ICANN74 | Prep Week – Universal Acceptance Community Update
Thursday, June 2, 2022 – 18:00 to 19:00 AMS

SEDA AKBULUT:	Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Hello and welcome to the Universal Acceptance Steering Group community updates session. My name is Seda Akbulut and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior.
	During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form, as I have noted in the chat now. And I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair of this session.
	Interpretation for this session will include English Chinese, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during the session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room. And once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor.

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And to ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multistakeholder model, we ask kindly that you sign into Zoom sessions using your full name. For example, first name and last name. You may be removed from the session if you don't sign in using your full name. With that, I will hand the floor over to Dr. Ajay Data, the chair of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. Over to you, Dr. Data.

AJAY DATA: Thank you, Seda. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. This is another ICANN community update session where we come and give you an update what's going on here for such a very important topic.

The session will go like this. We are going to discuss a little bit about UA. For a lot of you, it's repetition, but for [of new,] it's a great knowledge to start with.

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This is what we are going to discuss about the structure and the stakeholders. Then we are going to invite the speakers to talk about various working groups. What's the update from there? And then we have questions and answers and we are going to discuss openly about what's happening, what's in your mind. We all are here to answer any query you may have. Next slide please.

Universal acceptance. This slide is very important. I always say that. It covers the whole scope of universal acceptance. So on the top of the screen, you see the three examples of the domain name. These domain names represent the short top level domain name, the long-short top level domain name, and an IDN. First two examples are ASCII domain names and third example is the IDN. IDNs are the domain names which have non ASCII characters.

And because of these three domains, there are very kind of examples in e-mail addresses. So you can see long top-level domain name e-mail address, an e-mail address with an IDN, an IDN, Unicode at ASCII, Unicode at IDN. And another conflict which comes or a complication I must say, right to left script, the Arabic script is written from right to left, all other scripts which we write, normally we write from left to right. So this is another complication.

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But covering these complications, we have e-mail addresses which are valid, which are being used, which people can purchase. Technically as per standard, they are all valid. But your website or software application, which you are using or you are maintaining, or you are responsible for, is going to accept that e-mail ID, is going to accept that domain name. If not, that's a universal acceptance issue.

So how do we test it? How do we say my application is UA ready? So there are five pillars. So let's take an example of americanairline.com for example. Can I type in my Arabic e-mail address, or Unicode IDN e-mail address or ASCII@ASCII e-mail address in that box, a little box where the e-mail address is asked? Can I type in, or it just accept English with three characters after the dot, .com, .net, .org? That's the first test.

Second is if I'm able to enter, will it validate it the way it should be? Which means valid e-mail ID. It can allow me to enter, but later it says it's invalid. And there is the problem of universal acceptance we talk about.

Third is about process. Obviously, I have come to the website to ask for a service, raise a complaint, put a ticket or whatever purpose I have. So it should be able to process my request based on that e-mail ID that is stored in their database as well and then displayed the way it is required.

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So there are five pillars, accept, validate, process, store and display. If your application is ready and passes all the five pillars of test, then your application is UA ready. But if it fails, then you have a UA issue. You have a bug to solve. Next slide, please.

So we did some work to find out what's going on in the world. And you can see there's a little progress from 2017 to 2022, but not significant progress. So what do we do? We create a team, outsource a project and ask them to find out how many websites accept an e-mail ID which I have just shown an example in their websites.

And you can see the Arabic example which I gave you is extremely poor, almost 10%. So only 10% of the websites accept that e-mail. So as the [IDN e-mail in front of you,] it is written Chinese and Chinese, Unicode or ASCII, the mailbox name is Unicode and the domain name is ASCII. That is a separate [inaudible] than other things.

So you can see rest all examples which I said are accepted better, but not where we are. We are supposed to have 100% acceptance before we sleep. And we cannot have a broken Internet. That is the mission of universal acceptance. Because I have a valid domain name. I have a valid e-mail ID and it is rejected as invalid e-mail ID. Next slide please.

And that's an example of e-mail servers. So first example was the website accepting an e-mail ID. Now the e-mail server itself which send and receive e-mail. And you can see that obviously, a lot of data is there which did not respond or did not support. But the numbers are increasing, numbers are getting better, very slightly, very few percentage. But if you see that there is a last mile which needs to be covered, we are far behind the target.

