

UA Tech WG Meeting Notes

31 July 2023

Attendees

Satish Babu

Harsha Wijayawardhana

Dr. Matogoro

Gopal Tadepalli

Samwel Kariuki

Sanoussi Baahe Dadde

Seda Akbulut

Meeting Agenda:

1. T5 Survey finalization ([shared doc](#) for final comments; updated survey
 1. finalizing the email notification and questions
 2. finalizing the [list of people](#) to send out the survey
2. Write up a technical opinion and a policy about email/ IDN validations
3. Getting ideas to define any problem set for the technical audience and university students to solve in local hackathons. ([In response to Raitme's email](#))
4. Reviewing [feedback](#) from EAI WG on EAI related action items. (T2 is more prior than T3)

Meeting Recording: [Link](#), password: ^i7LZ94C6v

Meeting Notes

Agenda #1: T5 survey

Survey questionnaires are to be finalized. Satish said based on the survey question set reviewing in the last meeting, a new question was introduced.

The question on the relevant perspective of “Businesses” was designed based on the question on the relevant perspective of “Developers”. For the surveyee to rank and prioritize issues related to universal acceptance.

Satish suggested reducing the survey answers to 5 or 6 options whichever is best to Seda. Satish said option #4 of that question is too long and suggested to shorten it to one line. Otherwise Satish is ok with Jim’s suggestions about the answers.

Option #4 Businesses as consumers of enabling technologies will confer significant competitive advantages on technology providers who enable the businesses to deliver Universal Acceptance.

Seda said she can remove this option, and Satish agreed.

“Businesses do not particularly value the ability of enabling technology to deliver Universal Acceptance.”

Harsha asked whether we have done the survey for businesses. Satish replied that we are now gathering the perceptions only for businesses. There would be a second phase to follow up with the business people based on the answers.

Harsha said Latin literacy is quite low in his region, and that he would like to add a leverage to motivate universal acceptance.

Satish explained that the purpose of this first survey is to ask the experts in the industry to gather their perspectives.

In the second phase, the aim is to reach out to multi stakeholders such as corporate management and government related persons, also language communities and businesses.

The subject of this survey is now “Universal Acceptance Strategy”.

And the list of surveyees is checked to make sure that nobody is missing. From the ICANN executives, the comments would be collected separately, not through the survey.

While checking the name list, Satish also said it is alright to send it to Mohammad Anu as long as he has background knowledge in this. Satish suggested Seda to arrange the names in alphabetical order.

Satish asked whether to send out the survey in one go or do it in rounds.

Satish asked this Seda to discuss internally. Harsha agreed to divide into two. Satish recommended starting from a small group as a pilot, 10 people for the first round from the UASG Leadership to get initial and swift feedback. It will be sent in alphabetical order.

Seda said Communications WG and also the Legal team would be asked to go over the survey set before sending out.

Agenda #2: Write up a technical opinion and a policy about email/ IDN validations

The regular expression for email address validation is not usable for Internationalized email addresses, it only applies for ASCII. It was pointed out by John L that “the only way to validate is by sending out an email and the other party gets it, then it is valid.”.

There was one WG member who volunteered to write this paper. Satish said WG should help him write and Harsha agreed and wanted to collaborate with the volunteer.

Harsha said the write up should include the definition of validation. He added that email format can be checked by regular expression, for email address validation purposes, the challenge might include spam email addresses. Satish said it depends on the definition of validation. It should be compared with the xml properties of well-formed and valid. Harsha said we can check if an email address is well-formed, but being valid or not is only by sending email to the given address. Satish said it needs to differentiate these two, and suggested

letting the person write the first draft and WG contributing based on the first draft. Satish and Harsha agreed that the email address should be well-formed with unicode mailbox names.

Seda shared that similar information has been already included in the EAI Technical Education and Awareness Directed at Developer Community Websites – Proposed FAQs - [UASG 044A](#) - page 5. Satish asked this to be shared with our volunteer as well:

1. What is the simplest regular expression to validate emails to not accept them blindly? Proposed Answer: When it comes to validating an email, there is no simple solution through the regular expression-based validation. Given the way email protocol is framed, technically speaking, the “regex” that will validate it fully will be huge and not feasible from the processing efficiency point of view. It is recommended to perform the validation by sending an email to the email ID to be validated with some personalized link or some code which the user has to click/input to verify himself/herself to be the rightful owner of the submitted email ID.

