

UA Tech WG Meeting Notes

06 November 2023

Attendees

Satish Babu

Anna Bagdasaryan

Harsha Wijayawardhana

Hervé Hounzandji

Jim DeLaHunt

John Odeh

Mark Datysgeld

Millenium Anthony

Maud Adjeley Ashong Elliot

Mykyta Shashenko

Seda Akbulut

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Discussion on NPM and drafting [SOW](#) for T1 action item: identify the technology stacks for UA testing: “Javascript libraries React, Angular and Node.” Identify UA testing with these stacks.
3. Developing a [5-year action plan](#) for Tech WG to achieve the UASG’s [5-year strategic plan](#)
4. Interim survey results (23 responses)
5. T5: Step by step instructions to configure CMS to make a UA compliant website (without focusing on technologies).
 - a) Group the websites by functions or designs to understand the problem better.
6. AOB

Meeting Recording: [Link](#) , Password ^ss2ctiRva

Meeting Notes

Seda presented the meeting agenda and requested Satish to lead the meeting. Satish welcomed new members and asked for the highest agenda item because agenda item 5 and 6 may not be covered due to time limitation. Seda suggested skipping item 4, and focusing on item 2 and 3. Seda shared about item 4 (UA Strategy Survey) to the mailing list.

Agenda#2 : SOW for making Javascript Libraries

Satish asked if there is any draft of SOW on this action item.

Seda shared the Draft [SOW](#), and reminded the WG that there was some work on [programming libraries in the past](#) (e.g., [Evaluation of Programming Languages - Phase 3](#)). Satish said what had been done last time was to study the core languages, and **this time is for libraries of one language**. The core functionality would probably be the same, and kept this as a good starting point of discussion.

Jim said that during the last meeting, the libraries discussed were the **Javascript libraries: Angular and React are for the UI of a website or web application (front-end), and Nodes is for the server (back-end)**. Seda said according to what Arnt said during the last meeting, although the work needs to be done on different libraries, **a single SOW would be enough for three libraries**. Satish agreed and asked WG if there would be more suggestions to look into other back-end libraries.

Seda shared the 'Description of Work' section written based on Arnt's email, and his input during the last meeting. Satish decided based on what WG already had, **the SOW would have two sections, one of front-end, and one for backend**. Satish said a list should be made for identifying the top 5 to 10 things of note.js using applications or website platforms. **Satish said adding 'Java' as another back-end option might be a good idea**. Seda shared what was written during the last meeting. Satish said the time is limited; thus, the document would be worked offline. Seda and Arnt would help shape this document and share it with WG.

Agenda#3 : The 5-Year Plan

Seda presented the UASG 5-year Strategic Plan and shared the [link](#), and explained that the working group needed to work on the UA-Technology WG's

5-year action items. Seda guided WG to exercise listing out the work items in the spreadsheet. Satish said this is a new item for the WG.

Satish recalled that in the past 8 years, UASG has worked more on UA awareness, and starting from this year, we need to make sure the UA issues are fixed by the time of the next round. Satish referred to some issues pointed out by Jim, which were discussed during the ICANN meeting. We would be playing the role of facilitator, and make some progress together. Since the technology field is rapidly changing, there could be more intelligent ways of coding in future, however, for now, we should look at what we see for now and make a plan, and see how the priorities could be changed over time.

Harsha asked if there **is a document that he could use for minimum requirements of a website, for example, if one were using the WordPress CMS, just like there is UA-EAI Self-Certification Guide Document for email-related services**. Seda added that Harsha's question may include about the UA-qualified logo to put on the website as well. The logo could be open sourced, and conditioned by basic policy.

Harsha said, for right now, we need to see what are current problems and some parts of the work were done. Harsha would like a mechanism to show the website to indicate meeting the UA requirements. Satish said the challenge would be an auditing requirement. Jim commented that the UASG website does not say anything about a set of tasks or a checklist to say which website is UA ready. The purpose should be for customers or consumers to say "I want UA or EAI", and for the developers to say "my product will give you EAI", which would allow customers to communicate with each other. Jim shared his experience that some websites have been supporting internationalized websites, but they do not clearly say it on their websites. **Thus, the purpose of the Self-certification guide was to create a selling word which would describe any level of EAI readiness.**



Jim referred to <https://uasg.tech/eai-certification/> and shared that the purpose is to help the market forces to start pushing. More than just a logo, there should be certification criteria, to develop these, it took the UA-EAI WG 18 months. We still need people to actually use the certification guide and share how to use the certification, how are the works for meeting these criteria and so on. Jim said the market forces causing the UA would spread. The UASG's activities should be to open up the floodgates of the market forces. Jim said Harsha's point is a good start to use the EAI Self-certification mode.

Satish said there are **broader frameworks such as the command line programs, Mobile Applications, should be taken into consideration**. Satish suggested **starting with a minimalist approach**. Harsha said he would share the links by the time of the next meeting. Harsha and team have worked on hosting EAI email servers for Sinhala and Tamil languages, and websites using WordPress together with Plugins, and also the government has started to localize the government websites with Sinhala and Tamil. **The only obstacle is linkification**. Harsha would share these after a few more testings on how the experience of UA readiness would feel. **Satish said there are the five UA verbs that we have talked about, and if the website could manage all of them, it could be considered UA ready**.

