

# Universal Acceptance Community Update

Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)

ICANN71 Prep Week / 3 June 2021



Universal Acceptance

# Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)

Welcome from the UASG Leadership Team



Chair  
Ajay Data,  
India



Vice Chair  
Abdalmonem  
Galila, Egypt



Vice Chair  
U.B. Pavanaja,  
India



Vice Chair  
Dessalegn Yehuala,  
Ethiopia

# Overview

1

**Universal Acceptance: A Priority for ICANN – 5 mins**

Akinori Maemura, Chair, ICANN Board IDN and UA Working Group

2

**UASG Strategy and Need for Collaboration – 7 mins**

Ajay Data, Chair, UASG

3

**UA Discussion and Recommendations by SubPro WG – 8 mins**

Cheryl Langdon-Orr, co-chair, GNSO's New gTLD SubPro WG  
Jeffrey J. Neuman, co-chair, GNSO's New gTLD SubPro WG

4

**IDNs and UA in the At-Large Community – 5 mins**

Satish Babu, Chair, At-Large IDN WG and Chair, APRALO

5

**UA Efforts by the IDN ccTLD Community – 5 mins**

Alejandra Reynoso, Chair, ccNSO

6

**Collaborating on UA Moving Forward – 30 mins**

All panelists and participants

# Universal Acceptance: A Priority for ICANN

Akinori Maemura, Chair ICANN Board's IDN and UA Working Group



# The Need For Universal Acceptance (UA)

To serve the global community, ICANN, with community guidance, has been working to expand the domain name space by enabling a variety of top-level domains (TLDs), including TLDs in different languages and scripts (i.e., Internationalized Domain Names).

- \* New generic TLDs (gTLDs) provide global consumers with more choice to make their domain names more meaningful and innovative.
- \* TLDs in different scripts and languages give users around the world greater access to localized Internet content and services.

But without Universal Acceptance (UA) – which ensures that IDNs and internationalized email addresses can be accepted and processed by all applications and programs - we cannot effectively achieve these goals.

# Universal Acceptance: A Priority for ICANN

ICANN is committed to supporting the community to increase UA-readiness.

Due to its significance, promoting the adoption of UA has been included as a key part of the [ICANN Strategic Plan for 2021-2025](#) which was [adopted](#) by the ICANN Board.

- \* One of the strategic goals related to promoting the Unique Identifier System is to:
  - \* “Foster competition, consumer choice, and innovation in the Internet space by increasing awareness and encouraging readiness for Universal Acceptance, IDN implementation, and IPv6.”



# Universal Acceptance: A Priority for ICANN

The ICANN Board is overseeing UA work through its IDN and UA Working Group.

ICANN org is working to support and promote UA through:

- \* The creation of a dedicated UA Program to support the UA work done by the community and any additional work needed to address UA.
- \* The formation of a cross-functional steering committee to coordinate UA work within ICANN org.
- \* Making ICANN org's internal systems UA-ready.

ICANN org continues to support the community-driven Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) which was started in 2015.

# UA Commitment and Collaboration

To fully achieve Universal Acceptance, we need all stakeholders – including you - to take action at both the individual and institutional levels.

- \* Make a difference by making your own systems UA-ready.
- \* Raise awareness and invite others to support UA.

The ICANN Board IDN and UA Working Group encourages the community's ongoing efforts to address UA, especially the UASG.

We look forward to continuing our engagement and dialogue with the community to determine effective ways to address UA.

We also look forward to supporting IDNs and their UA in the next round(s) of gTLDs for more diversity and inclusiveness of the internet globally.



