

UA EAI Working Group Meeting

06 June 2023

Attendees

Mark Svancarek	Carine Malor
Abdalmonem Galila	Anil Kumar Jain
Harsha Wijayawardhana	Jessey and Glenda Anang
Khaldoun Senjab	Gerardo Martinez Hernandez
Jim DeLaHunt	Arnt Gulbrandsen
Prof Ibrhahim Tchakala	Seda Akbulut
Tumsifu Pallangyo	Yin May Oo

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Final comments on FY24 EAI WG Action Planning
(Review the EAI related action items from other working groups)
3. [Actions to complete the self certification guide](#)
 - [scoring spreadsheet and the instructions on how to use it -](#)
 - [landing page to explain the EAI self certification program](#)
 - [be clear about the value, benefits vs the cost](#)
 - [Description of the silver, gold, platinum](#)
 - [add the products which have tested till now on this page, that will motivate others to run test and get their product name on this page](#)
 - [clean up the guide](#)
 - [settle on the badges \(scoring labels\)](#)
4. Creating a UASG policy for promoting certification results
 - a. How do we expect that vendors will promote their certification results on their own website and materials?
 - b. What is UASG's "roster of EAI ready software"? Where is it? Who makes changes to it?
 - c. How will UASG decide whether or not to add self-certified products to our roster if vendors request it? Who decides? How do we route the request?
 - d. What do we do about users who perform certification of products which they do not make? (Some of our ICANN76 testers are in this situation, I believe.)
5. Wrap up, next meeting (5 min)

Meeting recording: [Link](#) ; password <1\$7eH+WIk@>

Meeting Notes

Final comments on Planning of EAI WG (and related tasks of other WGs)

Seda presented the action plan on screen and Mark started the meeting by revisiting the FY24 action plans. Mark briefed the action items and color code meanings, in which the yellow-highlighted items were partially worked on.

Seda said the UASG’s action plan was prepared by all WGs and this was shared with the community at the ICANN77 prep week session. It will be broadly shared on uasg.tech for community input before finalizing.

This meeting agenda is to update the EAI WG members on the action items proposed by Tech WG and Measurement WG.

Seda presented the EAI related action items of Tech WG. For the Tech WG, T2 and T3 are related to the EAI WG.

Ref	Actions
T2	Contribute improvements to Dovecot code to correct EAI support problems
T3	Test for bugs in email software when email addresses contain non-ASCII text in the human-readable parts of the address syntax.

T2: Jim said this is mainly to fix Dovecot. The question was whether we are allowed to submit contributions to Dovecot. He confirmed that we can make submissions to Dovecot with MIT and LGPLv2.1 licenses. The resulting improvements will belong to the project, not to the developer or the team who wrote the code and submitted it.

Jim shared that John Levine’s opinion on whether we should keep this item was on the contrary because it’s difficult. Jim recommended to ask John L again.

Harsha recalled the certain issues with Dovecot in configuration for SMTPUTF8. Aside from Dovecot not supporting this, there are some other components which need some troubleshooting as well with Roundcube and Postfix.

Arnt shared his opinion that the team may not accept the bug fix, because they haven't accepted anything like this so far. He said fixing it very expensive to them and they may expect us to pay for it. They would either fix the complete product suite or nothing at all. They are currently reluctant to do it themselves because they also might expect some contracting work to be paid for fixing this bug for the whole project. Arnt pointed out that possibility.

Arnt had an alternate solution, the way is to build Dovecot binaries to Debian, Centos or Rocky packages, and then ask cPanel (the competitor) to include that instead of readymade packages. Arnt shared that his schedule for June and July is busy. But he is still planning to do something in summer and hope to get that done by August. Mark agreed with this option, and it was worth considering.

Harsha asked if he should wait for Arnt's solution or continue his experiment on supporting UTF-8 in Dovecot. Arnt and Harsha agreed to work on this. But Arnt will revert to Harsha via email about this.

Jim said this will become the Tech WG's action item, and we need to tell them what it is that we would like them to work on. Mark thought that the best connection he could make to map T2 action item to EAI action item would be E2.1 of EAI WG (E2.1: Make it easier to experiment with a self-hosted working EAI system). Jim said it does not have to be connected to any action item. Mark believed that it is better to find a connection with out plans. Though the connection is tenuous, it still maps well with E2.1. Our guidance is do whatever it takes to make it easier for people to experiment with a self-hosted solution. And Dovecot seems like to serve a good solution if fixed.

Khaldoun said we can avoid using Dovecot and Postfix. He offered help in this action item. The WG suggested that he could write an email to Arnt about this to offer help, and join Technology WG email list to further help with this project.

Harsha wanted to know more about Khaldoun’s alternative he shared. Harsha explained that fixing Dovecot would be better because the Thai team is also using Dovecot with some fixes. Jim suggested that anyone who has experience using the EAI features of Dovecot could help by testing the fixed build of Dovecot.