So if I have an e-mail id which is in Hindi ajaydata.bharat, it is likely to be rejected in almost 40% of the servers, which is not a good sign. And hence, we need to address the solution with all of you. Next slide please.

So we did a summary of FY22 work and that's important because that's how we measure where we stand, what we plan in our action plan for 2022. We are going to see whether we really did or not. So you can see that all the working groups actively work on their task. And their plan details are available on our website. I'm not going to consume your time on that. It's a detailed one, long one. And I wish to encourage you to visit our website and see the action plan detail and the progress it has made.

Local initiative, which is extremely important. So what we did, we definitely recognized that we cannot run the whole world and solve a problem by three elected leaders. We need leaders in the regional community.

So we reached out, we went out and created the leaders, found the leaders, found the people who are passionate about UA or IDN an EAI. And surprisingly, we got very good support. And China, India, Thailand, NCIS, an EE are actively working right now to create a UAE remediation issues, UA awareness in their own region. They're working fantastically well.

We appointed lots of UA ambassadors. And they did limited engagement, obviously, because of COVID, little bit [hampered us there.] But you will be surprised. Almost every ambassador did online events, virtual events, and they did whatever they could during the pandemic.

Each working group is now going to present more details about them, which I'm going to invite one by one. Detailed reports are also available in document tab, the document number is written. So you can simply google UASG 034 and you will find the document, or UASG 040, find the document. Next slide, please.

So now, we are now working on FY 23. And that's a very big thing which is happening right now. That's where we are busy in what we are planning for next year. So we have to plan. And this cannot happen without everybody's support here. Obviously, we have to be very active. If my e-mail server supports EAI and yours do not, we are having a broken communication. So we ensure that all e-mail servers are UA ready.

We are also ensuring that the gaps in the systems are remediated. So we are engaging with the larger organizations and open-source communities so that they can train, they are known about this issue and they take efforts to solve those problems.

Bigger focus is coming on government also. And that's where we are trying to engage with the government and ask them to adopt UA policies in their procurement contracts so that when government started procuring only UA ready software, every software developer or big company will start looking at that seriously. That's our approach to that.

And last is academia. We are looking for universities and colleges to create a curriculum for UA [inaudible]. That's working in some areas already very well. And we want this to happen almost the world over. Next slide please.

I think we are moving towards the end of my part. FY 23 working groups are going to now review after this presentation after my slide. Shortlisted items are being presented here for community inputs so that we can discuss them and make amendments if you need something more. We are very actively working as I shared for FY 23 action plan. And we promise you to incorporate all your inputs and whatever you say during the update. Next slide please.

So may I invite Nabil to take up the measurement working group sites. Welcome, Nabil.

NABIL BENAMAR: Thank you, Dr. Data. Thank you for your excellent. I'm presenting today on behalf of the measurement working group chair. So I'm presenting the updates that we have done so far.

So in the first steps, we prepare and we publish the UA readiness annual reports. And we have also tackled the gap analysis of various technologies, like the content management systems, social media applications, browsers, web hosting tools, which is something that is still in progress. And also, we tackled the identity platform. The identity platform still work in progress, because we have faced some technical issues. We need the feedback from some standardization bodies like the IETF to be able to understand the layer two or the layer that is lower that supports the main protocol for identity platforms.

And then we have done some gap analysis of the top 1000 websites globally. This is something that we have done so far, but we continue on this so that we are sure that we are covering the majority of websites.

So content management systems allow for quick development, deployment and maintenance of websites and are popular tools to develop websites globally. So there are many. We are picking examples from both open-source and proprietary. And we can

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give some examples like WordPress, Joomla, Drupal, and [Minimal.]

For browsers, in summary, the community did notice all browsers except for Internet Explorer on desktop showed certain issues resolving search and displaying results properly. So the finding indicates that while browser developers are making progress toward becoming UA ready, there is still more work to be done. So our study is being performed again to see how the results have improved since 2017. For the remaining parts, for the e-mail servers, we surveyed e-mail servers deployed globally to measure EAI support advertised by them. Next slide, please.

