

Transcript ICANN Helsinki

GNSO – Universal Steering Group- Monday, 27 June 2016

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Ram Mohan: Welcome, good afternoon, good day to wherever you are. We're here in lovely Helsinki. And we're at the workshop on universal acceptance. This is the UASG, the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. My name is Ram Mohan. I'm the chair of the steering group. And it's wonderful to see not only a good group here, but a diverse group with representation from not only different parts of industry, but also from different parts of the world.

The issue of universal acceptance itself is a straightforward issue. But the problem that is straightforward, the solution set seems to not be as straightforward, which is a fairly common thing in technology, right?

I wanted to start off with a little bit of a personal story myself and share with you, especially for those of you who haven't heard this before, my own induction, if you will, into universal acceptance. In 2001 the company I work for, Afiliis, was awarded the dotInfo top level domain. And we were very excited that we had the first new gTLD that we were going to bring out into

the world. We had an excellent launch and we considered the fact that there were many people who registered domain names by itself, to be a success.

And shortly thereafter, measured in the space of weeks, my phone started to ring with people who had registered domain names complaining that they were unable to use them. And, when I was asking, what do you mean unable to use? They were giving me some really interesting examples. There was one person who told me they were trying to register for an account on a Website, and the account asked for their email address to send a confirmation.

They put in their email address as dotInfo and the Website said, we don't recognize this; this is not a valid name. And there was nothing they could do. And they had to default to some other address that they had. I thought that was just a one-off. But soon my – not only did we end up getting phone calls but our customer support line started to get inundated. And it became more than just websites that were not accepting it. We also learned that emails that were being sent with that dotInfo address were simply disappearing. It was potentially reaching ISPs and then it just died. It dropped and it was just put into the bucket.

A little bit of digging found that some ISPs had configured their systems to say what an acceptable top level domain was and it was just a clear definition. It had to be either three or two characters in length and it had to be only in ASCII.

Now that as my own personal story getting into it. And the biggest problem that I had actually at that time was trying to get anybody on the other side to do anything about it. Reaching someone, being able to reach someone at Yahoo or trying to reach someone at a bank or trying to reach someone at an email provider was an incredibly difficult task, and I ended up eventually, we were a four-person company at that time, I ended up creating the office of the CTO. And I ended up writing letters on letterhead, we didn't have a

letterhead, I had to build one. Built a letterhead and put a letter in, signed it, put into a FedEx envelope and sent it to the office of the CTO of these big companies and then it got opened and then I did get calls back because it looked real, looked legitimate, right.

Now it doesn't really scale. And on a global basis that kind of a model doesn't work. So that's a personal story. But the real idea is this problem from 2000 and that kind of got exposed in 2001, has become far more exacerbated with the growth of the [Internet](#), with the growth of operating systems, and applications and mobile devices. And perhaps it has been brought to the greatest light with the expansion of new IDNs, with all of the thousand plus new TLDs that have come in.

The world has changed. A valid domain name is no longer a domain name that is three characters or two characters long. A valid domain name is no longer a domain name that is in ASCII. And a valid email is no longer an email that has just something at something dot ASCII either. In fact, a valid email is now – it could be IDN, it could be internationalized all the way, including to the left of the “at” symbol. And how does that work? How does it get accepted? Is a part of the issue and a part of the problem set that we are – we're looking to solve.

So a year and a half ago a community effort developed. We spoke with several folks. And what became very clear very quickly was that this was a real problem, a real issue. And so we kind of self-gathered. We got together at a meeting and there was a groundswell of support to build kind of a group that would focus on universal acceptance, and focus especially on three things.

First, to clearly define the nature of the problem, because that was not well defined before. So that was a very important thing. The second thing was to understand and define the targets to whom we had to go and approach. Because in some cases, this is a technical problem that should just be solved

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by technologists. In other cases, this is really an advocacy and a management problem that has to reach the C levels of corporations and C levels of organizations everywhere, right? So that was the second big focus.

The third was to look at where the current set of standards and protocols and where things stand. And to, at the very least, shine a light on where gaps exist and try to find a way to bridge those gaps. So if you look at the mission, if you will, of the UASG, that's really the – what we're looking to do. We have been fortunate that ICANN has provided the funding for this effort to take place and to get going.

This is – UASG is not an ICANN body, it's not an ICANN organization. This is a community that comes together and a community that is trying to move everything together. We also shifted our model. In the first nine months or so when we started up UASG, our idea was we had a lot of enthusiasm. And our idea was let's get the volunteers to do all of the work. Let's get the volunteers to do all of the definitions and all of the targeting and direction and things like that.

And it soon transpired that our aspirations were far ahead of our available time for the volunteers. So we changed the model and the model for the UASG now is that the volunteers provide guidance and direction and provide the overall framework for what are the tasks, and what are the kind of timelines that we would like to see achieved.

That is done in an open manner. There is a UASG email list and all of these decisions and all of these kinds of things are brought up on the mail list. And then the UASG really turns to the staff of the UASG to make sure that work gets done.

And the prime mover of that is Don Hollander. Over to you, Don.

Don Hollander: Thanks very much, Ram. So we'll just go through a slide deck. I've only got about 180 slides so we'll be done in about 15 minutes. So this is a bit of what the program is supposed to look like and we'll see how it comes out today.

So we have an introduction from Ram. I'll talk about activities since Marrakech. Andrew Robertson, who's going to join us from London, is going to talk about our communications plans. That's our current working activity that we're hoping to get sorted soon. Tony is going to talk about an event that he was at Buenos Aires. Christian is going to talk about an event that he was at in Philadelphia. Ashwin is going to give what is now turning into a bit of a tradition, watching the progress of ICANN IT as a real-world exemplar of making UA happen.

Then Frank Michlick will speak from Canada, you know, but fingers crossed about the current status of a review of browsers. So one of the things we wanted to look at over time was how core applications performed and morphed as they became more and more UA ready. And browsers is one of the categories that we're working on.

I'll talk about the budget for next year as well as the financials for this year. And then we'll have questions. And the second to the last item there is a new Website being launched; we're not going to cut ribbons but there is chocolate to celebrate if you want to go to UASG.tech, that Website is now live.

So next slide.

Thanks. So one of the core issues is who are we trying to address? And Ram pointed out that we have of core bits, first of all, what does universal acceptance mean? And then who are we trying to address with our efforts?

And this is my simple clear – I think clear view is we want to target the people who make these things happen. And that's the system architects, developers, consultants and contracting firms.

Then we want to focus on the people who can direct that group to make it happen, generally CIOs. And then the people who can influence the CIOs to make these things happen and that's their colleagues in the C-suite, board members, government officials, ministers, consultants, media, and industry influencers.

