

# UA Tech WG Meeting Notes

## 08 January 2023

### Attendees

Satish Babu

Abdulkarim Oloyede

Abdullah Qamar

Duksh Koonjoobeharry

Eunice Pérez

Gopal Tadepalli

Ihueze Nwobilor

Jim DeLaHunt

Krislin Goulbourne-Harry

Samwel Kariuki

Seda Akbulut

Yin May Oo

### Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Developing a [5-year action plan](#) for Tech WG to achieve the [UASG's 5-year strategic plan](#) (50 min)
  1. Reviewing the UA Strategy [Survey Results](#) and discuss the next steps for the action items (10 min)
  2. Address anything related to IDN Variant TLDs' impact on UA, in the 5-year action plan.

**Meeting Recording:** [Link](#) , Password U?59.t5x\*=-

### Meeting Notes

Seda presented the meeting agenda and Satish greeted the WG and started the meeting. The two main agenda items were about the 5-year action plan for the Tech WG and the survey results.

### Agenda#2 : 5-Year Action Plan

Satish shared about the 5-year action plan for the WG, and revised the action items one by one. The plan was to be finalized in January and communicated with the steering committee. Seda added that this would be the first time WG has planned for 5 years, in previous years, WG only did annual plans. Satish said some action items would be a complete cycle for each annual year.

### **T1: Identify technology stacks for UA testing**

Satish said in his opinion, this would be more of a business problem than a tech related problem. Jim answered that this task may not be specific to the Tech WG to carry out, but it was more for the UASG to consider at the higher level. Jim said without minding the business-wise challenges and criticisms, it would be unconvincing to invest.

Satish explained that this is the first time for UASG to come up with the 5-year plan because it was requested by ICANN leadership, to seek better closure of technical challenges. Each WG's planning would be part of UASG's plan in a bottom up approach. Satish also asked to know more about Jim's expectations. Jim also pointed out that there seemed to be communication gaps, he would like to get answers from the UASG leadership. Satish explained that the leadership may allow the WG's decision going forward as a bottom up approach. The UASG Coordination WG had this topic to discuss and they want to respond to Jim but there is just not a coherence yet.

Gopal added that business and technology are not separate ideas, and we can position the market demand for this technology rather than focusing only on the technology all along. Jim commented that UA is more of a business issue rather than a technology issue. A business level intervention is needed to incentivize and support vendors.

Satish answered that the current structure does not have any market specialist in the WG, and T1 was deprioritized. We may need a specialized WG for market/business related action items.

### **T2:**

Satish briefly explained the action item, and explained that libraries used for the mobile platforms would also be included. This would be an ongoing exercise to do the testing regularly. It was merged with T1.

### **T3:**

Satish explained that this action item is similar to the EAI Self-certification guide, but for Websites. Harsha has a leading role on this and there would be more updates on this when Harsha comes back from holiday.

Duksh Koonjoobeharry asked if there are any requirements or prerequisites for the websites such as which CMS would be recommended to use for UA readiness. Satish said Harsha would be able to answer more precisely. Duksh let the WG know that he would be able to help out with website analysis if WG agrees. Jim asked what the definition of a website would be, what those websites would be and more aspects to be discussed on this topic. Another thing is about softwares that helps manage a website and could be configured to make the website UA ready. Jim said analyzing a website itself is one thing, and we can also analyze the website managing softwares to help out with configurations to make it UA ready is another thing.

Duksh asked if the work has already started, or any specific CMS is being considered.

Satish said that Harsha was working on this, and he is mostly using Wordpress. Satish explained that Harsha's scope includes government and public interest online-services, and to measure the performance of each website. The expectation is that the websites support UA in a certain way to be able to self-certify as a UA ready website, regardless of framework.

While Harsha is working on the website's part, WG can look into the different CMS to verify how they would support UA.

Jim suggested adding clarification on T3 that it is about the websites and not about evaluating the software tool to make the websites.

Seda shared that she added new action items based on the feedback received in the Tech WG survey on UA strategy.

