UA Tech WG Meeting Notes
14 August 2023

Attendees

Satish Babu	John Levine
Anil Kumar Jain	Henrietta Ampofo
Mr. Matogoro	Millennium Anthony
Abdalmonem Galila	Olivier Kouami
Dr. Matogoro	Samwel Kariuki
Enerst Mafuta Katoka	Sandra Rodriguez
Harsha Wijayawardhana	Seda Akbulut

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Start discussion on step by step instructions to configure Content Management System (CMS) in a way the instructional video can be designed. (FY24 Action Plan)
3. Tech WG Action Items from UASG's meeting with ICANN BIUWG (Board IDN UA WG) and ICANN org.

Action Items	WG Progress
*UASG to look into the **impact of IDN Variant TLDs on UA**.* *(assigned to UA-Tech WG)*	Approved IDN ccTLDs in 2010 and IDN gTLDs in 2012. Language community wanted the variant TLDs for a name in both Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese (For HSBC), however, it was not approved. All the variants should be treated as equal, one set domain not to create complexity. When transferring the label, the whole set has to move from one registrar to another. EPDP is currently working on creating a policy on how to bring IDN variants into rootzone. The concern is whether IDN variants will create new UA gaps.

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	To answer this, we need to make a study, and discuss if any technical help is required to measure the impact of IDN Variant TLDs on UA. Please refer to a study on variant TLDs 5 years back on the UX report: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/active-ux-21mar13-en.pdf
*UASG to explore **UA-readiness by the next new gTLD round** and how UA could impact the next round.* *(Assigned to UA Tech and UA Measurement WGs)*	We want everybody to be able to use whatever domain names and emails they come up with. The status of Universal Acceptance is inadequate, for reasons outside the domain name system, because the market lacks a clear advantage of Universal Acceptance or forecast of increase in the market. Existing markets and existing tools are happy with not being able to use IDN domains and email addresses. We have not discovered the big drive towards Universal Acceptance. Releasing new domain names with weak Universal Acceptance would not get much. UASG's Tech WG is working on identifying the biggest obstacles facing UA readiness which would be helpful to explore more and address this. - not only the obstacles but also look at the opportunities as well in the new studies to be conducted. (Analysis Mason). We need to tell why we should adopt UA, not only the challenges.

Meeting Recording: Link, password: 6=9F2igWL&

Meeting Notes

Seda presented the meeting agenda, the action plan and the status of the survey. There are two action items assigned to the Tech WG from the past BIUWG meeting with the UASG, and the second one is assigned to both the Tech WG and the Measurement WG.

Dr. Matogoro is the new vice-chair of the WG. Satish welcomed the new vice chair and newcomers and asked about the survey updates. The first phase of the survey is expert consultation, the questionnaire set is ready and the first 10 surveyees were chosen. Currently, the survey set is being reviewed by the legal

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team and communications group. If there is no requirement to check the concerns of GDPR, the survey will be sent out.

Satish noted that WG has not started discussing anything about agenda #3 and would like to touch on that after the discussion of agenda #2.

Agenda #2 : Start discussion on step by step instructions to configure Content Management System (CMS) in a way the instructional video can be designed.

Seda said this UASG032 CMS study is about the UA readiness test results of Wordpress and the second phase of testing other platforms has not been processed yet.

Satish said the challenge is how to configure CMS in the UA compliant manner, especially the Wordpress CMS. Satish asked who the vendor was for the previous study (UASG 032) on CMS testing, and how compliant is the solution. Satish said inputs from the vendor at this stage would be good and we may need to ask the vendor to help again to figure out whether it is improved. Wordpress is not totally ready yet. Seda presented the UASG 032 UA study of CMS, Phase 1 Wordpress document. The vendor for this document was not mentioned in the document.

Abdalmonem asked for clarification as no matter which CMS it is, Joomla or other CMSs, the modules and plugins which are used to construct them need to be compatible (UA ready CMS modules).