Next. So what we've done recently, and what we're doing fundamentally is we've got the foundation documents built. Those were in final draft, many of them were in final draft in Marrakech. Well they've been finished and published. We're building industry-readiness. We're building an EAI community. And for those who don't know, EAI is email address internationalization which is effectively non-ASCII characters to the left or the right of the "at" sign. Harder than you think.

We're looking to build measures so we can see whether we're making any progress, building an outreach strategy. And Andrew is going to talk about that in detail. And start building some pilots. So next slide. Thanks.

So and next again.

So what I'm hoping we'll achieve out of this is everybody will get an understanding of what's happening in universal acceptance and what the UASG is going. And we would be keen for people to commit to local UA initiatives in your own hometown. And we're seeing some of that already. And we're keen to accelerate that some more. Next.

Thanks. So this is our concise view of what universal acceptance is. It's being able to accept, validate, store, process and display domain names and data that has domain names in it correctly and consistently by all Internet-enabled applications, devices and systems.

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So what we're doing – next thanks – so we're creating documentation, mostly technical, I'll go through some of that, creating some test cases, fixing programming languages, establishing some baseline measures, (unintelligible) some cooperation and reaching out. Next.

Thanks. So in terms of the organization structure Ram talked about that and we had a meeting in January and there was, to be fair, I think a reasonable amount of frustration around the table and we switched the way we did things on its head.

And that's possibly made a big difference to what's been achieved in the past few months to what was achieved in the past year. But to be fair, the first year was a lot of trying to figure out where we were and what we needed to do and who might do things.

Programming language, so talked about that already. Next.

Thanks. So this is the universal acceptance steering group so Ram Mohan introduced himself already as the chair. WE have Christian Dawson in the room. Edmon is in the room. Raise your hand. Thank you, Edmon. And Rich Merdinger is in the room as well. So they were the folks who volunteered at the beginning to take these leadership roles to make – get things kicked off. And I've taken the role of emperor du jour, or secretary general. And we shifted, as I said, the way we're doing things.

We started last year with four project groups and we've refined that to having two project groups. One is community outreach and the other is EAI. And we want to acknowledge very much the strong support that we get from ICANN. So we see ourselves as a community group supported by ICANN, not an ICANN group. But we are really grateful for the support we get from ICANN. And it's not just money but the time and effort of the ICANN staff who are keenly interested in this and the use of the ICANN administrative infrastructure. So that's very, very useful.

So I'd like to go now to the documentation that we've actually produced. And I'll go through this fairly quickly because I hope most people in this room will know about it. If you don't then you can go to UASG.tech and actually see the documents. So we have UASG 001, a knowledge base. And we'll look to be a – expanding this. This is if you have a problem with your domain name or TLD or whatever, who do you go to sort out browser issues or who do you go to sort out LinkedIn issues or Skype issues or what's that other thing, Twitter, or what have you. There's lots of things. We know about the first bits, so Twitter is a little different.

We have revised our webmaster engagement note so if you encounter a Website and you say it doesn't accept, so we produced very simple two paragraph note for you to send to the webmaster of that Website suggesting that they might want to fix it. It's very polite, very gentle. And it's now in 14 languages thanks to the resources of the community.

We have a FAQ sheet, which is a one page look at what issues are from a non-technical point of view. That's currently in review so we published that one in December last year and we're looking at it again based on revised communication strategy. We have UASG 004, these are use cases, examples that people can use when they want to test their own systems and that we're using when we're testing browsers and email systems. And this is things like new.ascii short, new.ascii long, ascii.idn, IDN.ascii, IDN.idn, Arabic.arabic. that sort of thing.

We have the quick guides, which are now available on a bunch of languages. And I handed out earlier for people who wanted them, they're available in – we have printed copies in English and in Spanish at the moment. And I think we have a commitment to make them available in Hindi for the next meeting, so I think that'll be exciting. UASG 006 is a list of relevant RFCs. Next page.

And this is – I'm really delighted with this, not that I did any work, but Mark from Microsoft did a huge amount of the work here. And that's our introduction to universal acceptance. This is aimed at the geeks, at the developers. This is Mark's text. And it's a 40-page document that goes from the assumption of no knowledge to a very clear and detailed explanation of how all these things work, and items to consider as you decide how you're going to implement this within your community.

So and I'm really delighted with the approach that we took to developing that. So we drafted it and then we had very – several very close readings with the community both online and in the face to face. We have a model for local engagement. We have a quick guide for contracts and tender documents. These are just clauses that you might want to include in your commercial agreements. And we've expanded this a little bit to include what (Leslie Dage) used to call broccoli issues so it's universal acceptance, DNS SEC and IPv6.

And then we have USAG 010, which is a quick guide to (linkification). Next. Thanks. So going forward these are the – thanks – these are the projects that we're working on. Next.

Thanks. So programming languages, we've got four teams poised. They'll be working in parallel to look at very common open-source programming languages, see what needs to be done to get there – to get the core language framework UA-ready and to make those changes and then publish them.

So that when somebody says, oh, well, this is written in PHP and I don't want to have to go and change these libraries, we'll say, not a worry, we've got that done for you already. And we're expecting the first results of those available by ICANN 57. Next.

Thanks. So EAI, for those who, you know, support email, is support for IDNs and Unicode at domain names, we're looking for test environments, we're looking to coordinate the large, very large email service and software providers and identify implementation decisions. So while the RFCs cover quite a lot of them, the necessary bits, there's some decisions that the developers need to make and we're looking to coordinate that activity. Next.

So other stuff that we're working on we're preparing a white paper. This is aimed at the CIO and C-star suite and it's looking at the financial, social and cultural benefits of making the investment in -making your systems universal acceptance ready. We think that there's a compelling financial reason that people should make this decision because it's not a costless exercise and so we've commissioned the report that we expect to have available in about two or two and a half months.

We're using the IDG Executive Council to reach CIOs so those of you who may not come from a CIO sort of space, IDG is one of the world's most prestigious and well-regarded think spots – thinking groups for IT issues and a lot of CIOs will subscribe to their services of briefings and research capabilities. So we're going to work with them.

We've launched a dedicated Website and we've got great support, as I said, from ICANN which includes collaboration with IT so the ICANN IT group not just from Ashwin's position of presenting things to us, he's also presenting things to the software development communities around the world. And the team -- his team -- is providing good contributions as well.

We've got articles in ICANN meeting newsletters, social media interaction and there have been some brown bag lunches at the LA office on what universal acceptance is. Thanks. Next.

So if we have Andrew on the line then he's going to talk through the next bits. Andrew, are you there?

Andrew Robertson: Yes, Don. I'm here.

