# UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE NEWSLETTER

**Compilation of activities by the working groups and members of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)**

## July 2023 | https://uasg.tech | info@uasg.tech

## ABOUT US

### Understanding Universal Acceptance (UA)

Universal Acceptance (UA) is a foundational requirement for a truly multilingual Internet. It is also key to unlocking the potential of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) to foster competition, consumer choice and innovation in the domain name industry. To achieve Universal Acceptance, Internet applications and systems must treat all TLDs in a consistent manner, including new gTLDs and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). Specifically, they must accept, validate, store, process and display all valid domain names.

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) was founded in February 2015 and tasked with undertaking activities that will effectively promote the Universal Acceptance of all valid domain names and email addresses. The UASG is financially supported by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

### Universal Acceptance Working Groups

1. Communications Working Group: UA Comms Working Group Charter
2. Email Address Internationalization Working Group: UA EAI Working Group Charter
3. Measurement Working Group: UA Measurement Working Group Charter
4. Technology Working Group: UA Technology Working Group Charter

If you are interested in joining any of the working groups, do so here.

### Universal Acceptance Programs

1. UA Ambassador Program
2. UA Local Initiatives

### UASG Leadership

The UASG is led by a leadership team that makes up the administrative group. To know more about the current leadership, please click here.

# REMARKS FROM UASG LEADERSHIP

## Welcome Message from New UASG Chair
*Anil Kumar Jain*

Universal Acceptance (UA) helps make the Internet accessible to those who are either partially connected or not connected at all. I am happy to note that UA is one of the top priority items for ICANN as well as for the IGF. The UASG aims to spread UA awareness among all stakeholders and provide solutions. The UASG is building required technologies and measurement tools with respect to Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) and EAI.

UA Day, celebration on 28 March 2023, was a landmark event. The day initiated a hope and aspiration among those who are not fully utilizing the Internet.

The UASG community is a committed and dedicated group to ensure that its objectives of spreading UA awareness and providing UA solutions are met. I hope this newsletter provides you with the information you need to follow our work and join in our efforts. .

## Message from Outgoing UASG Chair
*Dr Ajay Data*

Dear fellow volunteers, ICANN members, and stakeholders,

It is with mixed emotions that I step down from my role as the outgoing Chairman of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG). On the one hand, I am sad to leave this incredible group of people who have been working tirelessly to promote digital inclusion and linguistic diversity around the world. On the other hand, I am proud of what we have achieved together and excited about the future of UA. I continue to remain committed to the UA mission.

UA Day was a great milestone for us, and it will be remembered for decades to come. It was heartening to see so many people from different backgrounds come together to support our mission and celebrate our achievements. We have come a long way since we first started this journey, and we have much to be proud of. Holding over 50 UA events in over 40 countries was a historic achievement.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, ICANN members, and stakeholders. Your support has been invaluable, and I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your contributions. Whether you were part of the technical team, the outreach team, WG members, or the advocacy team, your efforts have made a real difference in the lives of the people around the world.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to ICANN, which has been a steadfast supporter of UA from the very beginning. Your commitment to this cause has been unwavering, and we could not have achieved what we have without your support.

As I step down from my role, I am confident that the UASG will continue to grow from strength to strength. We have a talented and committed group of volunteers and leadership, and I am excited to see what they will achieve in the years to come. Thank you once again for your support, and I look forward to staying in touch with all of you and continue to support all UA efforts globally. Best wishes.

UASG Chair, 2019-2023.
https://www.ajaydata.com

# Call to Action from Working Group Leaders

## Communications Working Group
*Anil Kumar Jain | Chair*

The Communications Working Group is meant to connect all stakeholders within the UA community through various initiatives including updating websites, promotion through social media, and amplification of UASG efforts through various forum meetings like ICANN, IGF, regional IGFs, etc.

I hope you will find the information in this newsletter useful.

Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

## EAI Working Group
*Nitin Walia | Vice Chair*

The goal of the Email Address Internationalization (EAI) Working Group is to bring together all stakeholders in order to achieve widespread adoption of global inclusive email applications and addresses. We will be providing a Self-Certification Guide soon to allow all email service providers to self-certify their EAI-readiness. If you want to contribute to the EAI Working Group, it is open for new members who are willing to contribute to our mission. Join our mailing list and meetings. You may find our working documents, call recordings, and meeting notes and link to join on the UASG.tech website.

## Technology Working Group
*Satish Babu | Chair*

Join us to create technological solutions for Universal Acceptance!

The Technology Working Group is mandated with the remediation and resolution of UA gaps in programming languages, frameworks, libraries, applications, and standards. We are working on multiple initiatives to identify gaps and to resolve or remediate them by working with different stakeholders.

We welcome more members to our group. If you are interested in UA and the vision of a global, multilingual #Internet4All, come **join us**!