Satish answered that the goal for this action item is to take one example CMS such as Wordpress, and make it UA ready. They should look into this UASG 032 document in order to make it work for UA requirements. We can find out what the vendor's solutions are in the document, some modules are already UA compliant, and some minimal work would be needed to make the whole system UA compliant. For the UA readiness status, some modules passed (marked in green color) and some of them need improvements (marked in red color). The level of compliance was divided to A-level, B-level, C-level, and D-

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level. Looking at the document, Satish said a video instruction could be implemented. Since there are no major version changes known, we may need to confirm with the vendor and then proceed.

Abdalmonem commented that the plugins are the same, whether it is Wordpress platform or others like Joomla or Drupal, the same plugin could be used most of the time. Satish appreciated the comment, however, there are other plugins which are not interchangeable for Joomla and so on. It would not be alright to make one plugin for all CMS. The answer to making all CMS platforms UA ready by making some of these plugins UA compliant is uncertain.

Satish asked if there was anyone who uses Wordpress CMS to make a UA ready website.

Dr. Matogoro said we can find out the best way to make it easy. We can check if a single plugin can solve issues for different CMS. If not, a new plugin could be developed to see if it would work for all CMS, or the solution could be developed case by case.

Satish answered that it could be challenging to find a solution which is one size fits all. According to John Levine, different CMS have totally different infrastructure. Satish added that we have to distinguish core platforms and plugins.

The reason Wordpress was chosen is because this is the most well-known platform. Doing UA ready work on this would impact the greatest number of people. As the next step, we would be making a video instruction to guide people who would like to make their websites UA ready by using Wordpress.

Abdalmonem provided the link to 15 Best CMS Platforms to Start a Website in 2023: https://www.hostinger.com/tutorials/best-cms

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Satish continued that when it comes to the optional modules or plugins, we need to find out which of these are used for the most instances. We need to decide on which basics we chose, it could be based on their popularity, or other parameters. The approaches to solutions for different CMS platforms and different programming languages is making hard to decide. The instructional video should be specific for Wordpress.

Satish requested Seda to contact the vendor and ask those questions.

Decision: video will be implemented focusing on Wordpress

Agenda #3: Action 1: UASG to look into the impact of IDN Variant TLDs on UA.

This is to look at the impact of IDN variant TLDs on universal acceptance. Satish said EPDP is currently working on incorporating IDN variant labels into the domain name system, the first phase is for the top-level domain and the second phase is for the second level. This is a considerably important thing to do.

Satish asked if the next round would have IDN variant TLDs and be ready with the policy for that by the time the AGB occurs. Satish said this is the Board's request to look into the impact when the UASG met with the Board IDN and UA Working Group a few months ago.

Satish gave updates on the report: the preliminary Phase-1 report of the EPDP is not yet ready and it is receiving the public comments. The final report would be coming out in a couple of months. Once the report is ready, the recommendations of EPDP would be clear.

How would newly incorporated TLSs impact on UA, this subject was not looked too deeply into. Some of us need to write a paper to understand this. Seda addressed the [Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs](#) study, and Satish said there have been many updates since then. Satish

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asked the WG to suggest how to approach this question. Normally, WG would ask some vendor to do the research and write the paper based on the WG's inputs. Alternatively, if the WG has some volunteers, they could lead this as well.

Abdalmonem said it would give a lot of ideas if WG can know what the variants IDNs are and what the ASCII IDNs are. UA readiness for such domain names that have variants for one or more labels, the idea is to prevent any attacks and increase security.

Satish asked if the first step is to look into the ASCII variants of those labels. Abdalmonem agreed, since the trend is to have new gTLDs which are more than 1400, so the idea is to look into English (ASCII) and then look into IDNs.

Satish shared that the Latin Generation Panel (GP) has taken an interesting step for English, there is a debate going on about [.Quebec]. It is currently delegated, and they would like to have a French equivalent [.Québec] with e-acute. The decision was they are not variants. Satish explained this did not fit into the real case of variants, the actual variants are under three or four languages including Arabic and Hans script.