- Address anything related to IDN Variant TLDs' impact on UA
- Actions within the UA/i18n community or coordinated efforts with other communities (IETF)
- Achieve a shared understanding of strategic situation of UA and obstacles blocking it within UASG members

- Hackathon ideas in open-source coding
- Update standards and develop best practices
- Developing international standards"

#### **T4: Address anything related to IDN Variant TLDs' impact on UA**

This item was also suggested by Satish in earlier meetings. But also supported in the survey report. Satish explained about this action item using the HSBC variant examples. This study is to support the next round of the new gTLDs. Current policy does not allow the variants at the top level. The question asked by the board is to brainstorm possible effects of the IDN variants. These cases were not thoroughly studied and sharing opinions on this would be helpful. The new gTLD round would start at the Q2 of 2025, Satish encouraged WG researching the situations.

Jim said there are things that WG could work on related to the new round. First is to understand all the changes and write a paper of 'How to remain UA ready', in the context of these new domain names, what could be different from the previous assumptions of UA readiness. Second is about the demand-supply paradox, about the websites not being UA ready, and reasons for not being so. The new domain names could run into those obstacles if UA adoption did not happen on time. For example, it could be 'How to be 2025 IDN ready'. This would create more market attraction than the known concept of UA readiness, just like the Emoji characters motivated the full unicode adoption on the commercial product devices. That could happen as a marketing hook to push UA adoption.

*Comment on T4 from the Chat:*

*Jim:*

*"Use 2025 round of new IDNs as a marketing hook to promote adoption of UA."*

This item was proposed by Satish and WG agreed.

### **T5: Actions within the UA/i18n community or coordinated efforts with other communities (IETF)**

Satish explained that this is IETF related tasks and the board has given approval on this. Satish talked about the IDN Implementation Guideline Working Group, and the generated policy of the IDN Second Level, which is between IETF and IDN EPDP. Satish said there is no forum to bring all these groups together yet. Satish said T5 is to coordinate all the multi stakeholders like an annual workshop, may not happen immediately, but still on the to-do list. By starting to list stakeholders such as UASG and the Unicode Consortium and so on. There were no comments on this item.

### **T7: Hackathon Ideas in Open-Source Coding**

Although UA-Tech WG has not organized hackathons directly, UASG has organized some events as part of the technical training. The hackathon challenge would be part of UA remediation.

### **T8: Developing International Standards**

Satish asked who would develop the standards, and asked the WG. Jim said WG needs to figure out what kind of standards would be useful for which body to use and should not veto adoption of the topic as finding the standard body would become part of the work.

Satish said that as W3C standard body is there for accessibility guidelines, and there is possibility that the UA requirements could be added to that.

### **T9: Develop various guidelines for UA Adoption**

This idea came from the survey results which is to create some kind of guidelines for UA readiness as it mentioned that it would be challenging to meet all UA requirements at one go. Satish said it looks a little fuzzy for him, and asked for WG's opinion. The main idea is for those who are new to UA, what would be their first step to take. Satish said there is some written guideline on this matter, and needs to be polished to meet the need, at the same time, it should focus on the UA Adoption guidelines.

*Jim :*

*Clarification to T9: “It is difficult to be UA ready in one go” is the motivation for suggesting “phase-wise and incremental UA implementation”*

Satish agreed and said the guideline should be phase-wise, and incremental.

### **T10: Educational materials (for language-specific workshops) for developers**

Satish said when it comes to educational materials, it should be determined whether it is for developers or curriculum. Seda answered that the UA curriculum has been started to be developed, and the updates would be shared to the Tech WG and the Measurement WG. This would be less intense than a regular curriculum and shorter materials, aiming for more like developers.

### **T11: Technical Standards (Existing)**

Satish said we do not have to say anything about the Unicode, as IETF standards are already implied. T8 is also about developing the international standards.

*Jim: “Encourage the adoption of Unicode” seems unnecessary to include. The Internet has already adopted Unicode.*

Satish suggested merging T11 to T8.

### **T12: Commission minimal but functioning code fragments.**

#### **Focus on Open-Source email service software.**

Satish said this item kind of overlaps with the work of the EAI WG in his opinion, and asked for WG’s points of view. Jim assured that there would not be a conflict with the work of EAI WG. Dovecot is a particular piece of email software, and not quite UA ready, IDN ready or EAI ready, since it requires some code changes and complicated configurations to become EAI ready.