So then we continue on for the upcoming year to prepare and publish the UA readiness annual report. We continue on the gap analysis of the ecommerce platforms and web hosting tools, identity platforms and more content management system. This is something that can be done in two separate phases.

We also continue on collecting data and identifying how to address [inaudible] e-mail field for accepting globally inclusive e-mail addresses as identifier. We want to focus also on Android as a mobile operating system. We want to characterize how much Android platform limits acceptance of IDNs in web browsing, because they stay compatible with the leader which is Chrome on Android which use an outdated IDN spec. So this is something

that we need further to study and to come up with clear conclusions on this.

The final thing that we want to talk about and want to start working on from next year is the update IT related curriculum to include IDN and UA readiness. This is something that is very important. We need to increase awareness in the academia so that IDN and UA-related information should be included in the curriculum and then the students in the universities are aware of this concept and start working on this concept and deploying and testing and assessing software, etc. Thank you very much. That's all for me.

AJAY DATA: Thank you, Nabil, for a wonderful presentation. Next slide please. So next is we are going to have technical working group. We have our champion, Satish Babu. Over to you, please.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Ajay. Good day to everybody. I'm very happy to be able to present the work of the group, the tech working group. And I must thank all the members of the tech working group for their solid support while we're doing this.

Here, we have the FY 22 status, T1 to T5, five line items. Three of them or two and a half of them are completed, the others are

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actually going on. And some of these things are kind of isolated, like T1 is to identify technology steps for UA testing. And this, we take, say, two or three steps, then we do the kind of gap analysis, then we move on to fix them, and then move on to the next set. So it's a kind of ongoing thing.

T2 is also relatively connected in the sense of we're trying to demonstrate how the developers, finally the change has to happen at the level of the developers, who should be motivated to kind of make the changes so that applications become UA already.

So one of the ways to do that is to give them working samples. So that is T2. T2 is already contracted out, the work order is out and the contractor is working on this.

T3 is the central mandate of the tech working group, which is to provide the remediation, how to fix these gaps. So we are currently working on this USAG 037 document looked at iOS, Android and PHP on Windows and Linux. The report is out. And we are trying to kind of see what next with that. We have been involved in testing of to 1000 websites with the difference that these are the top websites as per some of the Internet resources.

After kind of testing and finding the gaps out, we have actually gone to the next step of informing these websites that you have a problem with UA. And the point is that they will kind of take the

hint and they will either ask us how to fix it or they will fix it themselves. So we have now moved on to that stage.

T4 is training materials, has been done. And T5 is a new item that we are working through last year as well as for the next year, which is to look at the which are the impediment, which are the bottlenecks that are stopping us from achieving the readiness and how do we kind of fix these things.

So we have identified multiple stakeholders, like for example, the developer community, the corporate managements and governments. And we will be identifying through multiple surveys, maybe three surveys to each of these groups, what they feel are the kind of pain points there. Next slide please.

In FY 23, you can see that some of them are already yellow, which means they are carried over from the previous year. And they've already started. The T1 is the same, identify the next set of facts. This keeps going. T2.1 is what we did last year and the work is going on.

T2.2 is an additional step because many of these complex software required not just the code change but also configuration change, etc. So we are trying to kind of demonstrate how to make at least some standard software completely ready.

T3 is remediation and that will continue using various strategies. T4 is the training materials, which is also going to continue. T5, hopefully, will be able to kind of execute the service in FY 23 and also present the results to the community.

T6 to T8 are new items. T6 is actually UASG 040 report which has been submitted and we have discussed that. Now, this particular report relates to some of the standards organizations that we can work with. These are not necessarily companies, but these are various groups and projects that are happening around the world. And we have been recommended by the study team that these are the things that they can try to address. So we will work at that.

Secondly, the engaging with the likes of ACM and IEEE to provide a curriculum that will include the technology aspects of IDNs and UA. And finally T8, the UA coordination group has been a talking about discussing the concept of a UA/EAI day, like the mother language day of UNESCO. So we are still planning for it. But we hope that by February 2023, we'll be able to have a UA Day which will be celebrated by various parts of the community, other parts of ICANN community, as well as by language communities and various all around the world. So it needs to be kind of coordinated and all that and we are trying to kind of propose a bunch of technical stuff for the UA Day in 2023 February. That's all from my side. Back to you, Ajay.