Satish pointed out that, in the previously published document of UASG, it said Regular Expression could be used to check the email address format and not to accept it blindly, which could create a conflict. Harsha said he could try some parts of it and come back to this topic next time.

Satish talked about the RFC5322 - official standard regular expression to validate email addresses. Many applications do not consider this, however, if the validation rules are too strict, what works right now may not work in the future. There is a need to look into this matter.

Agenda #3: Hackathons

Satish talked about a discussion in the previous meeting which was on organizing a hackathon in Bangladesh, Latin America or elsewhere. What set of

problems can we identify for developers and university students to resolve in hackathon events?

There is also one email request from LACNOG. Satish said multiple people can identify problems to be solved at the hackathons. One of the ways is to identify a problem through a survey to developers and compile them as hackathon suggestions.

Satish said there were some hackathons among the UA day activities, these could be a kind of reference for those who would like to organize future hackathons relating to UA. The previous events could be found on the UA day website. For the new challenges for the upcoming hackathons, we may not be able to predict ourselves.

Seda invited the members of UA-Tech WG to suggest the hackathon ideas. Satish said, for the LACNOG region, one popular programming language is Lua, therefore, **we can propose them to create EAI solutions with Lua programming language.**

There are many frameworks including Android platform, and the Tech WG had a discussion on the reasons why Android did not close the UA-gap. Satish suggested that there could be **any workaround to overcome the UA-gap in Android platform.**

Satish also talked about the **programming languages** analysis report, where some of them were marked **red or yellow, in the list of UA-Readiness Report.** Satish said these open issues could be discussed at the hackathons, and the libraries could be a good focus. He suggested looking into UASG documents and also looking into some good practices such as the way THNIC did. Seda pointed to the [UASG 013](#) - UA Hackathon Case Study document by THNIC. Satish suggested passing on this document to the new hackathon organizers, and proposed to **make it able to coexist with other script email addresses, and also to be able to extend to other ccTLDs.**

Satish asked if Seda can forward [Raitme's email](#) to Local Initiatives and ask them about their hackathon ideas, and also for Egyptian hackathons. Seda said she could ask Abdalmonem.

Agenda #4 : FY24 action plan, T2 and T3

Seda shared the updates on T2 and T3 from UA-EAI WG.

T2: Arnt has volunteered to work on this, and Harsha would be contributing as well. It is estimated to be done by late August.

Satish asked if this item could be done internally or outsourced. Seda said there is no budget allocated for this action item, therefore, instead of outsourcing it, we should work on our own. Satish asked to be informed of the progress.

T3: UA-EAI WG is neutral on this item, suggested T2 should be a higher priority.

AOB

Dr. Matogoro (University of Dodoma, Tanzania) shared that he organized UA Day in the university. His students are interested in taking on some of these issues. The software engineering students would like to work on some issues as their final year projects and also to contribute back to the tech community. Dr. Matogoro expressed appreciation for encouraging the students' participation.

Satish said students could participate either in hackathons or internship programs or final year projects. Satish said the training materials and working code samples are shared. Satish said Dr. Matogoro could come back to WG after discussion with the students on how to fill up the UA gaps. In the meantime, he suggested taking a look at the documents on the UASG.tech website. Satish expressed appreciation for stepping up and welcomed him.

Related links:

Code samples: <https://github.com/icann/ua-code-samples>

Training materials: <https://www.icann.org/ua-training-en>

Samwel also would like to organize a hackathon in his university. He would like to invite a guest to join. Satish suggested Samwel write to Seda and the WG with the information of what level the students are at and what kind of work they would like to cover.

The meeting ended.

Next Meeting: 14 August 2023, Monday 14:30 UTC

Action Items:

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Process the survey steps for the expert consultation (pilot - phase 1)	Seda
2	Communicate with the volunteer to write the first draft of “Not using regular expression to validate email addresses” Satish and Harsha would like to be in the loop. Then loop John L and Jim for coherence.	Seda
3	Forward email to (LIs and) Abdalmonem for hackathon ideas	Seda