UA Ambassador's yearly report

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Short bio

Holding master degree in Computer Science and member of Serbian Engeeniring Society, member of ISOC Serbia. Living and working in Serbia.

IT journalist for 25 years in best selling IT magzine in Serbia (Svet kompjutera, engl. World of Computers), from my age of 16 (1987), and going through all stages in journalism (from contributing author to editor in chief for last 7 years).

In the domain world, I have entered through Serbian National Registry (.rs) in 2010, when I was invited to become a member of Serbian Working Group for establishing the rules for Cyrillic ccTLD domain name .срб. This registry is practicing multistakeholder model from the beginning (2008.), and this was the first of many domestic working groups where I was participating regarding IDNs.

In 2011. I became a member, and in next mandate a Chairman of Board of Governors in Serbian Registry. After two turns, by registry rules, you need to step down and pause for at least one mandate.

Chairman of Cyrillic Generation Panel (2014-2018).

From the first forming meeting of UASG (2014 til now), I am involved in the work of this group. Firstly, as a Project Co-Chair for IDNs (2014 until early 2016), then I didn't hold any position and from february 2018. until now as UA Ambassador.

In 2016. I become a CEO of Serbian branch office of international (Czech based) ICANN accredited registrar Gransy. Until now, I became a member of BoD in Gransy, CEO of Croatian branch office and manager for international business.

From 2015 til now, I am involved in RIPE SEE meetings.

From 2014 til 2017, I was involved in SEEDIG (South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance).

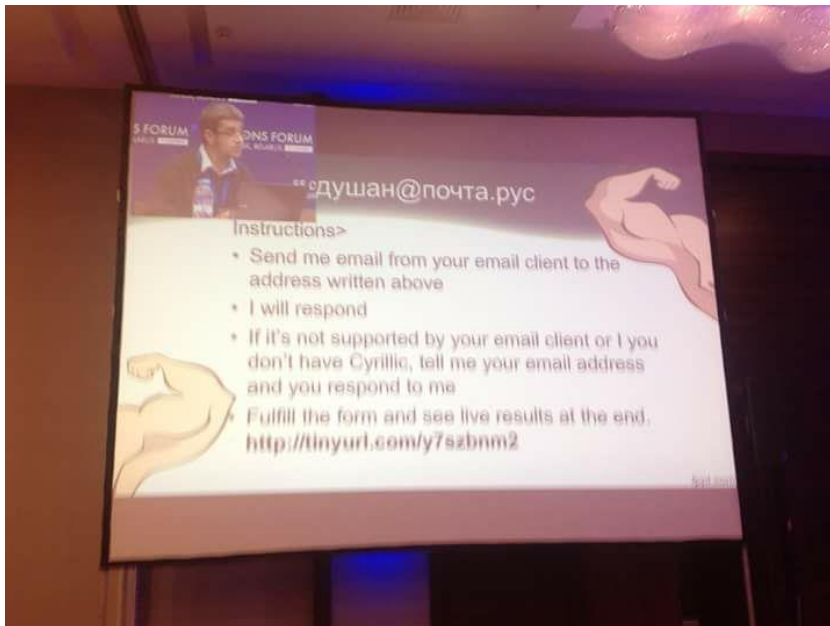From 2018. I am a member of RZ-LGR Study Group

By participating in domestic WGs and therefor deeply involved in establishing of world second Cyrillic IDN ccTLD in the world, I become perfectly aware of this part of UA issues. Collaborating with Russian IDN ccTLD at that time to overcome those initial problems (f.e. browsers to recognize IDN domain names), I got more and more involved. After my initial reporting on first year after sunrise period of .срб, presented on TLDCON 2013, when we all stated that „IDN is half finished product to sell", I started to explore the solutions for „full IDN email" and back then, I was in contact with Afilias who presented first breakthrough in that area. In 2015, I was participating on IETF meeting in Prague, having separate discussions with Patrick Falstrom and John Clansin, for discussing EAI standard they wrote. Through those discussions, I realized that Unicode has entered for the first time (IDN is puny code, still ASCII) in Internet usage, and I started to promote EAI.

As a Project Co-Chair in UASG, I was participating in writings of initial UA documents, defining its mission and vision, defining what is needed to be UA ready (Accept, Validate, Store, Process and Display) and was targeting exact problems in IDNs and reporting them to developers. When I stepped down from this position, in 2016. I didn't end my participation and I didn't end my engagement in that area.