Don Hollander: We can hear you fine. Thank you, Andrew from Edelman. Thanks.

Andrew Robertson: Good afternoon everybody in Helsinki. Can we have the next slide, please? Hello. Hello, can you hear me?

Don Hollander: Yes, we can hear you. Can you see the slides?

((Crosstalk))

Don Hollander: ...the slide that says Communication Strategy.

Andrew Robertson: Okay.

Don Hollander: Is that the slide you wanted?

Andrew Robertson: Yes, I can't – sorry, (unintelligible). Just one second. Yes, okay so communication strategy, just to – so what we've done here, we've divided this into two phases. And Phase 1 takes us – well we started a couple months back and takes us to August. And Phase 2 will take us from September through to March and a bit beyond.

And so Phase 1, what we're aiming to do is educate on the issues, commence initial engagement, and I'll go into that in a bit more – in subsequent slides. And this Phase 2 it's broader engagement and engaging advocates to help us get the message out there to take action and to be prepared to take action on UA so, yeah, next slide please.

Great, thank you. So going in a bit more detail on Phase 1, which I'd mentioned we've already kicked off, so working closely with the UASG, Edelman, the company I work for, global communications firm, has developed

a strategic communications plan and messaging and narrative document, which I'll go to in a bit more detail later in the presentation. And we've developed a framework for social media, how we engage through social media channels like Twitter and LinkedIn.

We've developed materials including and challenging question out for documents, go into quite some detail. And we've developed materials for our four engagement like an introductory letter for – and for reaching associations – that's technical associations. And we've prepared to engage via LinkedIn groups with one of our social media platforms.

Specifically targeting CIO groups at present, as Don and Ram have both mentioned, CIOs are critical – a critical audience for us. So we're looking to engage with LinkedIn groups to which CIOs belong.

Developing blog posts and case studies and testimonials. Just a little point on that, just really quickly, we know that companies are in the very early stages of implementing their UA strategies and it may not be possible to have case – you know, fully developed case studies because people won't have completed their UA projects. But we are kicking off with testimonials to show that – show that – demonstrate that large well-known companies and others have actually engaging with this issue and taking action.

And again, another point of social media, we're providing guidance on social media and how we engage via – how we create Wikipedia entries or have them created for us to inform on the issue.

And then we'll be studying initial briefings. We've got some key priority media that we've identified from the tech sector primarily at this point. And in other influences such – and those would include technology sector analysts, for example analysts that may work for firms like IDC or Gartner and industry groups as well.

So to the next slide please. Thank you. And this is going into more detail, again, Phase 2, which is – this is a broader engagement and advocacy element of the project estimated to start in September. So developing additional materials to support and provide tangible proof points on UA. And those will include a white paper and hopefully we plan to develop video, infographic material that will tell the story in a visual manner so it can be easily understood and shared. We want to make this content sharable.

Blog posts, press releases, again, that refers back to our media engagement strategy. And, yes, that's the main elements of that. And so the outreach we're building on the main elements of the foundation that we establish in Phase 1, and then that we're engaging with broader UA experts to amplify this message and drive awareness. So onto the next slide please.

Going back this is repeat of the slide that Don introduced earlier, just reinforcing who we're trying to reach here, the people that can make this happen. So it's developer audiences, it's, you know, CIOs and it's people who can influence to make this happen at the C-suite, board level, government officials and consultants and others.

So to the next slide please. Thank you. So part of – what we did as part of the initial engagement with the UASG is held a workshop and developed a set of really solid messaging. This was done collaboratively with the – quite a number of members of the group. And went through several iterations, and we ended up with a very concise – well a very detailed document that helps us reach all of our key target audiences.

And we've just taken a couple of experts from this document to show how we've condensed our messaging and what – and what we want to be saying to this audience. So what we have here is an umbrella message. This is our key top line message. So I don't intend to read it out, you have that in front of you. But it – that's a concise take on one line – a one-liner on what we are saying to – about UA and its importance.

And on the next slide we had this backed up by supporting messages, and then in the full document we go into more detail from here. But to explain further what the purpose of this is, is to – it's to help us – and help UASG members during media interaction, for example, or other key indications, to have a document that – one central document that we can use as a key communications resource so that we've got really clear messaging and we're sticking with that messaging and that will hopefully translate into the resulting – through the resulting media interviews and coverage and through social media and other elements of the program.

So this – just briefly I won't read this out again because you have it in front of you. At the top key message there is all about UA and its role in being part of getting the next billion [Internet](#) users online.

The second message relates to why businesses have a responsibility to take – to play a key role in UA and making this happen. And the third key message is a rationale for UA designed to help CIOs in particular think about why this is important. And what we're saying is that UA leads to a better user experience. So in the end it's for the benefit of the end user which reflects, you know, which is positive for the Website operator as well, obviously.

And to the next slide, please. Okay. So what you're looking at here is the timeline of activities that we – that – from now – from the Helsinki meeting until the next ICANN meeting in India. And listed out there is, you know, what we plan to do. And I believe the Website is actually gone live today, if I'm correct there. I saw the message on that earlier. And these are the different materials that we will have developed and tactics that we will have deployed in Phase 1 and then leading into Phase 2 which we, as I said in one of the earlier slides, kicks off in September.

Yeah, might be the next slide. Okay. What we want to really impress upon people is how they can get involved in UA now that we've given you some

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information on what's happening with the communication program. And what we've broken this into three areas, we'd like you to think about in this way, educate your – the companies, the people you work with, the people in your professional circles on the importance of UA. And we're providing the materials for that.

So advocate with these same people and peers and find out how, you know, you can be a voice in your communities. And then amplifying it through your own social media networks and other channels, you know, via Twitter handles and so forth, via your LinkedIn groups, yeah, via, you know, Facebook professional groups that you may be a part of so that's – I think that's what we're hoping to help you do there.

So – and moving to the next slide, so a call to action here is to introduce UA to your organizations via – and social media manager and your organization social media manager to get your own organization UA ready particularly in relation at this point to brand TLDs. And reach out to your local IT organizations particularly regarding – in relation to geographical TLDs at this point. And moving to the next slide, okay sorry, that was the end of that.

Ram Mohan: Go back to the prior slide.

Andrew Robertson: Yes.

Ram Mohan: And let's open it up for questions into Andrew. Okay let me take a minute and speak just to the very first call to action. For those of you who work at larger companies, one of the things that we struggle with is, you know, when we put a tweet out or when we put a posting out or a video up on something to do with universal acceptance, one of the big challenges is how do we amplify that message, how do we get it out to a larger group?