# UASG Strategy and Need for Collaboration

Ajay Data, Chair, UASG



# Universal Acceptance Categories

**Universal Acceptance (UA):** All domain names and email addresses work in all software applications.

- \* Domain names:

- \* Newer top-level domain names:

example.sky

- \* Longer top-level domain names:

example.international

- \* Internationalized domain names

คน.ไทย

- \* Internationalized email addresses (EAI):

- \* ASCII@ASCII (new and long TLD)

ekrem@misal.berlin

- \* ASCII@IDN

marc@société.org

- \* Unicode@ASCII

测试@example.com

- \* Unicode@IDN

пример@тестовая-зона.рф

- \* Unicode@IDN; right-to-left scripts

ای-میل@مثال.موقع

# Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)

The UASG is a community-driven group formed in 2015 tasked with addressing UA. It is made up of volunteers from the public sector, business and technical communities, civil society, and academia.

Within the UASG, 500-plus volunteers are organized into working groups that focus on key stakeholders.

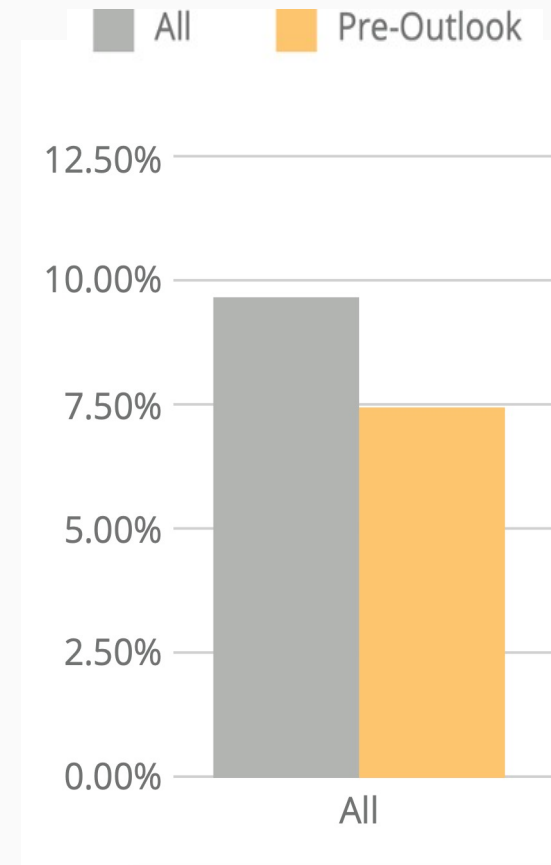
UASG Working Groups address two main areas:

- \* Technical work.
- \* Outreach efforts.



# UASG Stakeholders - Technology

- \* UA Measurement WG
  - \* Measures UA-related gaps in tools and technology.
- \* UA Technology WG
  - \* Development tools and technology remediation.
  - \* Training and best practices for software applications.
- \* UA Email Address Internationalization (EAI) WG
  - \* Email tools and technology remediation.
  - \* Training and best practices for email deployment.



Percentage of Email Servers Configured to Support EAI ([UASG021D](#))

# UASG Stakeholders - Outreach

- \* UA Communications WG
  - \* Develops messaging for different UA stakeholders.
  - \* Plans and undertakes global outreach, e.g., IGFs.
- \* UA Local Initiatives
  - \* Conducts outreach to local communities to promote UA.
  - \* Provides UA training to raise technical capacity in local communities.
- \* China, Europe, India, and Thailand.
- \* UA Ambassadors
  - \* Conducts UA outreach and training for local communities.



# Technical Research and Outreach

## Recent UA research:

- \* Evaluation of EAI Support in Email Software and Services Report: [UASG030](#).
- \* FAQs: UA-Readiness of Programming Languages and Email Tools: [UASG031](#).
- \* Universal Acceptance (UA) of Content Management Systems: [UASG032](#).
- \* UA-Readiness of Open-Source Code: UASG033 (to be published soon).

## Recent UA outreach:

- \* [Case Study](#): Supporting a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Internet Through Email Address Internationalization (EAI).
- \* [Blogs](#):
  - \* WordPress and Its Plugins Support Internationalized Domain Names, but Barriers Remain for Internationalized Email Addresses.
  - \* ICANN70 Showcases Universal Acceptance (UA) Progress.
- \* Online outreach and training, e.g., [Regional UA training programs](#).
  - \* Multiple UA outreach and training sessions held in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Latin American and Caribbean regions.

