



UPDATE & CONSULTATION ON  
New gTLD Subsequent Procedures  
Consensus Building on Recommendations

**UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE (UA)**

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# Reminder of Key Issues in SubPro

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## Universal Acceptance (UA)

How to:

- (1) improve promotion of UA by the ICANN Community and
- (2) advocate for wider adoption of UA in the Internet community



### RELATED SubPro Areas/Topics include:

- Universal Acceptance Initiative
- Universal Acceptance Steering Group



### COMPETITION, CONSUMER CHOICE & TRUST (CCT) RECOMMENDATIONS

- None

- **What is the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (“SubPro”)?**
  - ❖ The set of rules and mechanisms applicable to the next round for New gTLDs, i.e. they DO NOT apply to legacy TLDs, ccTLDs, or delegated new gTLDs or those still unresolved from the 2012 application round
  - ❖ “An update” to the 2012 Round rules and mechanisms

# Universal Acceptance (UA): Consensus Building



## ALAC STATEMENT RECAP

- AL-ALAC-ST-0517-04-01-EN, 30 May 2017 (CC2)

*“The Universal Acceptance Initiative (UAI) plays a significant role in the promotion of the equal and consistent domain name acceptance. However, this must not be mixed with policy development work within ICANN in order to keep the complexity of the things under control. For instance, the issue of similarity and confusability can be professionally reviewed by the UA group members, but only in form of participation of individual experts in appropriate policy development working groups within ICANN community.*

*UAI, which is doing very valuable work, is a civil society initiative and not a direct ICANN initiative. As such, UAI cannot make binding policy, which has to be under ICANN. UAI can inform and guide the policymaking process in ICANN, but the policy process should proceed as a regular ICANN process.”*

UAI can inform and guide but cannot make binding policy; ICANN policymaking for UA should proceed as a regular ICANN process.

# Universal Acceptance (UA): Consensus Building



## ALAC STATEMENT RECAP

- AL-ALAC-ST-0926-02-01-EN, 30 Oct 2018 (SubPro IR)

*“Universal Acceptance (UA) is all about ensuring that: “Internet applications and systems must treat all TLDs (as well as identifiers derived from them such as URLs and email IDs) in a consistent manner, including New gTLDs and internationalized TLDs. Specifically, they must accept, validate, store, process and display all domain names.”*

*“The ALAC believes that the primary obstacle to the successful expansion of the domain namespace is the rejection of the New string by legacy code. It behoves the ICANN community to engage in substantial outreach to the Internet community on this issue. The ALAC acknowledges the challenges associated with such outreach but the fact that some of the largest websites on the Internet, including major banking and airlines sites continue to reject the New strings suggests that more can, and must – be done to advocate code revision on the Internet.”*

ICANN community must engage in substantial outreach on UA; more can and must be done to advocate code revision on the Internet

# SubPro Recommendations \* as at 28 Apr 2020

## SubPro PDP WG

### Affirmation #1

- WG welcomes and encourages the work of the Universal Acceptance Initiative and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group.”

### Affirmation #2

- WG affirms 2012 implementation elements addressing UA issues, and in particular, guidance provided in AGB s. 1.2.4 (“Notice concerning Technical Acceptance Issues with New gTLDs”), as well as clause 1.2 of the RA (“Technical Feasibility of String”).

### Recommendation #3

- Revise Principle B from 2007 policy to, “**Some new generic top-level domains should be IDNs, although applicants should be made aware of UA challenges in ASCII and IDN TLDs. Applicants must be given access to all applicable information about UA** currently maintained on ICANN’s UA Initiative page, through the UASG, as well as future efforts.”

### Implementation Guidance

- ICANN **should** include more detailed information regarding UA issues either directly in the AGB or by reference in AGB to additional resources produced by the UASG or other related efforts.

### WG’s Rationale

- Affirms importance of efforts related to UA, encourages work through UAI and UASG.
- Acknowledged that language in the 2012 AGB and RA raises awareness about potential challenges that applicants and registries may face re: UA.
- Belief that ICANN should more clearly and thoroughly illustrate to potential applicants the possible problems that registrants of IDNs in particular may face in usage of those domains, and other work.
- IG and Rec seek to ensure that potential applicants have the info needed to make informed decision before submitting application.

## For At-Large Consensus Building

### Additional Intervention

- In addition to supporting and encouraging the work of the UASG, **ICANN should invest in being itself able and ready to communicate to registrants and end-users in languages/scripts for LGRs have been released under the IDN Variant TLD Implementation**
- **ICANN should strongly encourage Registries and Registrars which are owned by the same entity to be UA ready in any new gTLD applications.** Rationale being it is easier for such entities to ensure cross-entity systems are ready IDN registrations, ready to handle IDN and non-IDN New gTLDs consistently on nameservers, and to manage EAI (i.e. <nativelanguage>@<idn>.<idn> as part of the contact information and be able to send and receive emails of these type of addresses; and be able to take affirmative action to ensure their suppliers are also UA ready
- **What else?**

\* From SubPro PDP WG, not limited to recommendations, but also affirmations and implementation guidance