And typically we have a hard time, you know, getting someone's attention from a larger organization to retweet it or to share a post that we have placed

on LinkedIn or Facebook. So if we can get an introduction to who your social media manager is then the team from Edelman has a lot of skills in being able to speak with those social media manager to explain the mission of UASG and to schedule, along with the social media managers, perhaps they have an event that they are planning or perhaps they have something else that they are doing to integrate the UA messaging as part of that organization's media messaging itself.

And I must tell you that without that introduction from you from the inside it's a pretty hard job to actually reach these social media managers because they are the most popular people inside of their companies. Everybody wants some of their time. Everybody wants them to retweet and share the posts.

Tony, you were going to say something?

Tony Harris:

Yes, could we [rewind](#) a couple of the slides? There was one with three bullet points which were very important. That one. Referring to Bullet Point 2 there, I think that is extremely important because basically what we're saying there is people should be aware that the [Internet](#) is being updated. I don't think we get that message out. We should be speaking about the [Internet](#) being updated and everybody wants to be updated with the [Internet](#). I would use that. I mean, it's said there not in the same words but that's what it's saying there.

I'd even take that further and say, well, why don't we look at the possibility of certification, certification of UA [compliance](#), some sort of seal of certificate that can be – I mean, all the software organizations in the world would like to handle that but with their members, because it gives them something to offer their members and they can do a double check on whether this is a fact or not.

I don't think that should be too difficult or too expensive to organize. Just a couple of thoughts.

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Ram Mohan: Thank you, Tony. Andrew, did you want to respond?

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Andrew Robertson: No, I think that's fantastic idea. It's – and I really like the message that it's something that we had thought about as well, it's the Internet is being updated and that's something that we need to be clearly communicating to our – as part of this and I think it's a very, very solid point.

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Ram Mohan: Other comments, observations, thoughts? I know this is a post-lunch session but. Please. Please introduce yourself as well.

Man: (Unintelligible) the League of Arab States. I'm a member of the Arabic Generation Panel too. Okay. I would suggest maybe you can make – introduce a badge of UA readiness to be put on the sites which are UA ready. So we can encourage the site admins to (unintelligible) and make it ready more easily. You know.

Ram Mohan: Thank you. I think that's a great suggestion. Other comments? Cyrus.

Cyrus Namazi: Thank you. Cyrus Namazi with ICANN staff. I guess to the same point that Tony raised in the second point on the slide. Just by the show of hand, how many of you run Websites that are UA ready or have active projects to make it UA ready?

((Crosstalk)) *Small number of hands raised.*

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Cyrus Namazi: Thank you. I guess I'm trying to emphasize that, you know, the work really needs to begin in this room and then expand and amplify and go beyond. Just wanted to reemphasize that.

Don Hollander: So it's Don here. With respect to UA certification, one of the questions is what are the criteria for UA certification? And there's a Chinese research institute that is looking at this to encourage Chinese government organizations to

become UA ready. And they are currently working on what the criteria they're going to use and some preliminary – some preliminary measures. So we're hoping that we'll get an update from them at the ICANN India meeting of the work that they are doing, the criteria that they're coming up with. And we'll work together with them as we can to expand it outside of the Chinese government.

Edmon Chung: Edmon Chung here. Speaking on what Don said and the calls for action, I've repeated this many times, and kind of sounding like a broken record, but still it's important, you know, as we call out a lot of times when companies look at the issue it seems very trivial at first. The – to actually make it UA ready. It's not hard, it's just very – it entails a lot more because every single piece of software almost uses domain names or email addresses one way or the other.

And that's the whole spectrum of systems and platforms. And when they tried – when they work together within your company that's what creates the complexity. The changing, you know, making a particular browser, a particular system UA ready is usually not the main challenge, it's making the entire suite of software that you use internally that makes it much more difficult. And I guess that's what ICANN will share a lot more. And that's also reason why the call for action is really to get people to start looking at it.

I don't think we can expect websites or companies to be UA ready immediately. In fact, it's almost impossible as ICANN's experience will show. But it's time to, you know, get a roadmap and get a little bit of timetable out. And that's really the call for action I think right now.

Ram Mohan: Rich.

Rich Merdinger: Thank you, Ram. Rich Merdinger with Go Daddy. And piling on with what Edmon was suggesting, as we do look to integrate universal acceptance concepts into our systems ourselves, those of you that haven't done so yet,

please take a look at the materials that are found on the Website and see if they are informative and informational and actually useful in doing so because if it isn't making it easier to do it we need to do these materials differently. Thank you.

Ram Mohan: Thank you. Could we bring us back to the call to action slide? I just want that to be there while we have the conversation. Other thoughts? Any thoughts from those who are working on brand TLDs or geo TLDs? Does this call to action sound relevant to you?

Rich Merdinger: Rich Merdinger, Go Daddy again. Yes, we have dotGodaddy that's coming towards delegation and definitely is.

Ram Mohan: Thank you. Thank you, Andrew. Back to you, Don.

Don Hollander: Thanks very much. Next slide. And the next slide. So Tony is going to talk about a recent event in Buenos Aires.

Tony Harris: Yes, okay. Tony Harris here again. First of all, who are these people we did the event with. Their name is Sysarmy. That's S-Y-S Army. That's the way it's written, believe it or not. Sysarmy is the Argentinian sys admin community who brings together all IT professionals for knowledge exchange and fun. This is how they define themselves.

They have an annual event, which thanks to Don – Don's cooperation and interest, we were able to sponsor. And I had a table there which was actually was a CABASE table, the organization I work for, but we gave out brochures. You've got the brochures I brought for you. The quick guide, I'm sorry, the quick guide for the universal acceptance. We had that printed in Spanish. And we were giving these out at a table.

To give you an idea what this event consisted of, the hall where I had the table was surrounded by, I don't know, maybe 30, 40 large tables where all

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these IT professionals or, you know, systems managers, they were all sitting around running – trying out new software and solving problems amongst themselves. It was hard to get their attention. But they were all there.

And in another hall they were having technical talks, the people were giving them different talks about new technologies, new software, and thanks to the cooperation of Microsoft, Mark here was able to have one of his people in Argentina come over and give a brief talk on universal acceptance from a technical point of view. I'm not a technical person so it was great to have this guy there. Thank you very much for that. And of course the name of Microsoft also helps for people to pay attention.

I think the main takeaway from this is these people are interested in continuing to work with ICANN. And, I mean, there were only probably 300 or 400 people showed up there. But their networks consist of 6000. So they're open to see how we can – how we would like to outreach through their system, through their regular getting together and discussing things, how we can continue this with their group. And they also have contact with other groups in other countries.