Jim mentioned that the changes were submitted by Arnt to Dovecot, however, the update has not been merged yet. Jim suggested doing some technical work to understand that softwares like Dovecot have deficiencies in IMAP servers, and come up with solutions to those deficiencies. This could lead to providing the updated version of the software as a UA ready version. This could be larger and continuing technical work.

Jim also said patching an existing software could be more challenging than coming up with a minimum viable functioning code fragments. Satish said developing the functioning code fragments have been discussed, so this item could be taken out. Satish said he was in favor of commissioning the task with an SOW once WG has figured out what needs to be done. Satish said this could be taken as a more prioritized item, since some work is already done for this. Satish said forking the software to UA ready version is an option if the project owner did not merge the fixes. Jim mentioned that Arnt knows the solution and Satish requested Seda to communicate with Arnt on how to proceed with this action item.

**Additional item (T6):**

Satish asked WG to welcome more ideas if required. Jim said the last year's work was mostly focused on the survey, as a hope to find out what are the obstacles of UA. This would serve a larger goal which is consensus understanding of the primary strategic situation in UA, and this survey would be the first step to achieve strategic consensus between people and UASG.

Satish agreed and asked Seda to add this as a new item. Jim added the wording for the new item in the chat. Seda kept this item as T6.

*Jim:*

*New item: "Achieve a shared understanding of the strategic situation of UA and obstacles blocking it within UASG members."*

Satish said after getting the survey results, the planning of the next steps should be according to the survey results. Satish asked about the time constraints, and suggested 22 January as the next meeting. Seda said finalizing these at the next meeting would be fine. Seda also explained that the budget allocation of the action plans should be decided by the Coordination WG, meanwhile, WG should not worry about the budget first.

## **AOB**

Gopal shared that he was working on a Technology readiness survey with India Social Science Congress, and also shared about a speaking invitation on UA in a topic session. It would be an in-person event, however, there would not be a budget for the speaker.

Another thing is about W3C and relevant web standards, more details were shared in the chat. Currently UA readiness requirements are not published as a standard or requirement, and new guidelines or good practices should be willingly taken by the standard bodies if required.

Satish requested Gopal to share more about these standards at the next meeting if WG has miss-out out mentioning them, or there could be any obstacles adapting them.

Gopal shared in the email W3C page

<https://www.multilingualweb.eu/projects/> ; he was active at W3C until 2015.

Satish added that it is important to persuade the W3C to create a guideline for UA (similar to its Accessibility guidelines), which would then become a standard that website designers would aspire to implement. All members are requested to inform in case they can help with starting a dialogue with W3C.

## **Chat History Highlights:**

*Gopal Tadepalli:*

*<For the Records> I am associated with the "TECHNOLOGY READINESS SURVEY" at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYFb8dcoraMRVFJtIEeMQR-OW\\_oyAnn7Y6Vgodo9TwLG8OEq/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYFb8dcoraMRVFJtIEeMQR-OW_oyAnn7Y6Vgodo9TwLG8OEq/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0) This is for*



*the Indian State Meghalaya. I am serving as the Outstation Chairman for the 47th Indian Social Science Congress where the results will be presented by our team. The Survey is being channelized through a reputed Institution in Meghalaya.*

*Gopal Tadepalli:*

*W3C is the main standards organization for the World Wide Web. The W3C standards aren't enforced formally, and there's no penalty for ignoring them. W3C is now describing a range of recommended programming languages to generally accepted principles in web services and open architectures. W3C organized a series of workshops on Multilingual Web. - Dr. T V Gopal, Anna University, Chennai, INDIA*

*Gopal Tadepalli*

*USEFUL: A 2008 W3C Internationalization page "An Introduction to Multilingual Web Addresses" is at <https://www.w3.org/International/articles/idn-and-iri/> There is a lot of work done after this, but I like this one very much.*

Meeting was concluded.

**Next Meeting:**

- UA Curriculum 17 January 2024, Wednesday 15:40 UTC
- Tech WG 5-year plan 22 January 2024, Monday 15:00 UTC

**Action Items:**

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Communicate with team for the next meeting date and time	Seda
2	Review for the 5-year action planning of UA-Tech WG and finalize it by the next meeting	WG

3	Communicate with Arnt on making the Dovecot UA-ready version	Seda
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