Further information available at [uasg.tech](https://uasg.tech).

# Need for Further Collaboration with SO/ACs

## Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

- \* Advises UASG on effective messaging and engagement strategies for governments.
- \* Encourages members to raise UA awareness with their respective governments.
- \* Requests that members encourage respective governments to adopt UA practices for their own e-government services.

## Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

- \* Creates awareness on UA among country code top-level domain (ccTLD) members.
- \* Encourages ccTLD members to update their systems to be UA-ready.
- \* Encourages ccTLD members to help promote UA in their local communities.
- \* Continues to include UA aspects in internal discussions and work.

# Need for Further Collaboration with SO/ACs

## Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

- \* Encourages members to update their own systems to support UA.
- \* Encourages members to promote UA with their associated businesses.
- \* Continues to include UA aspects in internal discussions and work.

## At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

- \* 80 countries have At-Large structures (ALSes), and around 40 ALSes are in each [Regional At-Large Organization \(RALO\)](#). This presents a great opportunity to promote UA globally.
- \* Helps create awareness of the need for UA with RALOs and ALSes.
- \* Encourages RALOs and ALSes to promote UA locally. UASG could work with ALAC to develop specific UA programs for RALOs and ALSes.
- \* [LACRALO's UA Training Program](#) is an example of one mechanism.



# UA Discussion and Recommendations by GNSO's SubPro WG

Cheryl Langdon-Orr, co-chair, GNSO New gTLD SubPro WG  
Jeffrey J. Neuman, co-chair, GNSO New gTLD SubPro WG



# 2012 New gTLD Round

## Section 1.2.4 of Applicant Guidebook:

- \* "Notice concerning Technical Acceptance Issues with New gTLDs."

## Question 16 of Application

- \* "Describe the applicant's efforts to ensure that there are no known operational or rendering problems concerning the applied-for gTLD string."

## Registry Agreement: Clause 1.2

- \* "While ICANN has encouraged and will continue to encourage universal acceptance of all [TLD] strings across the Internet, certain [strings] may encounter difficulty in acceptance by ISPs and web hosts and/or validation by web applications. Registry ... shall be responsible for ensuring to its satisfaction the technical feasibility of the TLD string ..."

///\*\*/

# SubPro Recommendations

## *Summary: Affirmations and Awareness*

1. Encourages the continued work of the Universal Acceptance initiative and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group.
2. Affirms notice to applicants on technical acceptance issues and provision in base Registry Agreement Section 1.2.
3. Recommends access to information on UA challenges in both ASCII and IDN TLDs to be included or referenced in the Applicant Guidebook.



# Other Issues Considered

*Issues discussed but did not get enough support to make recommendations*

- \* Require registries and registrars that are owned by the same entity to be UA-ready as part of their application for a new gTLD.
  - \* This would mean that their systems should be:
    - \* Ready for IDN registrations.
    - \* Ready to consistently handle IDNs and non-IDN new gTLDs on name servers and other machines.
    - \* Be able to manage any internationalized email and to send and receive emails from these types of addresses.
  
- \* ICANN should also require registries and registrars to take action to ensure UA-readiness in their downstream supply chains.

# IDNs and UA in the At-Large Community

Satish Babu, Chair, At-Large IDN WG and Chair, APRALO



# Overview

1

IDNs and Universal Acceptance in the At-Large Community

2

LACRALO Outreach and Capacity Building on Universal Acceptance

3

What Is Next

# IDNs and Universal Acceptance in the At-Large Community

- \* IDNs is one of the key policy topics for the At-Large community. With presence in more than 80 countries and territories, the At-Large community is the most geographically, linguistically, and culturally diverse stakeholder group at ICANN.
- \* Our members have published Policy Advice Statements on IDNs, [Universal Acceptance](#), and [WHOIS](#) issues that have an internationalization component . See <https://atlarge.icann.org/topics/idn>.
- \* The At-Large community joins the global efforts of the UASG to promote UA and generating awareness among software developers around the world on the need to update and prepare their systems for multiple scripts.