So I think this is, let's say, a small goldmine we found, which if we progress it, it's very technical, you have to interest them technically. Otherwise they won't even bother to listen. So I think this is just one good opportunity. I'd like to mention something else that happened, which didn't happen in Argentina.

Before this event, I was in Sao Paulo on an outreach event which (Rodrigo), who's sitting here from ICANN, was kind enough to organize, and it was a booth in (unintelligible) event, which was an event of Brazilian ISPs. There were 3000 ISPs there. Believe me, they were all there. You couldn't walk in the halls.

And we had an ICANN booth, which was tailored to the ISPCP constituency, and I talked to a lot of people about universal acceptance, and I also gave a

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talk on ICANN to ISPs. And this was part of the presentation, which I did universal acceptance, again, not from a technical perspective because I'm a marketing guy, not a technician.

But there was one very interesting comment from – which I think is important we should pay attention to from a Brazilian ISP who timidly raised his hand and said, this is extremely interesting, have you considered implementing a repository of problem instances for targeted remedial action? In other words, where you know of complaints, specific complaints that come up and are flagged perhaps the registry flags them or an ISP or whatever. Do they go anywhere? And does anybody look at them and then go after solving them? Because that's telling you where you have a problem, right?

I think we did mention this in previous events. But it was interesting that somebody from the audience came up with this. It wasn't me sort of repeating myself. So that's what I have to say right now about this. But I think this is sort of group is very interesting because there really – they're all techies and this sort of thing they love to solve problems. That's what they get together for.

Don Hollander: So thanks, Tony. So this was our first go at sponsoring an event. Was it worth the effort do you think? We have another opportunity in Brazil shortly.

Tony Harris: I think it was more than worth the effort. And as I say, I think it's a door opener. The event themselves gets you into the organization, if you – you give them a hand, you sponsor them. They don't have much money to do these things. Once you're in there then you can follow through and you get to all these people. I mean, it's a really good opportunity.

Ram Mohan: This is Ram. It sounds to me that if we can – this is kind of a pilot model but if we can figure this out and do it in an effective way then we might have something that is replicable in multiple parts of the world, which is really eventually where we have to go because it seems like this would provide a

feeder for the outreach and the materials and the technical documents and other things like that. It'd be a good feeder, right, for them.

One question I had, Tony, is our focus primarily, especially the technical documents, has been to just write them and it stays in English. Is that an impediment or does it not matter?

Tony Harris: All these people speak English. And I might also, well, since I have the mic I would make a final suggestion, I'd like to get the person who's leading this and who coordinated this with us I'd like to put him in contact with whoever you decide so then you can follow through on a technical to technical basis. And I think that will be more productive and me get out of the way at this point.

Ram Mohan: That's a terrific idea. And I volunteer Don for it.

Tony Harris: Who should – okay.

Don Hollander: Thanks very much, Tony. Any other questions for Tony? Next slide then.
Thanks. So Christian is going to talk about what happened at [M3AAWG](#) without pictures.

Christian Dawson: Yes, I don't think we need any pictures. In fact, you know why there are no pictures? Because you're not allowed to take pictures at [M3AAWG](#). It is a – everything there is a closed session. In fact, I need to be careful because you're not really supposed to talk about any specifics that happen within the walls of [M3AAWG](#). And I respect that.

For those of you that are unfamiliar with [M3AAWG](#), [M3AAWG](#), which is up there [M3AAWG](#), that stands for the Messaging Malware and Mobile Anti Abuse working group. I have actually been pushing for us to engage [M3AAWG](#) since we started this effort.

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And that is because [M3AAWG](#) is a group of network operators that are focused on anti-abuse. And the reason that I think it's very important to engage those individuals is first of all, they have the ability to actually make things – make things move on universal acceptance. The issue at hand being that most of the messaging that I hear coming from that community is focused on abuse problems that are being seen out of new gTLDs.

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And what happens when you don't – we don't need to engage on those terms and have those conversations. But what happens when you don't engage them on the terms of the kind of conversations we're trying to have, that's the only messaging that people end up hearing.

And when that's the case it ends up being sort of a – though it is not a direct counter-message to what it is we're doing because they're not going to actually come in and shake their finger and tell us that we're wrong, when people go to prioritize, how they, again, upgrade the [Internet](#), they're going to take a look at the messaging coming out of places like [M3AAWG](#) and say well there are pros and there are cons to actually moving forward on this and they'll decide to de-prioritize these efforts.

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So I wanted to go in there and start having these conversations with [M3AAWG](#) from the very beginning. And I'm very excited about the conversation that we ended up having. My organization – I2 Coalition, was granted four sessions and three workshops that we got to program at [M3AAWG](#). And we made one of them a universal acceptance-focused session.

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And I think we did it in a very interesting way that allowed us to workshop a couple of things that we've wanted to workshop. The first is that the focus of the – the focus of the engagement was "eat your vegetables". It was focused not only UA though UA got the primary focus, but also on DNSSEC and IPv6.

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And so we took a holistic view as to how people should upgrade the [Internet](#). And we saw how that resonated. The other thing is the actual format was a Q&A with our own Ram Mohan right next to me. And that's great because Ram is great and he's a great presenter, but also because I think the way that we were approaching that it's a good framework for how we intend to engage CIOs because it was basically peers talking to peers about the importance of what it is they should focus on.

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And so as we were talking about what Edelman has presented to us, about engaging CIOs, I think that you basically gave a good framework to do that kind of messaging there at [M3AAWG](#). So I was extremely excited about how it went.

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We had about 750 participants at the [M3AAWG](#) conference. And I'd say we got about 1/5 of them in the room to see our presentation, which is, you know, it's over 100 people of very targeted – in a very targeted audience. And so that was very useful.

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I'm going to end up at our next organizers meeting re-approaching the idea of this organization becoming a member of [M3AAWG](#). The last time we brought it up what we saw was well, you know what, I2 Coalition is a member of [M3AAWG](#), many of the companies that are at the table like Go Daddy are members of [M3AAWG](#), (ECO) is a member of [M3AAWG](#) and ICANN is a member of [M3AAWG](#), why do we need another [M3AAWG](#) membership when there are so many [M3AAWG](#) memberships already at the table?

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But, I think that we have seen in this location, that in order to make it the – a continued primary focus of the conversations there there's a bit of needing to ante up to make sure that our issues rise to the top. And I think that we've found, through that engagement, that it's a worthy conversation to continue to have. Thanks. Questions?

Ram Mohan: Rich.

Rich Merdinger: Yes, I'd like to make a comment regarding UASG becoming a member of [M3AAWG](#). And I'm not a [M3AAWG](#) fanatic by any means, but back when we decided early on to belay that idea for a while, that's back when these people that are at the table whose organizations are members of [M3AAWG](#), we're attempting to do the work so we already had UASG active representation able to go to [M3AAWG](#).