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AJAY DATA:

Thank you, Satish. Wonderful presentation. Next slide, please. So just 30 seconds for UA Day, because it's going to be critical. We are involving a true global multi stakeholder event. I don't think this kind of event has ever happened before. We are trying to involve almost every community which makes sense for IDNs, EAIs and universal acceptance. We are not excluding anybody here, only the inclusion. And this is going to be a one such big, impactful exercise which we are envisaging here. Results will show later, but this is what we envisage. Next slide, please. Thank you. Welcome, Mark. Over to you.

MARK SVANCAREK:

Hi, I'm Mark Svancarfek, and I'm the chair of the EAI Working Group. Here's our status update. I know it looks really red. But actually, it's a lot better than it looks. So E1 is what we spent almost our entire year on. We have a small but very dedicated and passionate community. And we have this one work item that we really thought would be important this year. And we didn't see how we could possibly outsource it.

One of the challenges that UASG has had right from the beginning is deciding which things should be done within the community, which is all volunteers, most of whom have other jobs, and how much should be contracted out? So should the work be on

developing a statement of work for contract out? Or should the work be actually developing the deliverables?

In this particular case, we felt that there would really be no way for us to create an SOW, contract this out, and then get a work product that met our needs without extensive community input in the first place. So we decided we would just do it, and it took the entire year.

So what we're talking about is Item E1, the self-certification guide for EAI. We have a lot of documentation about EAI. We have a technical document which explains in both technical and nontechnical terms, what does it mean to be EAI? This also has to talk about what does it mean to be e-mail. So it talks about the RFCs, it talks about legacy systems, advanced systems, how e-mail is componentized, etc., what are headers, what are error messages, things like that, what is MIME?

This, we boiled down into a large collection of requirements. That was something we contracted out. Then we had vendors actually go out and test various e-mail systems that are on the market. That was something we were able to contract out. Then we decided we would take these requirements and analyze the sort of results that we were getting back and turn this into a self-certification guide where you can actually rank and score your offerings.

So every feature going down, some are more important than others. If we want to have a platinum level, what does that mean, exactly? Should it include your help files? Should it include this? What if you are producing a monolithic solution? Like when you go to a webmail solution, to the user, it's like a black box. What's behind the scenes? We don't know.

In other cases, an administrator might be building their e-mail system out of components from one or more suppliers. How can they gauge the level of support from each of the components from each of the suppliers? What if a supplier has a couple things put together? And what about things that are not strictly e-mail, like address books or e-mail mailing lists, things like that?

So it's quite a complex set of requirements. And each requirement had to be evaluated and ranked. And then the implications of it in interaction with the other requirements had to be evaluated as well. So your component has this, has a platinum rating, but your overall system has only a gold rating. That could happen, right?

So that's what we've been working on for the entire year. We are almost ready to send out the text for community review. I'm pretty happy with it. But if you're wondering why most of this looks like it's red, it's because we spent almost the entire year—and we were meeting almost every week working on a single action item.

Other things that we know are going to be important and that we carried over, making it easier to experiment with a self-hosted EAI system. We know how to do that. We can contract it out, we just haven't had the chance to do it. Identify the reference customers, identify the reference providers. We've done some of this stuff in the past with case studies that you can see on UASG.tech.

But taking this to the next level, that's what we'd like to do with E3, E3.1, E3.2, make it easier for people to experience the use, establishing a regular line of communication with the other working groups. I know these things sound like they're sort of obvious, but they actually require a certain amount of work. And there's more progress that's been done on this than is demonstrated here. But we don't want to overstate our progress. So we're showing it as red.

Improve the support, and then as ICANN has scheduled in the meetings with market leaders, hold those leaders. We had a conversation with the staff and the board recently, asking them to help be our ambassadors on this stuff. UASG all up, not just the e-mail. But e-mail is particularly important in a weird and complex way. So looking for a deeper engagement of ICANN staff and board in helping us to schedule meetings, get the right people to the meetings and then follow up on them. So that's our that's our update on this slide. Are there any questions?