Mark concluded that we would communicate with Tech WG for T2 with some suggestions and wait for their detailed plan.

EAI WG’s Feedback on T2 to Tech WG: Arnt will do some work to build Dovecot binaries and Harsha and Khaldoun will provide support to him. EAI WG strongly recommends T2. Thank you for doing this, and please come back to EAI WG when you've got a plan.

T3: The issue on non-human-readable email parts in ASCII was brought up by John Klensin at ICANN76. Jim suggested this action item for Tech WG based on his comments. He added that John Levine responded to this as not worth the time. Theoretically this could be a problem but in reality, there are more important things to be solved. Mark shared that he personally has no opinion on this item but he listened to John Levine on this and he was not digging against Klensin’s feedback. But based on Levine’s hands-on experience, it is ok to conclude that T3 needs to be deprioritized.

EAI WG’s Feedback on T3 to Tech WG: Neutral on T3. Probably not needed at this time. It can even be deprioritized.

Seda presented M6 and M7 EAI related action items of Measurement WG.

M6	Market research to identify growing email or social media products which compete on UA support
M7	Rating email software using EAI Self-Certification Guide (phase 1)

M7: Jim explained that this item suggests paying a vendor to do a study following the self-certification guide process and make ratings of market leading email software packages or services.

Jim explained that by doing this, although some big companies, such as Apple Microsoft, Google, may not appreciate it, we can get serious feedback from someone who follows the guide comprehensively. In addition, we will get the ratings which would encourage the companies to solve EAI/UA problems.

Mark formerly suggested his team India would do the rating based on the guide for Microsoft email service. However, as that team is no longer with them, he is fine a third part doing this activity instead.

Khaldoun said he could contribute since he already has experimented on this. Mark encouraged Khaldoun to work with the Measurement WG on M7. However, Measurement WG first needs to draft a SOW for anyone to start working on this task.

Seda asked how EAI WG would like to give feedback on the order of preference between M6 and M7.

EAI WG's Feedback on M6 and M7 to Measurement WG: We can't gauge the efficacy of M6. There could be no one in the list or maybe dozens. Whereas we are certain that we need to have M7. M7 is better than M6.

Harsha asked for testing Microsoft emails for Sinhala to report any bugs if found. Mark said he has two emails on different systems. Harsha can test it by sending emails to him. Mark agreed to share his email addresses.

Mark and Jim reminded WG members to use the terms according to the EAI Self-certification guide: Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Agenda item3: Actions to complete the self-certification guide

Seda asked for the next discussion on agenda item 3 which was the action items identified in the previous meeting. Jim suggested rewording the agenda item 3 by extracting the action items which are already in our to do list.

Mark went through the to-do list under this topic, and Mark and Jim confirmed this list to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Agenda item4: *Creating UASG policy for Promoting Certification Results*

Mark and Jim worked on planning the steps to tackle this topic. The question “how do we expect that people will promote their results?” was moved to be the first item of the list.

There are four items under this topic. Jim said we need to discuss how to answer these questions. Mark said this looked like creating UASG policy around the Self-Certification results Agenda item 4 was reworded as “Creating a UASG policy for promoting certification results”.

Mark gave an example of somebody claiming Dovecot to be gold in their website. In this situation, what should we do? It was agreed that there are questions to be brainstormed and protect the loopholes.

Jim compared Agenda item 3 and 4 to decide which step should be taken first to improve efficiency. Jim also reminded the WG to select which are the action items to be contracted out and start their SOW.

E1.1.b is the part which could be outsourced.

Mark asked if E1.1 and E2.1 could be done in parallel. He added that E2.1 needs shared resources with E1. But they are not dependent on each other. Jim agreed.

Mark pointed out that in the description, E2.1 is noted as 1st priority and E3.1 as top priority. Jim said E3.1 and E3.2 could be done independently of the Self-certification guide. This may be hard to outsource and letting Comms WG might be better.

Seda reminded everyone that the meeting time is almost over. She shared that the EAI WG weekly meeting would be canceled for the next week due to ICANN77 meeting, and invited to join at <https://meetings.icann.org/en/icann77>

For technical issues, Seda would cancel all meeting invitations and send meeting reminders instead. There are no changes in the day and time of the meeting, it would always be Tuesday 14:30 UTC.

Jim requested reminders to be sent at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, and Seda noted.

Meeting adjourned.

Agenda item of the next meeting is identified as Agenda#3 and Agenda#4, and to discuss which action items are done internally and which are to be done outsourced.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 20 June 2023 and 14:30 UTC

Action items

No.	Action Item	Owner
1	Work together on Dovecot	Harsha, Arnt
2	Finish the self-certification guide (98% done)	Jim and WG
3	Share the meeting reminder before meeting	Seda
4	Share the feedback on EAI related action items with tech and Measurement WGs	Seda