

UA EAI WG Meeting

27 July 2021

Attendees

Mark Datysgeld
Mark Svancarek
Nitin Walia
Sarmad Hussain
Jim DeLaHunt
Samantha Mancia
Sudhanwa
Vadim Mikhaylov
John Levine
Prince Andrew L. Zutah

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and roll call
- 2) Continue work on [self-certification guide](#)
- 3) AOB

Meeting Notes

Work continued on the self-certification guide, starting at the Self-Certification Technical Requirements section. The WG sought to finalize the definitions of the different levels: SILVER, GOLD and PLATINUM.

A suggestion was made to define SILVER as the equivalent to the former EAI Phase 1 – meaning it can exchange email with EAI addresses. Similarly, GOLD would be defined as the equivalent to the former EAI Phase 2 – meaning it can host non-ascii and software can use a UTF8 string. Lastly, PLATINUM would be defined as implementing all of the details of the EAI RFCs as well as account data (password and login, etc.).

Another suggestion was made to lower SILVER to include some steps of progress towards EAI in order to encourage people to start adopting it. In this case, GOLD would be the equivalent of the former Phase 1 and PLATINUM the equivalent of the former Phase 2. A similar suggestion was made to add a 4th level for the proposed lower threshold of having taken some steps towards EAI and to call it COPPER. For example, COPPER would include being able to type in A-labels but not U-labels and still get the message through.

Some concern was expressed that the COPPER level suggestion would have the effect of rewarding something that may be functionally not ideal. It was noted that SILVER is not that hard to attain as it's already there in IMAP, and it might be counterproductive to allow for a COPPER level.

It was also suggested that PLATINUM should cover the entire EAI wishlist, not just RFCs completely but also some rules to manage mailbox names properly in other languages as well, so that the mailboxes are well formed.

It was decided to define the levels as follows:

- *No COPPER for now, but open to potentially adding it*
- **SILVER** = Interchange with globally inclusive counterparts, aka EAI Phase 1
- **GOLD** = Host globally inclusive addresses, aka EAI Phase 2
- **PLATINUM** = First-rate implementation, aspirational, all of RFCs, wish-list, localisation including username, password, regulation of mailbox names so that they aren't confusable, etc.

It was noted that the group had decided in the previous meeting to combine section #6 Webmail Services with the MUA section.

Self Certification of EAI Support of Email Utilities and Tools

It was noted that the Email Utilities and Tools table comes from an earlier version of the document, so it didn't include the summary and support levels just a description with a yes or no option. The WG addressed this by inserting columns into the table for Support Level and Description.

The group decided to add examples above the table as well in order to provide context. Examples added included:

- Webforms for integrating with a website for managing customer contact information
- Mailing list software (user sign-up, admin list management)
- Bulk mail systems like Mailchimp, one to many.
- Procmail, maildrop, sieve
- External address book
 - NOTE: Vendor decides which section to use
- Anti-spam
- Calendars
- Contact list (Address Book)
- Mailing-lists management
- Mail addresses as identifiers
 - Including SSO
 - Including Active Directory
 - CRM Software and other customer management

- Other databases which use “email address” datatypes
- LDAP
- Development tools libraries and APIs where not covered above
 - Parsing and processing of email strings
 - Anything involved with HTML 5.x email datatypes

A question was posed on whether tools that use email addresses as sign up identifiers (such as Instagram) should be able to achieve one of the statuses. A decision was made that they shouldn’t, as it would be considered out of scope. To address this, a decision was made to add an “out of scope” subsection to the Utilities section at the top of the document which included: “services like Instagram even if they are themselves built using a 3rd party tool which supports internationalized email addresses”.

A question was posed on whether Bulk Mail Utilities such as Mail Chimp should be in scope. A decision was made to allow them to be in scope as they manage email, and it was noted that there was room for them to achieve PLATINUM status as well. It was clarified that this would be separate from Mail Lists as they’re different for everyone, and for Mail Lists you need to be able to make it so that everybody can respond to everybody.

A question was posed on whether there’s a tool that’s applicable to HTML 5. A placeholder was added to address this stating: “anything involved with HTML 5.x email datatypes”.

For line 1 of the table, the group decided to move the summary to the description column, and add a new summary that stated: “Accepts email addresses and domain names from any writing system and displays the correct glyphs where applicable”.

At this point the meeting approached its conclusion and the group noted some topics on which to resume discussion in the next meeting: “local parts might be non-ascii or non-unicode, should we consider them? Domain name parts must be idna2008. Consensus – limit this guide to Unicode and split accepting from displaying”

Work will resume on the above at the next WG meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday 10 August 2021 UTC 15:30 – 16:30

Action items

No.	Action Item	Owner
1	Consider whether or not additional work should be added to the work plan, as the Comms WG identified some opportunities for additional outreach work that’s applicable to EAI	All