Now that we are in coordination role, I think it's more important that the organization itself be a member so that it can be doing the work for itself that way. So I think there's a difference in the way we're structured and that has changed my approach to it, and I'm in favor of it for what it's worth.

Christian Dawson: I think that's – I was for it then but I think that I was for it then. I think that you're right, it does make more sense now in our current – thank you.

Ram Mohan: Thanks.

Barry Leiba: This is Barry Leiba. I'm the IETF liaison to [M3AAWG](#). So – I couldn't be in the session in Philadelphia because I had a conflict, I had to be somewhere else, but I'm happy. I just joined the universal acceptance mailing list and I'm happy to do I don't know, whatever back and forth might help there too. So engage me.

Christian Dawson: Thank you. Definitely will.

Ram Mohan: Other comments? I wanted to share just a couple of observations from being at this event. Some of the questions that came there was – we were using the example of Citi Bank and we were using the example of, you know, dotCitibank and its acceptance. And it was unplanned but it turned out that in the audience there were two people from Citi Bank who came up to the microphone and said why are you talking about us this way? And we ended up saying, "Do you have a universal acceptance project underway?"

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And they were saying, well, we need more information. So I think to me, anyway, that was anecdotally some level of evidence that there is value in engaging with this group and being a part of this group.

Okay. Back to you, Don.

Don Hollander: And now back to Ashwin. So while we get his slides up, Ashwin has been very – first of all, phenomenally supportive of the project. But he agreed a long time ago, I think in Buenos Aires, that he would – he would give us a regular update. And probably the – apart from the last slide, it's probably – everybody's favorite part of the session because you give us a real world view as to what do you have to do to be UA ready.

So, Ashwin, thank you very much.

Ashwin Rangan: Don, thank you. Appreciate it. This is the continuing saga of ICANN getting to UA compliance. So next slide please. I'm going to be touching on a few different agenda topics here. Not knowing exactly how much experience people have with what we are talking about at the definitional level, there are a few slides that I'll go through quickly that talk to definitions and what it means to be UA compliant.

Then we'll talk about our own project and our experiences in modifying custom applications and trying to get UA compliance from those vendors who are partnering with us and providing us with package solutions. And then I'll give you a status and some guidance on where you can find more information. Next slide, please.

Overall definitions, for those that have been dealing with it, it's a fairly long list that have gotten developed over time as the nuances have been further and further refined. Next slide please.

But fundamentally it comes down to five criteria that now have been codified in the form of the how to guide here. It's accepting whatever comes toward you from whatever source it may be. It could be a user interface, it could be another application sending a parameter or it could be from a file validating and in the validation step is where things like IDN left or right, right to left, those nuances really become important, whether it's at the TLD or the SLD state.

GTLDs provide a whole bunch of those challenges. Storing, the length and direction and character set. Next slide please. Processing is an interesting challenge, we're discovering more and more. We are able to retrieve what we have stored and then when we tell the processor to understand what it is that it's processing, it can be quite challenging especially when it comes to directionality and IDNs.

Special character requirements, the tilde at the top of the N was an interesting one. We found that whether it's on top or whether it follows it's treated the same way. And in different languages it has different connotations. So that's an interesting kind of corner case that we've hit there. And displaying of course, displaying it in the proper character set, whatever that may be. Next slide, please.

We took an approach of kick starting this by making it into a project. We talked quite a bit about coming to this particular meeting with possible code snippets so that we could have something to show. In fact, I think it was Edmon who challenged us to bring that back. And I said, yes, I can pick that gauntlet up and I'll see what we can do. So we did that. And to do that in ICANN it means we do two things.

One, we prioritize an effort as a project, very differently from just a low level low hum kind of a project, or an activity, if you will. And secondly, it means that there is a conscious redistribution of resources. We take stuff away from other things to put on these projects. But to get it kick started, we thought that

this would be a good thing to do. So we defined the project charter, and assigned out roles and responsibilities, scheduled kick off meetings, assigned accountability to different people and said let's get a few things going. Next slide please.

And very deliberately, we selected one application per environment so that we would have different learnings. Potentially different approaches because we would be using different talent sets from different skill groups. Through that, there was the potential to discover smarter ways to approach this problem set and coming back together. So we hired it off into different – in different directions, and asked our teams to go figure out with the guidance that we provided them how to make their specific application in their specific environment UA compliant.

We also decided that everything else that wasn't in the first slew of projects or the first slew in the first project, would be, you know, we would prioritize a list but not by environment, more by the importance of the application itself. And work through the list updating estimates as we got to learn more from the first project.

In the course of doing that, we obviously knew that we would get some intelligence built into our code libraries. One of the thoughts that we have is to update an open source library with code snippets that we find or we create to deal with UA compliance issues.

Next slide please. So in modifying an application, it's a three step tango. You find it, you fix it and you test it. You can't fix it unless you know where to go fix it. So you got to find it first. So there has to be some means through which you find all the instances in a given application that need to be looked at, fixed and then tested.

Obvious things link-checkers, etcetera you can find a lot of things. Some report all links; some report only the broken links so depends on what you're

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picking. One of the things that we learned early on is that in many applications the login name is an email ID. And it's often time overlooked. You fix everything else but if you can't get into the application then you're not UA compliant.

So that's a sort of "oops, got you". We saw that in one application early on and then we said, okay, add this to the checklist as one of the things that you've got to do right up front. Environment library is not all of them understand Unicode. So that was – oh, well, we have an issue here don't we? Right? Next slide please.

Fixing it, it's all the five criteria that I talked about, the accept, validate, store, retrieve process and then display. In the accepting we now know the rules of how long these can be in the TLD and the SLDs. We know that, you know, we talked in prior meetings about Unicode, Punycode and ASCII. With validation, the UASG guide says don't essentially don't do the download and lookup validation or if you have to do that then download frequently because that's a dynamic list at this point in time.

So we've gone down both pathways. We've looked at a bunch of different variables in making this happen. Storing – we hit a cybersecurity kind of an issue when the element size was not checked. There is a size overflow and that could be – it could be an entry point if you're not careful. So when we were going through our testing is when we discovered that. And said, okay, build that into our stories so that that's a check that's done up front.

It's a restore point that that that happens, it's an overflow, and if it's not looked at carefully then the overflow occurs, and you leave yourself a hole in the backend. Next slide please.

Process, this is probably the area where the most thought and work and feedback has been for our teams and between our teams. Lots of different things were discovered. I've listed out the major things that we sort of came

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together on, special character, I talked about the (unintelligible) on top of the N, that's in different language sets that's a different connotation. It's something to be looked out for. I'm not sure how many of those particular (unintelligible) following the character will be used in the creation of TLDs as we go into the future but in certain language sets the tilde is a very important character so it needs special attention in that regard.

