



UA EAI Working Group Meeting

26 March 2024

Attendees

Mark Svancarek

Athanase Bahizire

Jim DeLaHunt

John Lavine

Arnt Gulbrandsen

Seda Akbulut

Yin May Oo

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call

2. Detail planning on

EAI Self-Certification Program: [Plan Document](#)

3. AOB

a. 15 minutes for transparency and governance (Jim)

b. Planning the next meeting

■(+agenda) Plan of each WG is shared : [Link](#)

1. Add timeline and link the action item to the goals

2. Detail plans for each year is to be added

■April meeting dates: 04/02

(Mark and WG confirmed)

Meeting recording: [Link](#); password !3i044QEC7

Meeting Notes

This is the first meeting after ICANN79. Mark mentioned good governance, and Jim said that to achieve good governance and transparency, SOI (Statement of interest) profiling was implemented regardless of whether it was a right policy choice or not. Jim shared his opinion that SOI may not be a perfect solution for transparency. Jim asked if this was consulted with working group leaders, and Mark confirmed that it was.



Arnt referred to the meeting in Puerto Rico, which was about participants without an available profile to verify whether they are individuals or representatives of some organizations. They were not transparently presented as to how many participants, however, when the time was about making decisions, the unknown account could cast the votes. This activity allowed online participants to vote. Jim noted that this phenomena happened in the UA-discuss mailing list. There were suggestions to improve the organization structures to make sure the voting disputes do not happen in future, and a standard procedure is developing SOI. Jim said the purpose of SOI would be to prevent the trolls, and asked if UASG leadership consulted the community before placing the requirements.

Jim also asked if UASG is overwhelmed with too many people in the working Groups. Arnt answered that the trolls were not the participating people, or they never showed up during other meetings except the voting event. Jim said it looks like one will not be part of the UA-discuss mailing list without an SOI. Jim did not like the idea of creating an SOI just to be on the mailing list. Jim said blocking unauthorized accounts from the mailing list is not a good defense, but voting mechanism is. Therefore, the SOI should be a requirement for the voting rights rather than a mailing-list subscription requirement. Mark said the UASG was created by one of the ICANN's vice presidents, with less formally organized history. Now is time for UASG to be systematically reformed and adapted to ICANN's support systems which apply to all the SOs and ACs, thus, the practice for leadership voting was started.

For the previous round of selecting UASG leadership by votes, this was how the existence of trolls were discovered, who interfered with the selecting the position for UASG leadership with unclear intentions. Mark said it would be partially true that UASG leadership needs improvement in transparency and listening more to the community. The underlying problem of trolls is that they would be using multiple email addresses of a person, and pretending to be one email per person. Arnt added that the purpose of the SOI was to help the voting process. Jim said it would improve the validation of vote casters however, vote counting was not transparent enough. Seda said many people have stopped participating because of trolls, and because of the organization's nature, the reputation needs to be built, and therefore, SOI applications are a must-first-step to join UASG. There is no criteria to deny membership of USAG, and they can join the working groups as well. The main purpose of SOI is to maintain the reliable voting system through the UA-discuss mailing list. Seda said right now would be the implementation state and the full-launch would be by the end of June 2024.



Jim asked if there would be any consulting with members before the voting is locked for the next election. Seda said the next election would be 15 months away. The UA-Coordinations WG would be engaging the conversation and consulting the community on when and how to do the election of UASG leadership. Jim asked when it would begin consulting the community. Jim said he was surprised by the last round of UASG election and did not have enough time to give his suggestions. Jim shared his opinion that even for the election the community seemed to be left out. Seda said for this round, the election announcement would be properly done and the verification of vote casting persons would not be duplicated. There would be additional mechanisms to make it more trustworthy of the UASG. Jim said allowing only the real people to vote for the election is very reasonable, however, making it compulsory for the UA-discuss mailing list is unnecessary.

Jim also asked if it was ICANN imposing the requirement of SOI to join the mailing-list as the main sponsor. Seda answered that there was a discussion between UASG leadership and ICANN leadership on planning the funds. If UASG would like to ask for additional funds and as a result, ICANN requested UASG to be built more formally. The problem with trolls was not only for UASG but in other ICANN meetings as well, which caused disruption to real individuals during the meetings. Jim asked if UASG leadership would define the problem and explain the counter measures towards the UASG members. Arnt shared that -

- 1) the exact details of the change can be varied before the final confirmation. It was unfair for the election, and also for other trolled ICANN meetings due to the fake people involved.
- 2) Having to submit SOI might seem to be a barrier to join, however, it would lower the noise level caused by trolls. WG leaders should be able to communicate this message to the group members.

Jim said he understood the purpose of false participation, but UASG leadership is less transparent. John said if this is for everybody, we should just do it.

Mark appreciated WG for working with focus on the self-certification and related parts. Jim said the self-certification program would become a valuable work, and there would be several obvious next steps that UASG should be focusing on.

Jim suggested relating to one task of Measurement WG: to evaluate leading email programs, which EAI WG can anticipate them working with the EAI self-certification guide.



Jim and Mark confirmed if the self-certification webpage actually links to the latest and current version of the guide document. Yin May confirms that it does. However, Jim pointed out that it does not link to any other supporting materials. Jim also asked if there would be a list or a record to keep product ratings, or if the WG is allowed to do so.

John said we can publish an evaluating result of email services. Jim said the purpose is to increase visibility of rated products for the customers, and this could be more than just publishing a report. John shared that he did something similar to automating the testing email programs.

Mark said there was a discussion about this a few months ago, on ICANN policy on not endorsing any proprietary products or appearing as favoritism.

John said in his opinion, sharing the list of evaluated products and scores or ratings of them should not be a problem. Mark said this would be about the marketplace behavior and we may need to work on details. John said the concerns are understood. Mark and Jim said anyone can make a list of conforming products for the marketplace overview and put it up, for example. UASG's concerns are unknown, and Jim asked if UASG would be able to help verify somebody's results.

Jim suggested start walking through the steps of
How would UASG acknowledge that list, or anything
How would UASG communicate with the product owners to add them to the list.
Mark said start to plan the program first and think about the future steps after.
Mark said WG should be able to get this plan done by a few more meetings.

Agenda#2: [Planning Document](#) of the EAI Self-Certification Program

AOB: Updating the WG's 5-year planning with timeline

Seda said regarding the UASG's strategic plan to push forward, some tasks defined by the WG need to have a timeline. For example, page 24 of the [UASG Plans](#) document, some tasks have not been completed with description or goals or timeline. Also, the action items should match the goals of UASG. Jim asked who requested the paperwork exercise and suggested spending less time on it. Mark said this assignment would be doable and should keep moving on.



Jim said annual planning would still be required, and Mark agreed that having the 5-year plan as the reference and annual planning as evaluation.

Mark concluded the meeting and planned to meet again.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 02 April 2024, 14:00 UTC

Action items:

No.	Action Item	Owner
1	Inform the WG for the new meeting time	Yin May
2	5-year action plan to be revised and concluded	Mark, WG
3	Brainstorm for the EAI Self-Certificate Program Planning	WG