

UA Technology Working Group Meeting

22 July 2019

Attendees:

1. Abdalmonem Galila
2. Ajay Data
3. Benjamin Akinmoyeje
4. Hazem Hezzah
5. Jay Paudyal
6. Michael Casadevall
7. Satish Babu
8. Taiwo Peter Akinremi
9. Pitinan Kooarmornpatana
10. Sarmad Hussain

Meeting Notes

It was noted that this as the start the working group will discuss what it intends to undertake following the FY20 Action Plan by UASG. The members were presented with an overview of the [Action Plan](#), which states: “The Technology Working Group plans, coordinates and oversees work on standards, best current, practices, programming languages, tools and development platforms. They focus on Technology Enablers and Technology Developers as the stakeholders.”

The technology working group would collaborate to define what does UA-Readiness mean and phases of its development, develop tests to determine it, and undertake projects to achieve these goals. The work would also look at various standards and review and update existing documentation. The working group will also discuss how to select the frameworks and programming languages and then work with the relevant technology enablers to update these for UA-readiness. In addition, training modules should also be developed for technology enablers and developers for UA-readiness.

The draft charter version 2019-07-22 was discussed in detail, and feedback was received from the members to update it. The charter will focus on “what needs to be done” and following it the group will get into “how to achieve it”. For UA-readiness, it was suggested to enhance it to add “in relevant contexts”. It was noted that there should be a clear document for UA-readiness. This should span supporting both ASCII based domains and Unicode based domains. There can be legacy applications which are only ASCII based and cannot support Unicode at all. The working group should also consider communities maintaining and using content management systems like Wordpress, Drupal, etc.

With regards to the operational question, the members were informed that the notes of the calls will be shared on the ua-tech@icann.org mailing list for those who cannot join the calls and they can contribute to the working group on the mailing list. In addition, documents will be shared will be either wiki page or a google drive for everyone to access.

Coming back to the technology discussion, it was noted that legacy systems should also be looked at, including those which are based on non-ASCII encoding.

Outcomes were reviewed next by the group. It was noted that the detailed points raised during discussion on Purpose section could be added to the Outcomes section. UA readiness of databases was also suggested to be added. Further, both proprietary and open source software should be considered. Based on an inquiry it was explained that “address” in the items below mean that appropriate mechanisms will be undertaken, e.g. reaching out to the maintainers to update the code, or document mechanism for developers to generate their own code, or even to develop code and release it for others to re-use.

- Evaluate and address relevant technical standards and best practices
- Evaluate and address application development environments, including frameworks, programming language libraries, etc.
- Evaluate and address applications, including browsers, social media, and other relevant applications

Mobile platform is included, so the requirements are device agnostic. As mobile environment is different, it may be useful to add an explicit reference to mobile platform. In addition, accessibility is also very relevant as we are considering bringing next billion people online. So the group should consider this aspect, e.g. will domain name be read in A-label format or as a U-label.

The working group also discussed the section on membership. Members suggested adding people from the open source community of the content management systems (e.g. Wordpress, Drupal and Joomla), academics and researchers.

It was reviewed that UASG coordination group consists of UASG leadership, chairs of all working groups and ICANN staff. Also the chair of the working group is nominated in consultation with the working group for a one year term.

Sections on Operations and Roles and Responsibilities were also reviewed.

Action Items

No.	Action Item	Owner
1	Review and finalize the charter for the Technology working group	All
2	Develop a platform to share the meeting notes, recordings and documents	Sarmad Hussain