Christian Dawson: To clarify that, you're actually – are you actually talking about a regular tilde character, not a combining tilde.

Ashwin Rangan: That is correct.

Christian Dawson: Okay.

Ashwin Rangan: That is correct, a regular tilde character, yes. Next slide please. So, Edwin, here we are. We've got a java example of what it was before and what it is after. These are example sets that are part of the presentation here and at some point we'll be posting this up into (GitHub) so that it becomes available for anyone in the world to look at, pull down and reuse at it makes sense. Next slide, please.

Testing, We had a code tester be developed for us by a company that does software development on our behalf. So we're able to use that very quickly now as we get to code compliance, run it through the checker and get back immediate results on what makes sense, what doesn't make sense.

The UASG has also created test emails. We use those too. We essentially tried to use as many resources as possible in the test phase so that what we do is done once and done once and for all so that we don't have to go back and revisit. Next slide please. Next slide.

More examples - with packaged products and services our treatment for off the shelf products go through a series of questions as the questions of the

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counterparty and make sure that if there is a contractual obligation which there typically is, you do not only UA compliance but also look at IPv6 and DNS SEC at the same time. If you're going to back to a contract, it's a good time to combine all of those together. And as an example last time I shared the kind of T's and C's we have in our contracts with this team.

We've included that in the presentation so if there is an interest you can pull that down and take it to your legal teams and modify it as necessary. Next slide please.

So the good news from our viewpoint, we started out with our entire portfolio and divided that up into what's off the shelf and which ones are custom. And then we parsed it to look at what needed to be worked and which ones were not requiring any UA compliance work at all. In the off the shelf area with one we now have UA compliance. And we've learned a great deal from getting that particular vendor to play nice with us, what are all the likely hurdles that we go through. It's a simple application but it's taught us a great deal disproportionately large in terms of lessons learned.

With custom code, as I said, our first project was across multiple platforms with that we now have eight different services that re UA compliant so we've made, in my view, fairly dramatic progress in a short period of time. But as we move into the future, our next projects will be as and when we open code as opposed to a concerted thrust just to open code and learn more about UA compliance. Next slide please.

And this is the last slide. This is a bunch of resources that anyone can look at. One of the things that my team and I are working on is a CIO's guide to becoming UA compliant as we go through our lessons learned, we're pulling that together in the form of lessons and it will be a guidebook that eventually will become part of the library of available resources for anybody who wants to set down this journey.

Thank you, I think that's the last slide for me.

Don Hollander: Thanks very much. I'm just very conscious of the time. I'm not blaming anybody but myself. But any quick questions? Edmon, you're going to ask for something for next time? Go ahead.

Edmon Chung: Edmon here. So you – it's great that for the update and also it's great that using the model of the five elements. I just want to get a sense of how well they fit so far? You know, what we have produced from the UASG you may have found additional things that need to be added to our documents and stuff. And maybe some of them is not relevant at all. And so I just want to get a sense of how accurate we have been so far. And, you know, because I view this as an interactive process rather than, you know, produce something and then put it – implementation down the road.

Ashwin Rangan: Thank you, Edmon. I think for me the area that needed the most work on our own part was the fourth step in the five step process, which is the process step. We found all kinds of oddities in a fairly small sample size. So I think we theorized what may likely be needed to be done in processing. And I think as we're getting into the nitty-gritty of doing it, we're hitting fairly interesting corner cases. And we're saying, now what? Now what do we do?

It's very interesting to go through that process. And I think as we discover more and as everybody discovers more, if we're able to bring this – bring it all back to this forum and we include that in the package that gets created by the USAG, it'll be helpful for everybody. I mean, there may be, I don't know, we have 9 or 10 different use cases that we've now written up in that one step. The final library may be 20 use cases, I'm just speculating. But it'll be helpful to see it from different angles and say here are all the watch-outs and gotchas so.

Don Hollander: Thanks very much. One of the exercises that we have underway is reviewing criteria for programming language evaluation and that'll be quite valuable

input into that. So as I said, we're – I'm just conscious of time and if we can just carry on with the next slide. There's – we want to finish when the big hand's on the 2. Thanks.

Next. Next. So I want to just talk a little bit about measurement and just because of time we're going to miss out on the browsers, but that'll be – we'll send some material out through the UA discuss list. But as I said at the beginning, we're starting measurement based on browsers and Website activity. Next slide please.

And this is our – after two quarters of detailed testing of the most popular Websites in the world, this is where we built on the work from Donuts and dotClub. And we found that for short TLDs, so these are four characters, we got reasonably high results. If we went to a five character TLD, it's not so good. And then as you see, as you go further along the line, actually you probably can't see, but the least accepted one was our tie at tie.tie domain names.

Next slide. Next. So we're going to skip the browser review. Next. And I just want to give you some idea as to where we're at financially. So this is a one page. We had a budget of about \$770,000 available to us at the beginning of this financial year. And we're expecting, by the (unintelligible), which is next week, we will have been underspent by over half a million dollars which is, I guess, good. But also not so very good.

And part of that was some administrative constraints over the past three months, and part of it was just figuring out what we're going to do and how we're going to do it. And we were able to leverage volunteer resources to get things done. So any questions about the current financial year? Christian?

Christian Dawson: I just want to build on your comment about the reasoning behind the budget. The fact is that when your goal is to put your arms around the whole world and change the way it works you have to figure out how you are going

to – where you're going to start. And it takes – it took us longer to figure out where we were going to start than many of us hoped and it took a couple of organizational changes. Now we've got the right one and we've got the right focus. So now is the time where it is reasonable for us to spend money. Before it was unreasonable for us to spend money.

And so I look at that as oh maybe not so bad but as long as we can continue to convince people that we've gotten to a point where it's right to start firing missiles I'm happy.

Ram Mohan: Don, this is Ram. This is actually a pretty good example of the focus of UASG and what we're doing on behalf of the community. We're focused not so much on effort but we're focused much more on effect. And if you think that we don't get enough effect then we'd rather withhold the effort until we are ready. And that's kind of the evidence of that approach. We'll continue to be in this mode. We'd rather not spend money that is in the budget than spend it just because it is in the budget.

Don Hollander: Thanks very much. So in terms of what we want to do next year, this has been circulated to the UA discuss list but I'd like to go through it just a little bit just to verbalize what we're planning on doing. So next slide please. So next slide.

So this is some of the work that we're doing. So EAI is a big focus for us and we've got about \$130,000 principally to try to facilitate organization and gatherings of EAI folk. Next slide please.

