



UA EAI WG Meeting

25 April 2023

Attendees

Jim DeLaHunt

Nitin Walia

Abdalmonem Galia

Harsha Wijayawardhana

Julien Bernard

Mohammed Awal Alhassan

Prince Andrew

Amina Ramallan

Arnt Gulbrandsen

Seda Akbulut

Yin May Oo

Agenda

1. Welcome and roll call (5 minutes).
 - a. [Initiate the discussion on FY24 Planning and note down what will be done in FY24.](#)
 - b. Ask those people who do not usually talk at these meetings to introduce themselves, tell us what aspect of EAI they most want to work on
 - c. If that goes quickly, ask each person who does not usually talk to choose one of the people who does normally talk, to introduce themselves briefly.
2. Agree on agenda (3 minutes).
3. Self-certification workflow (40 minutes)
 - a. Review the self-certification process, in section **Appendix: Self-Certification Process** [1] in *EAI Readiness Self-Certification Guide*.
 - b. Review the EAI Self-Certification Program portal[2]
 - c. Review which teams are performing self-certification
 - d. Is "UASG support at info@uasg.tech" available and responding?
 - e. What "additional resources" should we add to the portal, based on the experience of the existing certification teams (3.3)?

- f. How will the teams (3.3) officially submit their results? Have any done so already?
 - g. What is the status of "a spreadsheet to help you aggregate test results"?
4. Promoting certification results (10 minutes)
- 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 (2 minutes)

Meeting Recording : [Link](#) , password [EY@yXjW2u5]

Meeting Notes

Jim suggested talking about the EAI Self-Certification Guide in a slightly different approach. Instead of going through the document, the workflow and promotion would be the focus.

Jim welcomed newcomers to introduce themselves and warm-up. Prince Andrew from Nigeria, Amina Ramallan from Nigeria Communication Commission, Julien Bernard from Cofomo Canada, Mohammed Awal Alhassan from Ghana chimed in. Abdalmonem suggested new participants have EAI related backgrounds. Jim suggested that newcomers should share where they were from and how they know about EAI or this working group.

Jim and Nitin agreed to start discussing **FY24** over other agenda items.

#FY24

Nitin suggested looking into FY23 and marking what was done and what is to bring forward, and listing down priorities. Seda shared the list of action items, E1 to E5, from [FY23 Action Plan](#).

Jim said the items on the list of previous years are to build the EAI self-certification guide and scoring system, so this year, it would be **promoting the EAI self-certification and making sure it is helpful**. Jim asked for help on writing the goals as action items for the next step. Nitin said now we are reviewing the previous year's plan to determine what are the items to be carried forward and what are the items to be discarded.

Abdalmonem raised a question on budget allocation during the previous semester. Nabil answered that the budget was planned but the action item was not kicked off, we may bring this forward. Abdalmonem said it is about building a system and hosting it to test out EAI domain names. Jim said this is a tool to help people test. Nabil and Abdalmonem gave slightly contradicting information on this. Jim asked Abdalmonem to write about this and send it so that it would be easier to follow up. Jim said discussion on this matter should be through the mailing list because this needs more information.

Harsha asked and both Jim and Nitin clarified that FY24 begins in July of 2023.

Abdalmonem said DNS is the starting point for EAI. At a global level, asking the DNS administrator to use the guide and host EAI would be a good idea. This could be one item to add as having at least one EAI ready DNS. Nitin said it is E4.2 but Abdalmonem added that DNS is the host of all IDN's and handles the upper level. Nitin agreed.

Nitin asked Seda's help on updating the status of E1 through E5 and shared through the mailing list so that we continue the discussion on the mailing list and then the next meeting we will discuss on the given list.

#Self certification workflow

Agenda item from 3.a to 3.g are the steps involved in the self-certification process.

Jim asked everyone to look at the appendix of the [guide document](#).

Jim said we need to provide the steps for the users:

- 1) Go through the [self-certification guide](#)
- 2) Go to the [portal](#) and post questions to info@uasg.tech
- 3) Using the scoring sheet
- 4) Promoting the results of products which has done the self-certification
- 5) The UASG website will also promote which product or service is EAI ready

There is a need to figure out how somebody would actually go through the tests. There is a spreadsheet to calculate an overall score. Jim said we need to brainstorm how to make this process better for the new users. He asked the input from the early adopter that presented at ICANN76 EAI session, namely Anawin, Harsha, Nitin.