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SEDA AKBULUT: There is a question actually on this. We can take the questions in the end if you'd like.

AJAY DATA: Okay, sure. Any questions, Seda, for EAI for Mark?

MARK SVANCAREK: No, I don't know of any certificate authority that is issuing MIME certificates for EAI addresses. Actually, we should capture that and look into it. I'm not aware of it. I'm wondering what level of priority that should have. It's good question though. Okay, the next slide.

You can see that there's a large amount of overlap from the previous year. So we know that there'll be some updates to that self-certification guide after it gets published. That's okay. So that E1 is a minor thing. Using the self cert tool to generate scores, we we'd like to automate this to some degree.

So one of our action items is just to create a simple tool that can generate your scores. If you're certifying yourself, it's self-certification. But if you'd like to get some feedback on whether your self-certification is similar to others, there's an automated

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tool that we can create that should be pretty simple. Let's see what here is unique.

So E5 is something that we've actually been doing for a while looking at resources like Stack Overflow and Server Fault, finding questions that have been asked about e-mail and internationalized e-mail, and making sure that the correct answers are upvoted so they can be found. Sometimes you go to these sites, and they say things like, use a regex, which is usually wrong. And then they say, here's an example regex. And it's completely wrong, like doesn't meet RFCs at all. And so locating these resources that so many developers use, and then making sure that they're giving the right community advice, that's E5. We're gonna really lean into that again this year. The rest of it is pretty similar to what we saw on the other slide, just carry through.

When will UASG certificate program for e-mail ...? Okay, so there's difference between a certification program and a self-certification process. So we can't commit to any sort of a certification program, because that would have to be operationalized, would have to be staffed, there'd have to be some sort of a continuity. Where would things be published?

Whereas a self-certification process, we can give guidance on here's how you talk to UASG about it to get something on

UASG.tech, but it's not a commitment to an ongoing, official process that would be operated by ICANN. So we don't have a commitment to create an official certification process. We're just providing the tools and guidance so that each provider can certify himself. Does that help? Yes. Okay, great. That's it for this slide. Thank you very much.

AJAY DATA: Thank you, and I'd like to invite Anil Jain for communications working group. Anil, over to you, please.

ANIL JAIN: Thank you, Ajay. We have heard about measurement working group, we have heard about technical working group, we have heard about EAI working group. And now the working group is there which is supposed to take the work of all these working groups to various groups, individuals, organizations, which matter in the whole process. That is what the name communication working group. So we basically communicate the contents within working groups to all the community of UASG to ICANN, to other regional working groups, and to the overall community.

In financial year 22, the entire group led by Maria and on behalf of Raymond and the entire group, I'm presenting you what work we

have completed. In financial year 22, you must have seen that all C1 to C2 except C2 and C4 are completed.

We developed a communication plan initially at the start of the year. [inaudible] the content for the communication channels and that is what was started [inaudible] any organization or any individual can adopt UASG and what are the challenges and how we have to do so. These are [explanatory] videos which are being prepared and we are quite close to completing these [explanatory] videos.

We organize a strategy communication partner who help us to formulate the communication channels and communication contents, which are professional in nature and which can go to ICANN and then which can go to the entire community. So, this is a good work which was started in financial year 22.

Then, we reviewed the universal acceptance and EAI contents as developed by various working groups and we disseminated the same work, as I said, through various channels to the concerned people.

Another most important aspect is that whatever work we do, it should go to the entire population in their own language. So, we do the translation of the relevant reports and the case studies and this translation goes, and it really takes care of the proper communication to everybody concerned.

C6 was started last year, maintaining the social media presence of UASG, and it has resulted in great outcome during financial year 22. We are maintaining this activity for this year also. And we have expanded the scope of the social media from one social media to around four social media.

As I said, the work of various working group is the job of comm group to disseminate. So we maintain the UASG.tech website and we keep on updating it on regular basis. Whatever upgrades are available to us on the technical side, we review them and we do the implementation.

C9 is very important. There are several works which are going on globally on UASG. So we conduct the outreach at the international and regional IG forums and events like IGF which are regional IGF or any other events. We talk to the people, we communicate with them, we take their feedback and then we report back to UASG so that the actions can be framed as per the desire of the people. And finally, we contribute in the annual report formation of the UASG. Next slide please.