Digest report from that period until now:

- July 2016. - finishing the work of the project "IDN for minorities", as Chair of domestic working group. In fact, it was my idea to extend the tables of .rs and .срб)first was just ASCII and second was just with Serbian Cyrillic) with letters of all minorities living in Serbia. As a result, we contacted all minorities in Serbia, collected all scripts that they are using (21 minorities) and created a extended tables based on that and according to MSR2.
- September 2016. – TLDCON 2016 (Tbilisi, Georgia) chairing IDN session
- December 2016. – UADOM (Kyiv, Ukraine) – presenting what is UA (general presentation, introduction to UA and UASG)
- January 2017. - speaker at Ћирбастерс, domestic annual event organized as anniversary of .срб, presented EAI
- February 2017 – speaker at Domain Forum (Sofia, Bulgaria) – talking about New gTLDs and issues around them
- March 2017 – ICANN meeting in Kobenhavn, Denmark, following all UA sessions.
- September 2017 – speaker at GeoIGF and APTLD72 (Tbilisi, Georgia) about registries and IDNs
- October 2017. – speaker at EEDNS forum (Minsk, Belarus) – excersize> live testing EAI.

- October 2017. – participating at ICANN meeting in Abu Dhabi, following UA sessions
- November 2017. – speaker at RSNOG (Belgrade, Serbia) - excersize> live testing EAI.
- **February 2018 – elected as UA ambassador**
- May 2018. – speaker at SEEDIG (Ljubljana, Slovenia), delivering a speech on testing EAI in practice (this is live testing – audience is testing to send me and receive EAI)
- June 2018. – panelist at EuroDIG (Tbilisi, Georgia) session on UA (together with Patrick Falstrom remotely, Roberto Gaetano and Maarten Botterman
- July 2018. – speaker at Africa DNS Forum (Cotonou, Benin) talking about IDNs and UA, introduction speech.
- September 2018. – APTLD meeting (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), panelist on UA/IDN session. Behind scenes, my role as UA ambassador was fulfilled also by long F2F meeting with representatives from Kazakhstan registry about EAI and presentation of solution from Dr Ajay's Xgen – the MoU between them is signed during this event.
- October 2018. – speaker at ArmIGF (Yerevan, Armenia), presenting UA and EAI of local IGF event. During the day before event, I have the meeting with the stuff from .am and .հայ, talking about their experience in IDNs. As a result, later I reported a problem (until now unknown) with sign "." in Windows, during ICANN meeting, which is bothering Armenian (and some Arab) users. Next year, in Yerevan, the registry is planning to organize UA event, and I am helping them. **THIS TRIP WAS PAID BY UASG**
- October 2018 – participating in all UA sessions on ICANN meeting in Barcelona.
- December 2018 – speaker at EEDNS Forum, Moscow, Russia, explaining EAI (EAI behind scenes). As a result, the initial community group for dealing with UA issues is under creation, and I am involved in that. **THIS TRIP WAS PAID BY UASG**
- December 2018 – panelist at BlogerFest 2018, Belgrade, Serbia – speaking about IDNs, New gTLDs and about opportunities of propper usage of such domain names in blogging.
- December 2018 – start of sunrise period of IDN on SLD in .rs for minorities using Latin script. For March, it is planned for Cyrillic minorities to get their letters on SLD in .срб. I am one of the promoters of that project.

Conclusion

This is a brief report, not covering a lot of preparations for achieving any of this, all private meetings and consultations with Romanian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Greek, Bosnian, Armenian, Georgian, Ukrainian and other registries (on how to establish IDN ccTLD, what is UA and how we can help them) I can't report all remotely or live appearances on TV and radio shows regarding UA and there is also some texts I wrote regarding UA and UASG (one of them). Also, I have worked on bringing members from my region to the list, so you have now voices from Russia (Yandex, .moscow etc) and others from the region (.ua, .укр, .бг…). I can send more details if needed.

Regarding money, I spent UASG money for 2 trips, highlighted in the report. Everything else is paid by my company or personally by me.

Also, although my company is registrar, we developed registry software (in fact, there is several products for registries) and during ICANN meeting in Barcelona, we raised a question about software – how to test any software and label it as UA READY. Our software (Regtons Registry) is dealing with both IDNs and New g's, but we are interested to participate in developing a testing program which would be used for such labeling (UA Ready).

My findings in general by regions: except Arab countries on the North and South **Africa**, UA is not under consideration yet in Africa – there is a little New Gs (.africa) and IDNs at that market. They are mostly using pure ASCII. Regarding **AP** region, this is quite opposite and this is the center of domain market these days, along with big number of IDN ccTLDs and New Gs. This region is huge and there you can find the most developed countries regarding UA, but also the worst developed countries regarding UA. **Europe** is very easy to split to two regions– Western (Latin) part, less interested in IDNs but with a lot of New Gs, and Eastern part (Cyrillic script, Greek Alphabet…), less interested in New Gs and more interested in IDNs.

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If the leadership of UASG and/or members of the community thinks that I am not able to be UA Ambassador or I am spending too much money, I would step down right away. This vocation is not used by me as some breaking point anywhere, because – everyone in my region (Europe, CIS, Asia, partially Africa) knows me, knows how much I work on those topics and know on UA issues. My name is better brand than one year UA Ambassador program. In other words – as you see from previous years, I would be "UA Ambassador" with or without that title.