UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE NEWSLETTER

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

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ABOUT US

Understanding Universal Acceptance (UA)

Universal Acceptance (UA) is a foundational requirement for a truly multilingual Internet. It is also a 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 the mandate to 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 want to join any of the working groups do so here.

Universal Acceptance Programs

The two programs of the Universal Acceptance team are:

1. Universal Acceptance (UA) Ambassador Program: UA Ambassador Program

2. Universal Acceptance (UA) Local Initiatives: UA Local Initiatives

UASG Leadership

The members of the UA team playing leading roles can be found at https://uasg.tech/about/people/.

REMARKS FROM UASG LEADERSHIP

Welcome Message from the UASG Chair, Anil Kumar Jain

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) is a special group supported by ICANN and meant to develop and deploy Universal Acceptance (UA) related technology and tools across all Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) and Email Address Internationalization (EAI) platforms. UASG has successfully made the community aware of the concept and its need.

It is expected that the next one billion Internet users are to come from the non-English speaking population and IDNs and EAI are key to this growth.

The UASG is working on a 5-year plan to set the vision and target for UA adoption for technology developers and deployers. Our efforts, among others, are to inform and motivate governments and big tech about the need for UA adoption.

With the UA Newsletter, we aim to make our readers aware of the latest technological developments, community discussions, and resources available.

Happy reading!

Newsletter Team

The publication of this newsletter is made possible by the efforts of the UA Communications WG members. The newsletter team is led by Raymond Selorm Mamattah, the Vice Chair of the UA Communications WG. Contributions and input for this publication were received from Bibek Silwal, Godsway Kubi, Anil Kumar Jain, Maria Kolesnikova, Sarata Omane and Mabel Asabea Ayita.

HIGHLIGHTS

Recent UASG Reports

1. [UASG 038: Universal Acceptance (UA) Messaging for Social Relevancy, Business Opportunities and Career Opportunities EN](#)

2. [UASG 045: UA Readiness of Popular Identity Platforms (Okta, Auth0, OpenIAM)](#)

3. [UASG 045A: UA Readiness of Popular Identity Platforms (Okta, Auth0, OpenIAM)](#)

4. [UASG 046: UA Remediation for Top Global Websites](#)

5. [UASG 046A: UA Remediation for Top Global Websites](#)

6. [UASG 047: UA-Readiness Report FY23](#)

Call to Action

For UA to be successful, we all have various roles to play. Below are some of the recommended action items for business, government and academia stakeholders:

For Businesses:

1. Organize internally and assess if the business' systems are compliant with UA standards.
2. Update your own IT systems to be UA-ready. See [UASG026](#) UA-Readiness Framework, [UASG004](#) test cases, free [code samples](#), and [EAI Self-Certification Guide](#) .

For Governments:

1. Evaluate the possibility of including [UA requirements](#) in government procurements.
2. Coordinate with your national ccTLD managers and ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) delegates to participate in and strengthen UA-related actions.

For Academia:

1. Upgrade email systems to support EAI.
2. Update IT curricula to include teaching and learning of UA and software internationalization-related concepts.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. [UA Community Update](#): ICANN78 Prep-Week, 10 October 2023.
2. [Fellows and NextGen session with UASG](#): ICANN78, 22 October at 11:45 UTC.
3. [At-Large Outreach and Engagement Session with UASG](#): ICANN78, 22 October at 14:30 UTC.
4. [Five-Year Planning for UA and Governance of UASG](#): ICANN78, 24 October at 08:30 UTC.
5. [Planning for 2024 UA Day Celebration](#): ICANN78, 25 October 2023 at 07:00 UTC.

RECENT NEWS

UA Working Groups Select New Leaders

The UA Working Groups (WG) have selected leadership for a one-year period until 2025. These leaders, chosen from around the globe, have been part of the UASG and are professionals in various fields. Some leaders have retained their roles while others join anew to add more skills to enhance our efforts to achieve UA.

The Communications WG is chaired by Anil Kumar Jain (India) and assisted by Raymond Mamattah (Ghana) and Sandra Rodríguez (El Salvador). The EAI WG is chaired by Mark Svancarek (USA) and the Vice Chairs are Abdalmonem Galila (Egypt) and Nitin Walia (India). The Measurement WG is led by Nabil Benamar (Morocco) and assisted by Imran Hossen (Bangladesh). The Chair and Vice Chair for the Technology WG are Satish Babu (India) and Jabhera Matogoro (Tanzania) respectively.

The WG Chairs together with the Admin Group and five Local Initiatives (China, CIS-EE, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand) form the new UA Coordination team that will help steer the efforts of the UASG.

The profiles of these leaders can be found at https://uasg.tech/about/people/

Five New UA Ambassadors Join the UA Ambassador Program

Amina Ramallan

Krislin Goulbourne-Harry

Balendu Sharma

Lia Marcia Solis Montaño

Chilufya Theresa Mulenga

Five new UA Ambassadors have joined the UA Ambassador Program. There are now a total of 18 Ambassadors.