# IDNs and Universal Acceptance in the At-Large Community

- \* Organized [At-Large and Universal Acceptance](#) sessions at ICANN68:
  - \* [At-Large Policy Session: Aligning UA and IDNs with the Multilingual Internet: End-User Perspectives.](#)
  - \* [At-Large Universal Acceptance Webinar for ICANN68 - Prep Session](#) .
- \* In 2021, AFRALO membership has considered Universal Acceptance as one of their top 5 topics in their Capacity Building Webinar Series.
- \* At-Large members are actively participating in UASG, current members include:
  - \* Lilian Yvette De Luque Bruges , LACRALO, (Vice Chair, UA Communications Working Group of UASG).
  - \* Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede AFRALO, (UA Ambassador for UASG).
  - \* Satish Babu, APRALO (Chair, UA Technology Working Group of UASG).



# LACRALO Outreach and Capacity building on UA

- \* In 2019, LACRALO created a working group to study the possible impacts and needs for the adoption of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Universal Acceptance.  
<https://community.icann.org/x/foEWBg>
- \* LACRALO issued the report: **IDN Registration in the LAC region**, Jan 2020.
- \* Objectives:
  - \* To assess the status of LACRALO represented countries regarding the inclusion of special characters in domain name registrations at the second level.
  - \* To subsequently learn about the reasons for accepting or dismissing them when buying domain names.
  - \* To study the level of demand and IDN implementation in the LAC region.

# LACRALO Outreach and Capacity building on UA

- \* The "[LACRALO UA Training Program](#)" is a joint effort between LACRALO, ICANN, and the [Universal Acceptance Steering Group](#) (UASG).
- \* Four sessions were held between 4-25 May 2021.
  - \* 150 participants from 14 LAC countries volunteered in the training.
- \* Key topics:
  - \* Email address internationalization.
  - \* UA for Java developers.
  - \* How to engage in UA activities.

# UA and At-Large: The Next Steps

- \* The RALOs will continue organizing webinars to educate the broader audience and raise awareness on IDN issues and UA, as well as to build capacity within the community.
- \* The At-Large community is a vigilant presence in the IDN activities of ICANN. We bring language and technical expertise, highlighting end-users' perspectives in policy discussions and bridging the gap between UA initiatives and end-users.



# UA Efforts by the IDN ccTLD Community

Alejandra Reynoso, Chair, ccNSO



# IDN ccTLD Initiatives – Examples in Asia



.tw (Taiwan), .hk (Hong Kong), .mo (Macao), .cn (China)

- \* Founding members of CDNC (Chinese Domain Name Consortium).
- \* Implemented Chinese variant table and variant management mechanism.
- \* Worked with local email service providers to follow RFC EAI standards.
- \* Several Stakeholders involved:
  - \* Government, registry, registrars, ISPs, etc.
  - \* Promotion, technical courses, etc.

# IDN ccTLD Initiatives – Examples in Asia



## .in (India)

- \* Offering IDN domains in all 22 Indian languages.
- \* Task force initiative of NIXI, GOI, and Indian community to promote UA.
  - \* Web designers, email providers, mobile app developers, software developers, content generators.
  - \* Trainings, workshops, and awareness campaigns.
- \* Local Language Website Contest & Wikipedia Contest.
- \* Financial help for small website developers in adoption of UA.
- \* Help desk to assist email providers, web designers, and software community in the adoption of UA.

# IDN ccTLD Initiatives – Examples in Europe

## SPONSORS



**IDN** WORLD  
REPORT



## .RU/РФ (Russia)

- \* Поддерживаю.pф (<https://xn--80adfafgo7bio2n.xn--p1ai/>) project to promote UA-readiness for software developers.
- \* Trainings and hackathons targeted to software developers.
- \* Partnerships with the Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries (CENTR) and Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD).

## EURid

- \* [www.idnworldreport.eu](http://www.idnworldreport.eu)
- \* Promote online multilingualism.