One of the fundamental principles the EPDP recommends is that of the "Same Entity Constraint". For example, the Chinese labels of the HSBC bank would have the simplified version, and the traditional version, both are recognized as variants for the Chinese community, therefore, when the bank would register the domain, the policy states that both of the labels should be assigned as the same address. The policy suggests all variants should be owned by one entity. The question is would this suggestion have any effect on the UA works. Satish said we need someone who understands UA works and the variants. Satish requested if Seda could ask someone to present about the policy of variants in the next meeting. Satish and WG would like to know what the likely labels are and it would be great if someone, such as Sarmad or Pitinan, who is also part of the EPDP work could do a presentation on the implications of variants on

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UA. Seda answered that Sarmad's schedule may not allow to participate in the next UA Tech WG meeting. Satish asked when the deadline for the WG would be to get back to the Board. Seda said the time for the next Board meeting is not set yet although it would be in the same year.

Abdalmonem shared his view that these variant labels would affect the UA works: When a software is trying to identify a domain name or an email address, they may need to know how to identify these variants to which IP address. Some browsers may have restrictions on using some characters in those labels, there are processes that need to be looked at.
Satish added that the allocated variants listed by the script user community can be delegated. From the technical perspective, there is nothing that holds the variant labels together in the DNS level as one variant set. They can create second level labels and have more URLs. From the perspective of DNS, these labels could be acting independently. For the management perspective, the variant labels should go to the same address and so on.
Satish hoped to get more ideas about this in the next WG meeting.

[Examining the User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs](#) might give good information meanwhile before the IDN team comes present to the WG.

Agenda #3: Action 2: UASG to explore UA-readiness by the next new gTLD round and how UA could impact the next round.

Seda said that the Board's IDN UA WG would like to know the UA readiness of current systems. The questions are about the issues to be resolved and how to improve the level of UA readiness for the new gTLD round.

Satish said he generally agreed with the notes written in the agenda above, would like to amplify it lightly, and if anyone felt differently, encouraged to speak up. Satish said to catch up with the new gTLD timeline, things need to be

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ready by 2026 Q2. It would be frustrating if the UA Readiness level remains as is till then.

Anil shared in the chat that he thought this is the right time to give our inputs to both EPDP IDN gTLD and IDN ccTLD WG4.

Harsha said this would lead to a lot of things, especially the EAI part should be UA compliant within two years. The major players should be at least at the Silver Level (L1).
Satish shared that he would make a draft paper that is more convenient to share with BIUWG. Then UA EAI WG and the UA Measurement WG can contribute.

AOB: The new vice chair introduction
Dr Matogoro introduced himself and shared his experience. His background is computer science (1st and 2nd degree) and a PhD in Telecommunications. He joined the UA movements which were introduced by Abdalmonem. He promised that he would play a major role in supporting the WG moving forward. Making the CMS UA ready also falls in his technical domain. His full-time job is being a lecturer at the University of Dodoma. He appreciated Satish and the WG for giving him the opportunity to be with the UA Tech WG as a vice chair.
Dr Matogoro is also an alumni of the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, and also part of the Mozilla Internet Society.

AOB: UA Curriculum
Seda said the upcoming UA Measurement WG meeting (Thursday 16:00 UTC) would be about the UA curriculum and invited the interested members to join. And also showed the new members how to join the WG on the UASG website.

AOB: IGF

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Enerst asked in the chat if there is any UA session at the Global IGF. Seda said the details are not known yet, but ICANN is working on it and would be shared with UASG and all. Satish said he would be there.
The meeting ended.

Next Meeting: 28 August 2023, Monday 14:30 UTC

Action Items:

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Communicate with the vendor of UASG 032 to ask guidance about what plugins / modules can be included in the video	Seda
2	Check with Sarmad and Pitinan on EPDP policy of variants, Same Entity Constraint and on the implications of variants on UA.	Seda
3	Make a draft paper to share with BIUWG on the Action 2 (explore UA-readiness by the next new gTLD round). Tech, Measurement and EAI WGs will further contribute before sharing with the BIUWG.	Satish

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