The new UA Ambassadors are:Amina Ramallan (Nigeria), Krislin Goulbourne-Harry (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Lia Marcia Solis Montaño (Bolivia), Chilufya Theresa Mulenga (Zambia), Balendu Sharma (India).

The profiles of all the Ambassadors can be found at https://uasg.tech/about/people/.

56 UA Events Held as part of UA Day 2023

Universal Acceptance

UA Day

#Internet4All

A total of 56 UA days were held across the globe over a three-month period to mark the 2023 UA Day celebrations.

Out of the total events held, 37 percent were done in the APAC region, 36 percent in Africa, and 20 percent were held in the Latin America and Caribbean region. North American and European regions' share of the event were 4 percent and 3 percent respectively.

The full report of the 2023 UA Day celebrations is available at:

https://uasg.tech/2023/07/thousands-rally-worldwide-to-support-a-multilingual-internet/

Be on the lookout for the call for proposals for the 2024 UA Day celebration.

APTLD Celebrates Silver Jubilee

The Asian Pacific Top Level Domains (APTLD) marked their Silver Jubilee with a two-day meeting from 19-20 September 2023. During this meeting, a session was held on the topic: ccTLDs and Advancement of Universal Acceptance - Session 4A. The panel included Dejan Dukic (RNIDS), Maria Kolesnikova and Vadim Mikhailov (CC for TLD .RU/.РФ), Anil Kumar Jain (UASG), Katarina Gevorgyan (ISOC AM), Hanul Park (KISA) and Sarmad Hussain (ICANN org). The session was moderated by Sami Ali (Bahrain).

Among the issues discussed was why UA adoption rate is slow, and the importance for ccTLD managers to implement UA. The session was well attended with participants showing a lot of interest in the topic.

Universal Acceptance Explained in 9 Different Languages

Some UASG members from around the world gave explanations on what UA is and made calls to action in 9 different languages.

The [video](#) recording can be found at: https://web.facebook.com/uasgtech/videos/531073668943153.

Session on UA and IDN Held at the 2023 Cambodian Youth IGF

Bibek Silwal

Bibek Silwal, a member of the UA Communications Working Group did a presentation on the topics of Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) at this year's Cambodian Youth IGF on 23 September 2023. The session emphasized the growing need for a multilingual Internet to accommodate the next billion users. He highlighted the role of the Domain Name System (DNS) and ICANN in managing the DNSglobally. He also explained the concept of IDNs, which includes non-ASCII characters from native languages, enabling non-English speakers to access domain names in local languages.

The session also addressed the importance of ensuring that software applications recognize and accept all valid domain names and email addresses, regardless of the language or script they are written in.

Some examples of UA challenges and its impact on promoting diversity, competition, and innovation on the Internet were also discussed. A significant case study of Rajmail, an initiative by the Government of Rajasthan, India, offering free email addresses in Hindi and English to its 69 million residents and its success in promoting linguistic diversity online was underscored, along with its recognition by the UASG.

In the final part of the session participants played the IDN game to have more practical examples and implementations of IDNs and UA.

UA Session Held at the 2023 Ghana IGF

During the 2023 Ghana Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Raymond Mamattah, the Vice Chair of the UA Communications WG, organized a session that shed light on the transformative potentials of Universal Acceptance (UA) principles in Ghana's digital landscape. The panel discussion featured three women - Nellie Okunor, Josephine Fosuah, and Charlotte Emefa Ohene, and two men - Godsway Kubi and Franklin Agbenyo, who are all 2023 Fellows of the Ghana School on Internet Governance ([GhanaSIG](#)) which is organized by [EGIGFA](#).

The panelists emphasized the significance of embracing UA to bring more people, especially women and youth, into the online environment. They also mentioned some tangible outcomes of UA if

implemented and emphasized that UA is a catalyst for promoting international e-commerce and small local businesses.

The panelist also suggested that Ghana must organize its stakeholders, advance gender inclusivity, and educate citizens in order to seize the opportunities UA brings. They stressed that by accepting UA, Ghanaians will be able to fully participate in the global digital arena and enjoy a vibrant digital future.

UASG Strategic Plan for the Next Five Years

The UASG Administrative Team, made up of UASG Chair and Vice Chairs had a meeting in Istanbul, Türkiye. One of the decisions made was to develop a five year strategic plan with further input from the UA working groups and programs.

Discussions were also held on improving the UASG governance model and devising new strategies to make UA Day 2024 successful. To read more about the outcome of the meeting please visit https://uasg.tech/2023/09/fy24-planning-and-more-takeaways-from-the-uasg-administrative-meeting-in-istanbul/.

ICANN UPDATES

1. ICANN Celebrates 25 Years: Bridging the Past with a Vision for the Future

2. Join in Shaping ICANN's FY26-30 Strategic Plan

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