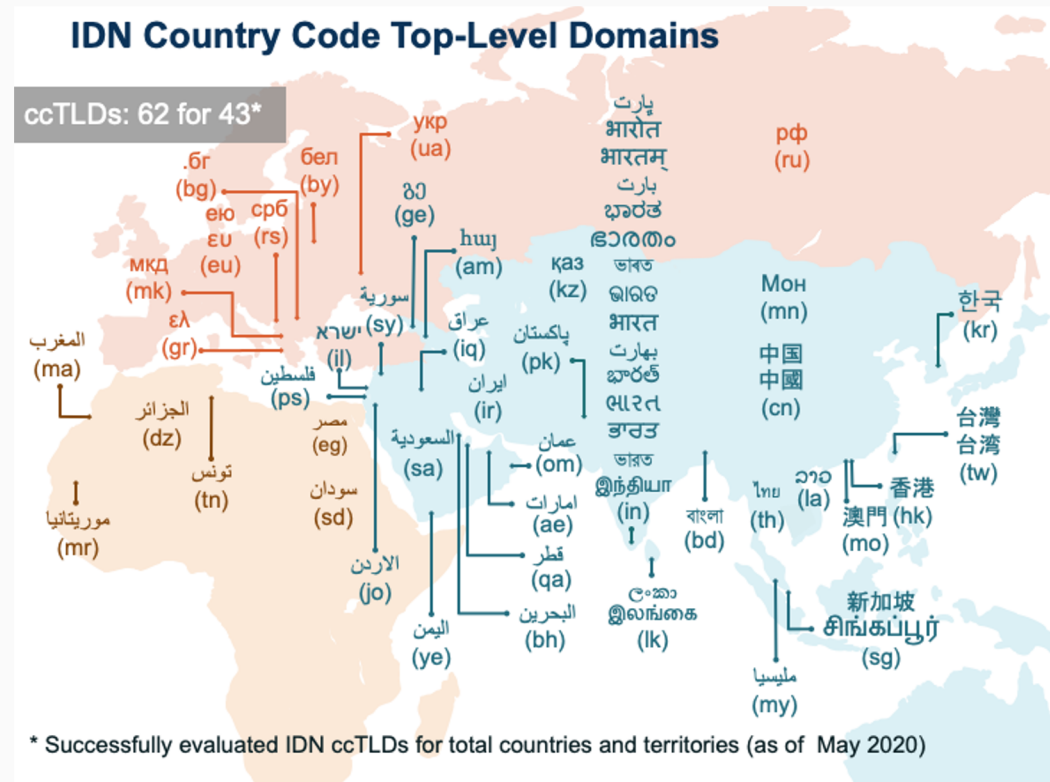
# ccNSO and IDNs

## Fast Track Process:

- \* Enabled IDN ccTLDs.

## ccNSO Members:

- \* IDN ccTLDs will soon be able to join the ccNSO. Bylaw change is ongoing.



## ccPDP4: (de)selection of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD strings.

- \* Eventually replaces the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.
- \* WG seeks feedback from the broader community at ICANN71.
  - \* Wednesday, 16 June from 10:30-12:00 UTC.



# Collaborating on UA Moving Forward

All Panelists and Participants



# Need for Further Collaboration with SO/ACs

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# Questions for Panelists and Participants

Q.1. Are the UASG suggestions reasonable for SOs and ACs to adopt for contributing towards the common UA readiness goals?

Q.2. What support can UASG provide to enhance collaboration with the SOs and ACs to promote and achieve UA readiness?



# Thank You!

## Get involved:

- \* Join the UASG community email list:  
<https://uasg.tech/subscribe>
- \* Join a technical working group:  
[sign-up form](#)
- \* Follow [@UASGTech](#) on social media

## Contact the UASG:

- \* Email: [info@uasg.tech](mailto:info@uasg.tech)

Universal Acceptance  
Steering Group info &  
recent developments:  
[www.uasg.tech](http://www.uasg.tech)