

1. Universal Acceptance of Domain Names and Email Addresses

1.1. What is Universal Acceptance?

Universal Acceptance (UA) is the concept that all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems should accept all domain names and email addresses, regardless of script, language, or length of the TLDs. Adopting UA allows Internet users to effectively navigate and communicate online using domain names and email addresses that best align with their interests, business, culture, language, and script.

1.2. Notice concerning issues related to the Universal Acceptance of Domain Names and Email Addresses using New gTLDs

All applicants should be aware that approval of an application and entry into a registry agreement with ICANN do not guarantee that a new gTLD will immediately function throughout the Internet. Past experience indicates that network operators may not immediately fully support new top-level domains, even when these domains have been delegated in the DNS root zone, since third-party software modification may be required and may not happen immediately. Similarly, software applications sometimes attempt to validate domain names and may not recognize new or unknown top-level domains.

ICANN has no authority or ability to require that software accept new top-level domains, although it does prominently publicize which top-level domains are valid and has developed a basic tool to assist application providers in the use of current root-zone data. ICANN encourages applicants to familiarize themselves with these issues and account for them in their startup and launch plans. Successful applicants may find themselves expending considerable efforts working with providers to achieve acceptance of their new top-level domains.

Applicants should review <http://www.icann.org/ua> for background. IDN applicants should also review the material concerning experiences with IDN test strings in the root zone (see <https://www.icann.org/en/announcements/details/successful-evaluations-of-test-idn-tlds-31-1-2008-en>).

1.3. More detailed information on Universal Acceptance

For more recent and detailed information on Universal Acceptance, please visit <https://icann.org/ua>. There is ongoing work on Universal Acceptance by ICANN as well as the community-led UA Steering Group's Annual (UASG). The status of UA-readiness of different tools and applications and plan for the ongoing UASG work can be found in UASG's Annual UA-Readiness Report published at <https://uasg.tech>, supported by ICANN.

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1.2 Technical Feasibility of String.

While ICANN has encouraged and will continue to encourage universal acceptance of all top-level domain strings across the Internet, certain top-level domain strings may encounter difficulty in acceptance by ISPs and web hosters and/or validation by web applications. Registry Operator shall be responsible for ensuring to its satisfaction the technical feasibility of the TLD string prior to entering into this Agreement.

Commented [1]: text from the current draft agreement. Same text to be included in the next one