And if people have questions, Ram is paying attention to hands and will interrupt. So the work that I talked about before about, you know, modifying programing languages where had money in last year's budget to do that so we have even more money in this year's budget and that's planned to kick off any time now.

So the plan is we've got these four groups, we'll put them out to fix these things and there will be a cooperative effort. Next slide please. This is our monitoring and measuring activities. So we're looking to fund somebody to go and review Websites as we've done over the past six weeks. And we've been doing it for most of this year but we just added some more resources towards the end of the financial year.

We're going to look at automated evaluation so building on some of the work that ICANN IT has done, see if we can provide people a tool that can go through their application code and see where they have to look and whether they have to look.

And one of the things that Tony raised was can we track complaints and then do something about it. So we do have money in the budget for next year to do that. Next slide please.

So community outreach is where we're going to put a lot of focus. And these are the activities that we're looking to do. And you may or may not be able to read that but this is – shouldn't be new to too many people. We'll develop some case studies and we've already started that. We'll monitor media and produce quarterly reports and so forth. And next slide please.

And another part of the community outreach are UA ambassadors, which we've talked about over the course of the past year and a bit, so this is to provide some resources for them if that's necessary. And then local initiatives so we heard that there may be a need for local communities to get some startup capital, for lack of a better term, I call it beer money, so to reach out to your local IT development community. And if that's that it takes then we can make contribution. Next slide please.

So we planned for next year to have a Website so we've decided to do that, accelerate that, and that is now in production [as UASG.tech](http://as.uasg.tech). Next slide. And

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these are some administrative costs. That was very quick. I accept that. Any questions?

Ram Mohan: Any questions or comments?

(Radene): Hi. It's (Radene) from CentralNIC. I'm just wondering whether you're applying anything in the Middle Eastern region, any outreach or local community efforts there?

Don Hollander: Have you got good ideas?

(Radene): Well, I could look at leaning on some of our clients...

Don Hollander: Fantastic.

(Radene): ...because we work with some of the...

((Crosstalk))

Don Hollander: So the answer is yes.

(Radene): ...groups there who have IDN TLDs. But they don't really know – they need guidance. So like I say, I mean, I'm quite happy to try and bridge the gap but I don't know if they would know how to tackle this issue.

Ram Mohan: We're absolutely delighted to hear that. And to engage with that. And this is exactly the kind of thing that we need. So please do provide, you know, those introductions. And please stay part of the conversation because your clients trust you for the advice that you give them. And it's actually important that we don't disintermediate you. So that will be part of our normal methodology is to make sure that we provide materials, provide information, provide training as well but, you know, ensure that the bridge remains. Thank you.

Tony Harris: Just two quick points on what's been said. First of all, about the budget, this is a small budget. It's okay for now but when this activity scales and really becomes – it requires a lot of push, let's put it that way, it will require probably more funding. I'd just like to point out I'm involved in the drafting team for what to do with the auction funds, which is a lot of money.

I mean, that money comes from people who pay for applications. It would seem to make sense that a portion of that should be perhaps earmarked, I'm not saying right now, but for the coming years, for the work that we have to do, I mean, it's being paid by people who are suffering the consequences of universal acceptance. And the second point very quickly is I just looked at the ICANN homepage and there's absolutely no reference to universal acceptance which is a shame.

Ram Mohan: Thanks, Tony. Excellent comments. Let me get to the second one first. I think we should temper our own expectations on what is going to be on the ICANN page. I think ICANN itself is in the middle of revamping and thinking about navigation and things like that. And what we've been doing from UASG is make sure that our Website is up and we have all of our materials ready to go before we start engaging with the ICANN media side and, you know, get mentions there. So but that's in the plans. We intend to work on that.

As far as the budget itself for the future years, what you're saying may well be true. We may need a much larger budget. It's kind of – this year coming up is going to be a pretty seminal year because we have no materials and we have a plan of engagement and this is going to be our first year of kind of full scale execution all year on. And so you may well be right that that – there might be more funds needed.

My own approach is that the – there are two kind of sets of activities that UASG is doing. One, the area that actually requires less money but a lot more work is in the area of not – is the area of getting to the protocols and the

technology and all of those things. There's a lot of work there but the value for money is pretty high and the ability to leverage money is very good there.

The place where there is a lot more money needed probably is going to be in the outreach area because it's a big world. And we have a large message to send out.

Tony Harris: Just one very – other quick point, I'm sorry, I don't want to take up the mic all the time. But the statement that was on Ashwin's presentation right at the beginning which defines what universal acceptance is, when all Websites and, you know the statement I'm talking about. That would make a great footnote for every communication that ICANN puts out.

I mean, we use footnotes in my association on everything we send out which says what (Cabasa) is. Okay, so we send a letter, we send a newsletter, we go to the press with any type of news, at the bottom we always have that message.

Ram Mohan: That's a great idea. You know, we have this session being transcribed and we'll make sure to collect the actions out of it and come back and reflect that and follow up on it. Thank you for that.

Don Hollander: Right, so I think I just have a couple more slides if I have time? So this is a Website launch, you guys have all seen it now. Next. And this is general discussion. So just one other comment that I didn't raise is for those of you who are uber-geeks, and you know what IDNA 2003 theory and IDNA 2008 and Unicode mean and how they relate, so not always very well. So we've got a little project that we're going to fund to try to get both those groups to cooperate.

Ram Mohan: So, Don, perhaps I can take just a minute for that. In terms of context, some of you may know that in the DNS side of the world, most registries, registrars, etcetera, follow two protocols, this IDNA 2003 and IDNA 2008, they're both

RFCs from the IETF. Two thousand and eight effectively intended to replace 2003 although there are 2003 – IDNA 2003 instances out in production.

In the meanwhile and IDNA 2008 is kind of anchored in a particular version of Unicode. And the reality is that as time has passed, Unicode has moved on. And Unicode is now just put out Unicode-9. And if memory serves me right, IDNA 2008 is anchored in Unicode-6. And so as time has moved on there has been some divergence and there's a need to find a way, if it possible, for some level of harmonization.

It's not certain whether that's possible but the idea here is to perhaps build – get an [Jinternet](#) draft out for the IETF community to go and look at what are the issues and potentially generate some interest in bringing those who have expertise in IDNs and bring that – bring a group together in the IETF to work on a new – potentially a new version of the IDNA protocol that might actually not be as anchored to an individual version of Unicode as the current version does.

Don Hollander: So with that and we now are spot on time for the next group to come in. Thank you very much. Any questions we'll be in the hallway or online. Thank you.

Ashwin Rangan: Thank you, Ram.

END

Author

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