

# At-Large Universal Acceptance of TLDs Draft Roadmap Workspace

Comment Close Date	Statement Name	Status	Assignee (s)	Call for Comments Open	Call for Comments Close	Vote Announcement	Vote Open	Vote Reminder	Vote Close	Date of Submission	Staff Contact and Email
18.07.2014	Universal Acceptance of TLDs Draft Roadmap	ADOPTED 15Y, 0N, 0A	Satish Babu	09.07.2014	16.07.2014 23:59 UTC	19.07.2014 23:59 UTC	19.07.2014 23:59 UTC	25.07.2014	26.07.2014 23:59 UTC	27.07.2014	Francisco Arias francisco.arias@icann.org

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## Brief Overview

To solicit community comment on proposed roadmap for the [Universal Acceptance Initiative](#)[PDF, 117 KB].

Comment Period: 18 Jun 2014 - 18 Jul 2014 23:59 UTC

Reply Period: 19 Jul 2014 - 8 Aug 2014 23:59 UTC

## Section I: Description, Explanation, and Purpose

The goal of "domain names in a TLD must be useable in applications regardless of the written script, and length or newness of the TLD" roughly captures the observed issues and obstacles driving the discussion of universal acceptance. The Universal Acceptance initiative is aimed to address technical acceptance issues with the use of domain names and related Internet Identifiers. For example, in some applications URLs using some TLDs are confused with search strings, email addresses using non-ASCII scripts are rejected (which limits the usefulness of a non-ASCII TLD name), and some applications do not present the native written form, instead only presenting the internal DNS label format.

ICANN is looking for input on the [proposed roadmap for the Universal Acceptance initiative](#)[PDF, 117 KB]. Particularly, ICANN is interested in learning what the community thinks about the goal, scope, and approach in the proposal.

## Section II: Background

On 15 November 2013 the Joint ccNSO/IDN Group (the JIG) published the *JIG Final Report on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs* recommending ICANN to take action in promoting the universal acceptance of new TLDs and IDNs.

## Section III: Relevant Resources

- Proposed Roadmap for the Universal Acceptance Initiative:<http://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/tld-acceptance-initiative-18jun14-en.pdf> [PDF, 117 KB]
- JIG report: <https://ccnso.icann.org/announcements/announcement-18nov13-en.htm>[PDF, 185 KB]
- Wiki: <https://community.icann.org/display/TUA/TLD+Universal+Acceptance+Home>
- Resource page: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/tld-acceptance-2012-02-25-en>

## Section IV: Additional Information

### Staff Contact

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## FINAL VERSION TO BE SUBMITTED IF RATIFIED

Please click [here](#) to download a copy of the pdf below.

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## **FINAL DRAFT VERSION TO BE VOTED UPON BY THE ALAC**

### **AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **ALAC Statement on the Universal Acceptance of TLDs Draft Roadmap**

##### **Preamble**

Universal Acceptance refers to the universal and consistent ability to use Top-Level Domains (TLDs), whether existing, Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLDs, or new gTLDs, "...regardless of the written script, and length or newness of the TLD". Universal Acceptance is a critical factor to foster and ensure competition, consumer trust and choice in the DNS marketplace.

The Universal Acceptance Initiative (UAI) is an internal initiative of ICANN that attempts to address these concerns using ICANN's multistakeholder constituencies in a collaborative and coordinated manner, applying additional resources as required. UAI focuses not only on IDNs, but all TLDs.

On 18 June 2014, ICANN Staff released a draft document on the proposed roadmap for the Universal Acceptance Initiative which was based on past work, including the final report of the Joint ccNSO/GNSO IDN Group (JIG) on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs.

##### **The ALAC Response to the Draft Roadmap**

1. From an end-user perspective, Universal Acceptance is very important for upholding the public trust in the evolving Domain Name Ecosystem, and for facilitating the participation of large sections of populations in the world hitherto excluded from utilizing DNS because of the lack of support for their scripts.
2. The ALAC places on record its appreciation for ICANN's efforts taken to release the draft roadmap. The roadmap, when implemented, will be of significant benefit to end-user communities that the ALAC represents.
3. Given the large number of stakeholders who need to work together to achieve Universal Acceptance—including DNS operators, software vendors, service providers, protocol & standard bodies, system & network operators, security practitioners and end users—it is important to ensure that there is frequent and free-flowing interactions between these stakeholders.
4. The ALAC recommends the creation of a intermediate-term, cross-community mechanism that not only provides facilitation for stakeholder interactions, but also allows organizational retention of issues as well as learnings, acting as a knowledge base for all aspects of Universal Acceptance
5. The ALAC also recommends monitoring of progress of the UAI based on indicators that are jointly identified as part of the above mechanism, so that there is clarity on the progress of the initiative.
6. The ALAC reiterates the need for ongoing advocacy with all stakeholder communities, particularly end-user communities, for the dissemination of information on Universal Acceptance.
7. The ALAC recommends that ICANN explores the use of light-weight mechanisms that allow quick validation of TLDs so as to enhance end-user trust
8. When targeting end-users, these advocacy and outreach efforts need to be undertaken in consultation with the At-Large community.

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## FIRST DRAFT SUBMITTED

### AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### ALAC Draft Statement on the Proposed Roadmap for Universal Acceptance Initiative

##### Preamble

Universal Acceptance refers to the universal and consistent ability to use Top-Level Domains (TLDs), whether existing, Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLDs, or new gTLDs, "...regardless of the written script, and length or newness of the TLD". Universal Acceptance is a critical factor to foster and ensure competition, consumer trust and choice in the DNS marketplace.

The Universal Acceptance Initiative (UAI) is an internal initiative of ICANN that attempts to address these concerns using ICANN's multistakeholder constituencies in a collaborative and co-ordinated manner, applying additional resources as required. UAI focuses not only on IDNs, but all TLDs.

On 18 June 2014, ICANN Staff released a draft document on the proposed roadmap for the Universal Acceptance Initiative which was based on past work, including the final report of the Joint ccNSO/NSO IDN Group (JIG) on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs.

##### The ALAC Response to the Draft Roadmap

1. From an end-user perspective, Universal Acceptance is very important for upholding the public trust in the evolving Domain Name Ecosystem, and for facilitating the participation of large sections of populations in the world hitherto excluded from utilizing DNS because of the lack of support for their scripts.
2. The ALAC places on record its appreciation for ICANN for the efforts taken to release the draft roadmap. The roadmap, when implemented, will be of significant benefit to end-user communities that the ALAC represents.
3. Given the large number of stakeholders who need to work together to achieve Universal Acceptance—including DNS operators, software vendors, service providers, protocol & standard bodies, system & network operators, security practitioners and end-users—it is important to ensure that there is frequent and free-flowing interactions between these stakeholders.
4. The ALAC recommends the creation of a intermediate-term, cross-community mechanism that not only provides facilitation for stakeholder interactions, but also allows organizational retention of issues as well as learnings, acting as a knowledge base for all aspects of Universal Acceptance. Such a mechanism will also, *inter alia*, help to track the progress and completion of each phase and elp alleviate resource constraints that may arise as different activities overlap.
5. The ALAC recommends monitoring of progress of the UAI based on progress indicators that are jointly identified as part of the above mechanism, so that there is visibility and clarity on the progress of the initiative.
6. The ALAC reiterates the need for ongoing advocacy with all stakeholder communities, and particularly end-user communities, for the dissemination of information on Universal Acceptance.
7. When targeting end-users, these advocacy and outreach efforts need to be undertaken in consultation with the At-Large community