Abdalmonem, as an email service provider, said the process of self certifying scoring can be done with scripts and it is preferable. It would be better to automate the process after the test person enters the results into a form like spreadsheet. Jim said the current plan is providing a scoring spreadsheet which would calculate the result and they manually email back to [info [at]uasg.tech]. Jim agreed that Abdalmonem's advice would smoothen the process.

Jim wanted to clarify what happens when people send emails to [info@uasg.tech].

Arnt said mainly Sarmad would be receiving, and in replying UASG's support would be helpful.

Nitin said the current guide for the tests is for early adopters. SOW will be implemented for an independent company to help the product or service provider to get the certification. Nitin wanted to remind that the SOW is not completed, once this is done, the process would be much smoother.

Jim said the current process would help us learn the workflow before communicating to vendors to build a scoring system and certification.

Jim asked if there is any more information to be added to the placeholder portal.

Harsha said he will get the document on the action item done by next week.

Abdalmonem raised a question on who is allowed to submit the results. With bad intent, somebody may submit results by impersonating the other products. Like by creating a virtual machine to create a similar email address.

Abdalmonem and Harsha said **there should be an independent party to verify the result and scoring levels Silver, Gold or Platinum.** Nitin said currently we do not have any system to check if the result-submitting person is an actual employee of a certain company, which could lead to misuse of the self-certification guide.

Jim concluded Abdalmonem's question as who is allowed to submit a result and who we trust. **Some users of free software would do the self-certification out of curiosity and with good will to show how EAI-ready the product is. Some fake employees of some companies also might do a test to spread something bad.**

Jim said **we need a system to build trust.** Harsha recently experienced some issues similar to digital impersonating. Harsha added that free or opensource or public domain products, such as Dovecot, can be tested by third parties or curious users as part of their learning journey and it is okay. Jim said it would not be okay if the result was bad and it was used against the company or any other groups or individuals. But we should not help with evil actions.

Harsha said without actual numbers of result submissions, we would not know how many of them have the possibility of being malicious.

Jim said the current situation is more self-serving and there is no third party to verify or audit. Nitin said currently there is no foreseen threat.

Arnt said we have a few more weeks to end the FY23, and not to worry about the very distant future. Nitin also pointed out that actual result submission from an actual company also could be a false claim as one of the possibilities.

Abdalmonem shared a conversation from UA Day. Once there are requests for having their applications EAI ready, then email providers will need to certify themselves. He wondered what would inspire an email service provider to have a certification for EAI-readiness. What would encourage an email provider to go through the self-certification process? Jim said this is one of the agenda items, how UASG can promote the guide, and it is up for the next meeting.

At the end of meeting time, Jim said since we have discussed the process today, Agenda item4- "Promoting certification results" would be up for the next meeting.

Chat History

Amina Ramallan

I heard about the WG through the ICANN fellowship and ICANN meetings

Julien Bernard

I heard about the WG from colleagues

Mohammed Awal Alhassan

I actually heard about it during my fellowship at Ghanasig and also in one of the sessions in ICANN75 where I participated online and I asked a question in the chat which was read by Seda (I think) and I got some information about it as a response. The response indicated some of the ways I could get involved which included participating in the Wg activities.

Mohammed Awal Alhassan to Everyone

My question was to find out about how an open source enthusiast like me can get involved in the UA activities especially, when I started as a Wikimedian working with indigenous communities to digitize their languages as a way of saving the minority languages from extinction and then I realized ICANN offers a bigger platform and UA's mission aligns with my interest.

Prince Andrew L. Zutah

My involvement in UA has been since 2021 during the Ghana School On Internet Governance where I heard everything about UA, I have been promoting AU in the Software Development and IT communities. I write publications on UA to promote AU, Digital Rights, etc.

Next Meeting: 9th May 2023, Tuesday 14:30 UTC

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Circulate the Draft action plan working sheet to the EAI mailing list	Seda
2	Chair the next meeting	Jim