UA Tech WG Meeting Notes
22 May 2023

Attendees

Satish Babu	Anil Kumar Jain
Abdullah Qamar	Prof Ibrhahim Tchakala
Abraham Tamatey	Jim DeLaHunt
Daniel Getahun	John Levine
Daphline Belleus	Thoko Miya
Gerardo Martinez Harnandez	Seda Akbulut
Harsha Wijayawardhana	Yin May Oo
Harve Hounzandji	

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. FY24 Planning - UA Tech WG Action Plan
3. T5 Survey finalization (shared doc for final comments; updated survey https://icann.getfeedback.com/preview/wXs5Y3m4)
4. AOB

Meeting Recording : Link , password [8+eVqH+?v1]

Meeting Notes

Satish as the chair of the working group started the meeting, and then asked Anil to take the floor for any comments. Anil noted that the finalization of FY24 Action Planning to be done by the end of May 2023. The complete compilation of all UASG FY24 action planning would be published after public comment by 19 July 2023 on the UASG website. Anil also welcomed the new members of WG and returning members. He added that Coordination-WG and Admin-WG would be doing the compiling work to incorporate the feedback, and appreciated the Tech-WG in developing the plan. He thanked Satish for giving the floor.

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Jim asked about the timeline from finalization of one WG to UASG and publishing. Anil answered that the whole process includes several rounds of approvals and public comment. The planning would be confirmed only after the public comment, therefore, the time span before finalization to publishing is around 45 days.

Satish questioned Anil on this year's budget planning for any improvement since there are new tasks coming up. Anil confirmed that the budget flexibility will continue. He added that the budgeting would be allocable from one working group to another. The budget should not be a constraint for the planning of universal acceptance work.

FY24 Action Planning

Seda presented the meeting agenda, and explained the action plan to the working group. Seda shared the FY24 Action Planning spreadsheet for the WG. The action items to revise from last year are from T1 to T8, and invited the members to add suggestions and important matters to add to the plan.

Seda presented the item list of FY24.

Ref	FY24 Action Plan - Draft
T1	Identify technology stacks for UA testing – Phase 2
T2	Contribute improvements to Dovecot code to correct EAI support problems
T3	Test for bugs in email software when email addresses contain non-ASCII text in the human-readable parts of the address syntax.
T4	Identify the big picture UA challenges in 2023 through surveys of targeted stakeholders and provide recommendations to the UASG
T5	Step by step instructions to configure CMS
T6	Work on the action items recommended in the Standards and Best Practices UASG040 report

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T1 - Brought forward.

T2 - Collaboration of EAI and Tech WG's. There could be additional work based on the findings.

T2.2 - In order to make an impact, Wordpress is one of the top Content Management Systems (CMS), and useful to create a UA-friendly website.

T3 - Proposed by Jim on testing out the bugs of email software, based on a discussion during the ICANN76. Jim agreed to add a description for this. John said the human readable part of the name and email address were handled even on non-EAI applications. John asked if this is necessary to test. Satish explained that for the script users in India and China faced difficulties with the software interface not displaying the correct label or names in the contact list parts and address fields. Various suggested solutions exist and there is a need to be tested out and find out the most suitable ones for users. John said this is not directly related to EAI, it is more about software interface. Satish said those could be edge cases, however, John thinks not appealing. Jim said this case came from a person who has been involved in EAI and a well known technical figure.

T4 - Identifying the big picture of UA challenges (Former T5 action from FY23 Plan)

Based on the last year's discussions, Satish suggested consulting within the community before communicating with big tech companies and open source communities or developers. It would be great to see the perspective of people who have experience with IDN or UA. The survey is actually meant for the community members of ICANN, and UASG who have been working on this and who will have a good idea of the issues. Satish acknowledged that Seda went through several iterations of checking the questionnaire.

Regarding T4, Harsha asked if any local initiatives had done any surveying on impediments of UA. Satish answered that current work is the first level of consulting within the community.

T5 - step by step instructions to configure CMS (Content Management System)

This item was under planning during the previous year, and needs to be executed with more detailed planning later. Harsha will come back with documents.

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The goal is to create a step-by-step video guide on making a UA-friendly CMS configuration. This task is related to item T2.2 of FY23. This is also related to EAI's action item E7, on making a video guide of creating EAI-ready email service. Initially, it was only a guide document, and since the EAI-WG would make a guiding video, these tasks could be done together. Even if the guide would be in video format, there would also be guiding text or document.

Anil said Comms WG would also be making videos on providing information, UA awareness and UA related messages. Anil suggested making how-to videos on UA-ready website or EAI-ready email service. These could be recordings of tutorials on technical sessions, could come in series instead of one video as well. Anil just wanted to note that explanatory videos and training videos would be different in nature. Satish agreed.

Harsha said he had documented on training sessions of Dovecot and Roundcube, and asked about available step-by-step instructions on T5. Satish said making the video guide has not started. Harsha is currently working on Email service project in Sinhala and Tamil languages. He could share his current work to the WG's. There are a lot of solutions on language detection, understanding whether a string is text or an address, and so on. Harsha shared that email UI interface is also a case for the general users to feel comfortable enough to start using in their native language. Satish noted that the domain or mailbox name and the text body might come in different scripts or languages.

Seda said previous work on CMS studies was on UASG 032.

T6 - UASG 040 UA-Readiness Evaluation:
Seda explained that this document identifies opportunities and obstacles, and where we can have some collaboration with other WG's or organizations in developing the context, and action items defined for some of the WG's. Satish said we should be able to work with entities outside ICANN.

Harsha had done some work on validating non-latin email addresses with Regex, he would share some of these.

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Jim said the conclusion of last year on HTML5 was to wait for the major browser vendor to adopt the change towards IDNA2008. So this became the problem of persuading the browser-maker.

About using Regex to validate email addresses, the challenging part of validating the email address was not all email addresses came in a valid format. There must be a way to know if an email address is clearly not valid. Regex could do this much, but beyond that is human experience to figure out. John agreed with Jim.

Jim asked about a compelling business reason to establish in order to persuade browser makers. Jim would like to encourage emphasizing on expected demand and estimated revenue as leverage of UA readiness.

Harsha said India already has government approved UA roadmap as a country of handling multi-lingual society. Since it is a national demand, the supply would easily come up. Satish added that we would need to get the survey answers and compile them to plan this.

Anil responded to Jim and Harsha's points by saying that there is a plan to make a second round of studies on user demand and market estimations. Secondly, working closely with GAC (Government Advisory Committee) would give some results.

FY23 Action T5 Survey finalization
Seda briefly updated the changes she incorporated the feedback from Satish and Jim. She ran through the survey and then asked where there are some decisions that need to be made for incorporating some of the changes. These include both the survey and the survey notification email. Due to the time limitation, she asked everyone to go through the shared doc for resolving the comments.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7 June 2023, Monday 14:30 UTC

No	Action Item	Owner

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1	Share Wordpress configuration under [T5, CMS configuration guide]	Harsha
2	Take a look and contribute inputs at the shared document of the survey questions	Jim and WG
3	Share how to make Regex work for IDN	Harsha
4	Share documentation on training sessions of Dovecot and Roundcube	Harsha

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