



UA Tech WG Meeting Notes

01 April 2024

Attendees

Satish Babu

Jim DeLaHunt

Gopal Tadepalli

Letsatsi Lekhooa

Chilufya Theresa Mulenga

Seda Akbulut

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Transparency and good governance
3. [5-year action plan](#) for Tech WG to achieve the [UASG's 5-year strategic plan](#) (see comments <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oAOjT8G0Abk64WZGYctiaTwCfSqArRplABVqsJASPyo/edit>)

Meeting Recording: [Link](#)

Meeting Notes

Jim suggested a new agenda item, Transparency and good governance, and Satish agreed to start the meeting with this hot topic as the Statement of Interest (SOI) is now being implemented for UASG.

- **Transparency and good governance**

Jim shared that transparency and good governance is important for UASG, and he thinks it is difficult to achieve transparency and good governance through non-transparent means and bad governance. Jim asked Satish to pass back the feedback in the coordination meeting that to impose a mandate for a governance mechanism without having grassroots discussion amongst the group is not good governance; and to not discuss the reasons for the mandate is not transparent. Jim tended to agree with the conclusion but wanted the process being discussed with the community.



Satish shared that he can take it to the Coordination WG. However, what's currently unfolding was already pointed out by many people from the community. The UASG was set up as an open community where rules were framed when everyone knew each other and there was absolute trust. However, subsequently the system was gamed. To have a democratic UASG voting process for leadership, and to know who is talking, commenting, the implementation of a statement of interest is needed.

Jim appreciated the explanation and showed understanding. He pointed out that UASG Leadership needs to explain what problem they're trying to solve and explain why this proposal is a reasonable solution to it. That explanation is missing.

Seda showed the email of UASG Chair that was sent to ua -discuss, also added that the discussion between the community and UASG was held on ICANN78 and ICANN79 Governance sessions. Satish added that many people felt strongly to implement SOI in these discussions:

On 19.12.2023, 13:58, "anil Jain" <asdj1990@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear all,

ICANN Staff suggested to UASG leadership team need for implementation of SOI (Statement of Interest) for all members(new and existing) of UASG.

Coordination WG and Admin WG of UASG deliberated on this issue extensively from Aug 23 to Dec 23. We have concluded that SOI may be implemented in UASG as suggested by ICANN Staff. Details of implementations shall be guided by ICANN Legal team shortly.

This step will help UASG for a better Governance.

Thanks,

*Anil Kumar Jain
Chair, UASG*

Satish explained that we only have email ID for the electorates. People may have multiple identities. There are brigading issues, like a boss is asking staff to register and then vote for him/her. SOI is not solely solving the problem. But it is at least a step. Jim responded that more transparency is needed for the problems to be solved. There may be perspectives to point out to things and he suggested SOI should be a



barrier for voting, but not for participation. He added that the requirement to fill out a Statement of Interest is itself a barrier, compared to not having a SOI; referring to “If you are unable to complete your SOI by 15 May 2024 deadline, you will be unsubscribed from all UASG email lists.” That seems like that someone with no SOI on file will not be able to participate in WGs.

Seda clarified that this is a notification for the existing members so that it should not be a surprise when their email IDs are deleted. We don’t want to remove them without notifying them ahead of time. But at least we will make a barrier for trolls, anonymous people.

Seda shared that SOI is just asking for more information than email address, but still there is a webform to submit in practice. And it is not a barrier because anyone can resubscribe at a later time by submitting SOI. Satish and Harsha supported that SOI is necessary. Gopal supported accountability and transparency.

Seda recalled the issues where otter.ai participation was done to zoom meetings by anonymous people pretending to be a member of Coordination WG. Harsha and Satish agreed that anonymity from that sense is harming transparency and accountability. Gopal shared that it is a good step to host the SOI on the community forum. It keeps the team upbeat in running across volunteers with special interests.

- **5-year action plan**

Satish suggested continuing that topic in the next call. And we can decide what to take up next from the plan at that meeting as well. It was decided that Seda will convert all action items into a Word Document to make it easier for everyone to comment.

- **Tech WG survey**

Jim asked for the raw data for the survey . Seda will share it as soon as receiving the confirmation from the Legal Team, however, personal data will be deleted for data privacy issues.

The next meeting on 15 April coincides with another meeting and travels. Therefore, Seda shared that it might most likely be canceled. Meeting was concluded.

Next Meeting: 29 April 2024, Monday 15:00 UTC

Action Items:

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Compile and summarize the 5-year plan in the Google Doc for inputs	Seda
2	Provide the survey data	Seda
3	Share the final version of the SOW with the Tech WG	Seda