Satish asked Harsha about managing the plugin if the WordPress version would change in the future. Harsha said they are trying to figure out how to solve compatibility issues, some of them do not work with UTF-8 well and so on, therefore, **a new plugin was built and the staff would be maintaining it**. Harsha confirmed that it would be open-source and sharable.

Seda said Harsha may need a quicker and practical solution and shared the link: <https://uasg.tech/download/uasg-005-ua-quick-guide-en/> and explained that anyone could claim that their website is UA ready. The logo could be not from UASG, however, it could say "UA-Ready", and it could be referred to the above link, or UASG 026, which is a much more detailed version of this guide.



Seda said in case any UA issues still exist, some way of communication to UASG could be provided to log the issue. This would be for website owners who would be confident to declare the UA readiness of their websites. **Harsha said they would circulate a Sri Lanka - adapted guideline among their local IT field.**

Harsha asked who would come up with the "UA ready" logo. Seda said this needs to be checked by the Comms Team and get agreement from everyone.

Comment from chat by Mark:

I don't think we have a floor right now for UA compliance... in general it's more of a "best attempt" concept, as far as I know.

Question from chat by Hervé:

What skills do you need ? nodejs and angular developers ?

Satish answered that usually the WG would write up an SOW and contract the work to the vendor to open a transparent process.

Jim said about the logo program, the amount of work should not be underestimated. **A clear instruction is needed on how to certify their own products. In this kind of evaluation guide, just having the five verbs was not effective, it would only be conceptual, and a product could be granular and detail specific at functional behavior level. Defining a test plan to match the level would be a lot of work in terms of months.** Jim said it would be a change to move the market, but it could be a lot of work. Satish agreed and advised to adapt Harsh's testing log documents which would be the most relevant. **UASG should consider Sri Lanka as an example in UA adoption/remediation works. WG should operate in agile mode to see what we can do.** Harsha said the team is working on documentation of the work which has been done so far. Satish and Harsha agreed to work on the mentioned activities.

Satish brought the discussion back to the top-level strategic planning. Jim shared his email which was the comment on the 5-year plan:

<https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/ua-discuss/2023-October/004394.html>

Jim would like to suggest having a more realistic framework. UASG needs to include **self-examination and reflection on its own structure and process in the 5-year plan**. For the Tech-WG, **the weakness that Jim has seen was that considering UA as a technical problem**. Jim suggested **considering it as a business problem**. It has been somewhat in a circle of having low customer demand and suppliers did not try to offer, in a sense of basic strategic obstacle. Jim suggested **a business level intervention to improve business incentives on UA supporting vendors**. The following action item as added to the 5-year Plan: **T1: UA marketing and business WG can be set up as UA is more of a business issue rather than technology issue**.

Satish said for countries like Sri Lanka, the government initiates supporting all three languages, Sinhala, Tamil and English. If bigger countries like India would do the same, an even larger wave would be created. **Satish also mentioned about the survey that from businesses and other stakeholders, we would hear more inside information on what they think about UA**. For the self-reflection part, UA-Comms WG would be working on. There is increasing awareness about UA within ICANN itself as well, thus, some better changes will happen. There are ad-hoc issues like linkification, which is a bigger problem. Satish asked if Tech WG should pick up this issue as well. Some coordinated approach in planning is required for these different issues.

Jim said regarding the linkification support, there are two parts: technological issue and business issue. **What would be customer benefit or end user benefit?** If these are clear, the domain name industry would be pushing this forward, and vendors would be working on it. For now, **Whatsapp has not seen the benefit of customers or users having that linkification work until business benefits are more visible**. WG can support test cases on how

linkification should work and provide test cases, as well as a business motivation.

Mark asked what changes in stewardship of ICANN would be. Satish answered that the focus now would be from UA Awareness to UA Adoption, for the upcoming UA Day theme, and transparency in operation of UASG. Satish was hopeful that these changes would be implemented in a few months.

Agenda#4 : Interim Survey Results

The UA Technology Survey would be open until 15 December, and this date would be a rough cut. So far, there are still less than 30 responses, so hope to see more. Satish requested Seda to send out the reminder of the survey responding deadline, so there would be enough time to review the results.

Jim asked about the survey and Seda answered that the survey was shared about two weeks ago, before the ICANN78, the first batch of surveyees-list had 69 people. The responses were good in the first week, but it has slowed down. Currently, 23 responses were received. Seda has already sent reminders to the rest of the surveyees.

Seda updated that the GetFeedback tool is going to expire at the end of November, so the responses should be by the end of month, and will be moved to a different tool.

Satish ended the meeting as the time was up.

Seda requested shifting the meeting starting time to UTC 15:00 and the WG members agreed.

Next Meeting: 20 November 2023, Monday 15:00 UTC

Action Items:

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Share a SOW template with the WG after incorporating the following: +SOW would have two sections, one section for the frontend (React and Angular) and second part will be for Node (backend) +adding 'Java' as another back-end option might be a good idea. +add testing work descriptions for Java and Javascript testing.	Seda, Arnt
2	Share information on Wordpress progress, open source plug in, and EAI Self-certification experience	Harsha
3	Check with Comms team on having a "UA Ready" logo	Seda
4	Help with UA Readiness program verbiage to use the UA-Ready logo.	Tech WG
5	Communicate with surveyees for more responses	Seda