

UA Tech WG Meeting Notes

28 August 2023

Attendees

Satish Babu
 Adebunmi Akinbo
 Benjamin Akinmoyeje
 Chilufya Mulenga
 Dr. Jabhera Matogoro
 Elinipenda Amin
 Harsha Wijayawardhana

Jim DeLaHunt
 Krislin Goulbourne-Harry
 Prof ibrhahim Tchakala
 Samwel Kariuki
 Sushanta Sinha
 Arnt Gulbrandsen
 Seda Akbulut

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Continue discussion on Tech WG Action Items from [FY24 Action Plan](#)

#	Task	Description
T1	Identify technology stacks for UA testing – Phase 2	Research, identify and prioritize technology stacks for UA testing
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	Identify the big picture UA challenges in 2022-23 through surveys of targeted stakeholders and provide recommendations to the UASG
T5	Step by step instructions to configure CMS	CMS: Content Management System
T6	Update standards and develop best practices	Work on the action items recommended in the Standards and Best Practices UASG040 report

Meeting Recording: [Link](#), password: jZx4kZVe\$*

Meeting Notes

Seda presented the meeting agenda, and the action plan of the Tech WG. Satish asked WG for additional topics of the agenda, and there were none.

Agenda #2 : FY24 action plan of Tech WG

T1:

Seda said that the programming languages covered last time were Java, Javascript and Python, the focus was on preparing the sample codes. This time could be with improvements on the same languages or other languages, up to the WG to make the decision. Satish said this is to cover different programming languages and libraries. Satish has noticed that people are using the Javascript libraries. Satish asked WG for three stacks and any language to prioritize.

Seda shared the technology stack layers of the UA readiness report.

Applications and Websites
- Wikipedia.org, ICANN.org, Amazon.com, custom websites globally
- PowerPoint, Google Docs, Safari, Acrobat, custom apps
Social Media and Search Engines
- Chrome, Bing, Safari, Firefox, local (e.g., Chinese) browsers
- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Skype, WeChat, WhatsApp, Viber
Programming Languages and Frameworks
- JavaScript, Java, Swift, C#, PHP, Python
- Angular, Spring, .NET core, J2EE, WordPress, SAP, Oracle
Platforms, Operating Systems, and System Tools
- iOS, Windows, Linux, Android, App Stores
- Active Directory, OpenLDAP, OpenSSL, Ping, Telnet
Standards and Best Practices
- IETF RFCs, W3C HTML, Unicode CLDR, WHATWG
- Industry-based standards (health, aviation, ...)

Satish said there are areas already covered like applications and websites. Satish said Wikipedia is not UA-ready because they have not accepted email-IDs with non-ASCII names. For the applications platforms like Google Docs, these are not prioritized to cover yet. Wordpress was prioritized because it would be the most impactful. The core Javascript seemed to have been covered, but the libraries which are popular like JQuery or RectorJs could be

looked into. Arnt agreed with Satish saying that the Javascript ecosystem is interesting and there could be gaps to be covered. Satish asked if we could say **Javascript libraries** in general, and then look for the top two or three libraries. Arnd recommended **React, Angular and Node**.

There was a comment on the work of Wordpress remediation by Harsha, and Satish said after covering the top three libraries of Javascript, we would come back to Wordpress. Dr. Motogoro asked about the framework, Satish answered that a lot of frameworks and libraries were covered previously. There were some problems with Android. The analysis was two to three years ago on code-based languages and libraries like Java and Strings, therefore, we would start again with Javascript.

For the CMS, Wordpress is already looked at. Satish requested to discuss Wordpress in the next meeting and asked for reports from Seda. Satish said normally these platforms have bug reporting systems like Jira, and our contracted party can file bugs to report the universal acceptance gaps. The problem is they do not respond most of the time.

Seda presented [the report of Wordpress](#), and showed overall status is B-Level, the vendor was by Evaris. The complexity of Wordpress platform is that there are a number of plugins. Satish said the plugin community also should be contacted to resolve the bugs. The report was published in 2021, and it said the bugs were reported through emails. Satish asked for the responses and current status as a quick revision.

Dr Matogoro said we would need to check their responses and revolving bugs for their software or platform's UA compliance. We may need to continuously communicate with them for the updates. Satish said he generally agreed, and **for the plugins, it might be difficult, for the core CMS, it would be possible**.

Seda presented the responses from bug reports from previous years in [UASG032](#) report. Most of the responses were about not supporting the IDNs

yet. Arnt updated about the major changes happening for the Android platform by sharing some good updates with the library OkHttp did what was necessary in the first four months of the year.

Satish said we do not have a standard set of tests to say this particular website is compliant. Some websites are about registration with emails, however, different websites have different work functions, therefore, currently we do case by case testing. Harsha shared that there is a need for standard procedure, since he would also like to do tests for the Sri Lanka websites.