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Recent UASG Reports

1. UASG 041 - [Universal Acceptance Readiness Report FY22](#)

2. UASG 042 - [UA-Readiness of Web Hosting Tools (cPanel, Plesk, ISPConfig)](#)

3. UASG 043 - [UA-Ready Code Samples in Java, Python, and JavaScript](#)

4. UASG 044 - [EAI Technical Education and Awareness Directed at Developer Community Websites](#)

5. UASG 044A - [Proposed FAQs](#)

1. Review and use the free [code sample repository](#) on GitHub. Mark the star if you find it helpful.

2. Read two new blogs on Hashnode - a developer platform:

   a. [https://thinktrans.hashnode.dev/universal-acceptance-of-domain-names-and-e-mail-addresses-what-is-the-issue](https://thinktrans.hashnode.dev/universal-acceptance-of-domain-names-and-e-mail-addresses-what-is-the-issue)

   b. [https://thinktrans.hashnode.dev/what-is-the-ultimate-goal-of-the-domain-name-and-email-id-validation](https://thinktrans.hashnode.dev/what-is-the-ultimate-goal-of-the-domain-name-and-email-id-validation)

## RECENT UASG BLOGS

1. [ICANN77 and UA Day: Insights from the Universal Acceptance Community](#)
2. [Universal Acceptance Day 2023 Recap Report](#)

## RECENT NEWS

### Hand Over Ceremony for New UASG Leaders



A hybrid hand over ceremony was held for the newly elected [UASG Leadership](#), who start two-year terms. The event was physically held in Delhi, India, and others joined virtually through Zoom on 27 April 2023.

At the end of the election, one new Chair and three new Vice Chairs were selected. The new Chair is Anil Kumar Jain (India), CEO of the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). Anil is also the Chair of the UA Communications Working Group. The new Vice Chairs are Nabil Benamar (Morocco), professor of computer sciences at Moulay Ismail University of Meknes. He is also the Chair of the Measurement Working Group. The other Vice Chair Haixin Duan (China), is also a professor, received his Ph.D in Computer Science from Tsinghua University in 2001, and currently leads the Network and Information Security Lab at the Institute for Network Sciences and Cyberspace of Tsinghua University. The other Vice Chair is Nitin Walia (India), Director of Data Xgen Technologies. Nitin is also the Vice Chair of the EAI Working Group.

The new leadership team took over from Dr. Ajay Data (India), Founder and CEO of XgenPlus, who served as Chair for two terms, and Vice Chairs, Abdalmonem Galila (Egypt), Numbering Planning Manager at the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt, and Dr. U.B. Pavanaja (India), CEO of Vishva Kannada Software.

Under Data's leadership the UASG worked to raise UA awareness by engaging with key stakeholders globally, developed numerous resources to aid organizations and businesses to become UA-ready, and conducted extensive analysis of the state of UA adoption. Data also oversaw the planning and implementation of the first-ever UA Day.

More information on the ceremony can be found [here](#).

# Universal Acceptance Day Launched

The first-ever UA Day was held on 28 March 2023. Organized by the UASG and ICANN, UA Day consisted of over 50 UA awareness and technical training sessions held in over 40 different countries and territories.

UA Day events were held in 21 languages, including Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Chichewa, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Myanmar, Nepal, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhala, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, and Urdu.

UA Day aimed to engage and mobilize top technical and language communities, companies, governments and DNS industry stakeholders to better understand the benefits of UA and how they can make their systems UA-ready.



The keystone UA Day event was held in New Delhi, India. The two-day event was hosted by India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) through the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). The event was supported by the ICANN and the UASG.

In attendance at the event were ICANN Board Chair, Tripti Sinha; Interim President & CEO, Sally Costerton; ICANN Board Member, Edmon Chung; and ICANN APAC VP & MD, Jia Rong Low, among others.

The inaugural anchor UA Day event was chaired by India's Secretary for Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma. More information can be found **here**.

The reports so far received from 41 UA Day events shows that more than 8,500 participants globally participated. For a gallery of UA Day event photos, please visit ICANN's Flickr page [flickr.com]. To know more about the UA Day celebration, kindly visit the landing page at https://uasg.tech/ua-day/.

# Coalition for Digital Africa and AAU launch UA Project

The Coalition for Digital Africa in collaboration with the Association of African Universities (AAU) has launched another major initiative aimed at strengthening Internet infrastructure across Africa. The project is aimed at making websites, applications, and email systems in the continent's higher education institutions ready to support all domain names and email addresses.  The full press release on this initiative is available here.

To know more about Coalition for Digital Africa, please visit https://www.coalitionfordigitalafrica.africa/.

ICANN's Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement for Africa, Pierre Dandjinou grants an interview with AAU Talks. He explained the importance of achieving Universal Acceptance in African universities as an important step toward creating a multilingual Internet.  The interview is available at bit.ly/3AJu8az.

Pierre Dandjinou and Sarmad Hussain, Senior Director IDN & UA Programs grant a further interview and explain the importance of UA in Africa and the role it plays in promoting local languages on the Internet - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKRImZ3f0gY.

The full details on the launching of the initiative can be found at https://blog.aau.org/universal-acceptance-ua-readiness-project-launched-13-april-2023/.

# New Video: Building an #Internet4All

A UASG video explaining the importance of UA in local languages is available here. To watch other  videos, visit the UA Day channel.

## ICANN UPDATES

1. **ICANN78 Annual General Meeting to Be Held in Hamburg, Germany**

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US

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2. Follow us on social media:

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https://www.linkedin.com/company/uasgtech/
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