open Source evaluation and remediation work.
16. What does 'Done' look like. How will the UASG know that it is done given that there will never be 'perfect'?
17. What are the characteristics that the UASG should be looking for in a Chair and Vice-Chairs?

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