*Arnt's comment in chat: A remarkable number of UA day participants asked me **for a checker to look at their websites.***

Arnt said sending emails to the developer and asking how to test would be a good procedure.

Harsha said he would find out some test cases and share back to WG. Satish thanked Harsha and said that Wordpress workflow is easy to understand and able to communicate with the provider. Satish shared his experience of website testing in India, since each website is designed differently, they have different workflows and are hard to standardize. They looked at the five verbs (accept, display, store, etc.), **Satish suggested running a script to test 5 criteria, if possible, for the testing, it could be any available programming language.**

Satish said for websites and web-services, it would be **good to have high-level standards of compliance testing.** Satish recalled there was confusion about the use of **regular expressions** in the last meeting.

Satish said it would be good to outsource this task to a vendor after defining what to look into. For that a standardized set of test cases would be required. Harsha suggested that having a web-conference would be easier for different people to contribute. Satish agreed with the idea and for further discussion, there is a need to figure out the area of coverage and expected outcomes.

Seda said before the budget allocation, they should explain the content of work, if it is just for testing websites or more functions with regular frequency. And, we need an SOW before outsourcing.

Satish said the Tech WG has done testing on Applications, Platforms and Programming languages. The test results are not checked with the new updates. To understand all these, we need to standardize and iterate the rounds of testing to understand the bigger picture.

Adebunmi suggested putting the news of testing on the media and letting people see the challenges. This would create a noise and those who believe in filling up the UA gap would come forward. Adebunmi suggested creating a space where all the solutions could be put together like a conference, where it should be a room for feedback.

Adebunmi's suggestion in chat: On standard, I advise we raise a proposal for such an independent measure for expert opinion, and expect something that can be given a measure of approval to boost the use of such tool. The earlier we start, the better.

Satish said when we test these websites, the expectation was the test results, not the test code or test procedure. Now we came to need the testing steps.

Jim said testing the websites may not be the resolution since each website is unique and different. **Making a website testing tool may not be feasible, just like a pen is not responsible for spelling, websites are not responsible for UA readiness, but the CMS platforms are.** We may be able to group the websites by functions or designs to understand the problem better.

Jim's understanding of T1 is about identifying new technology stacks and their status of UA readiness. Satish explained the need for extending the discussion on the testing of websites, instead of focusing only on T1's technical stacks.

Satish continued that the Indian government websites are UA ready, and testing about 700 websites was hard to find a common workflow. It would be good to have a testing script to run on them. However, the feasibility would be a question. The issue was raised because there is a need from the ground.

Seda said when we do testing, we let the vendor know the most prioritized factor to test. The vendor came back with the test result and test cases, these could be used for future testing if needed.

Decision: Three Javascript libraries to look at: React, Angular, Node.

T2: Contribute improvements to Dovecot code to correct EAI support problems

Arnt updated about Dovecot, he has tested with new packages and binaries. He requested for assistance from the WG members in testing binary packages of Dovecot, on which he he was working on. He needs to know what system is running for dovecot; if using Cpanel, then in what version of Cpanel is being used. Satish expressed interest in Arnt's testing methodology and the potential benefits of his tool, while Harsha showed enthusiasm for the Dovecot project. It was agreed that the list of websites would be shared at a later time, and the group would continue the discussion in the next meeting. Harsha said there are two platforms to be checked on and he would communicate to Arnt through emails.

Arnt said for his experience, **most websites have UA problems with the contact forms**. Arnt shared the [UA Crawler website](#) for testing purposes. The user has to input the URL of a website to see if there are forms.

Arnt requested a list of 100 Indian government websites from Satish for testing purposes. The webtool goes to the website and crawls through it to look for any form which accepts email addresses, and checks what kind of system is being used. The tool can guess and give suggestions such as this website uses

Wordpress and it needs version 6.2 or above to be UA compliant. Arnt shared if someone go and do some testing. Harsha confirmed and will share his inputs after the testing.

Harsha asked about UA compliant government website. He needs help with a guideline or would implement one together with the WG. Harsha also planned to distribute these guidelines to all government departments and ministries.

Satish noted the lack of a current document for this task but expressed interest in the idea.

Satish said we have best practices and other documents. However, there is no guide on how to make a UA compliant website, like in step by step format. They agreed that the guide should outline the necessary steps rather than specific technologies.

The rest of the agenda would be for the next meeting:

They concluded the meeting by planning to continue the discussion offline.

Next Meeting: 25 September 2023, Monday 14:30 UTC

Action Items:

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Wordpress reports for the next meeting - the bug reports, their responses and current status as a quick revision.	Staff
2	Find out the test cases for Website UA readiness and share	Harsha



3	Send an email to Arnt about two platforms to be checked in Dovecot, and the detail of the systems running with Dovecot to test the binary packages Arnt is working on (about T2 action item)	Harsha
4	Do UA testing using Arnt's code on " UA Crawler website "	Harsha
5	Provide a copy of the list of 700 Indian govt websites to Arnt for UA crawler test	Satish