Now, if you see what is the continuous work which are happening in C1 and C3, that is content for communication channels [explanatory video] which I explained in the last slide that we are quite close to finalize that, and review of UA and EAI content and its dissemination channels is being done with the help of the

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entire community. And we hope that we should be able to complete this in next one or two months.

The other aspects are new for this financial year. Organizing strategic communication partner to make it very professional. That, we started last year. We are going to maintain this year also. As I said, we started a social media presence last year. We are continuing the same this year also. But we are extending to Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and these are led by ICANN Org.

As we maintained last year, we will continue to maintain the UASG.tech website. We coordinate the reviews and upgrade of the UASG.tech and with other working groups, take their inputs, and then maintain the website.

As far as the IGF strategy is concerned, as I said, we are outreaching at the international and regional IGF forum. Just to inform you, we are going to have a session in IGF 2022. We are also planning to give a session at Asia Pacific Regional IGF and we have also planned to give a session at the Africa regional IGF also this year. Depending on the resources which are available, we would like to reach out to various other IGF also. This helps us to reach to the community at large, take their inputs and give our message to them. And that is what Dr. Ajay Data was presenting. Slowly and slowly, we are progressing on this.

UASG annual report which we contributed last year, we will continue to do that. C9 is a very important thing. There was a query in the chat also. Case studies is a very important thing. If any country or any community has done some good work which has resulted positive outcome for UASG, it should be shared with everybody globally. And that is what in EAI and UA implementation, comm group would like to contribute this and would like to contribute in all languages.

Another thing which is emphasized by chairman, as well as by the tech working group also, that this year, UASG plan annual UA Day. Annual UA Day will help not only to take the communication to everybody who has not heard about UASG, But I think motivate all other groups, whether it is a technical group or implementing group or government, to think about UASG and give a message that the next billion Internet users will come from the UASG implementation.

And finally, we are developing videos and written content that includes the message from UASG leaders, industry influencers, and the ICANN community, to distribute to everybody to understand what is required to be done, what is already done, and what is lacking and what we can do to implement UASG. So this is all from my side. Thank you and over to Ajay.

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AJAY DATA: Thank you very much, Anil, for a wonderful update. And I would like to invite Sarmad to please take us on local initiatives.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Dr. Data. Just a very quick update on local initiatives. So as Dr. Data explained earlier, we have local initiatives set up so that we can reach out to communities locally. We can hold training and outreach to the relevant stakeholders in the different countries and regions.

In FY 22, we continue to support the existing local initiatives, which are in China, India, Thailand and seven different countries working together in the CIS and EE, Eastern Europe region. And as Dr. Data shared, they've done some tremendous work which has been presented to the community during last few community update sessions.

For the next year, UASG intends to maintain the existing UA local initiatives, which are already currently running. But because of the significant impact which these local initiatives create, UASG is interested to expand this program and possibly add another two or three different local initiatives in addition to the existing four. So that is the plan. And that's all for local initiatives. Back to you, Dr. Data.

AJAY DATA:

Thank you, Sarmad. So this is the last slide. You would like to note how to reach out to us, how to follow us, how to do everything and become part of us. But before we end, if you have any questions, please write in the chat. We are here to address them and clarify them because it is very important. So how do we take this UASG big reality and make an impactful one for everybody?

I have a message. I have a community member attending today asking me how UASG [is funded.] You might wish to address. Okay, UASG.tech is a website where you can find and see that UASG is—if you're looking for the content.

If you're looking for, if there's a remediation issue, there is a widget for e-mail servers on the website itself, you can test your e-mail servers. And you can see if you are UA ready or not. And if you want to try out and see if your e-mail address is correct and correctly accepted in the websites, and if it is not, then you can submit an error message also with us and we will follow up and try to see that this is working all right.

So I have a question, detailed one. But what I understood, Werner, is it is not about what we remove. It is about what we accept, what is there in the world right now. And we do not accept that. So that's the primary thing which we are there.

So the universal acceptance philosophy is very simple. All domain names, all e-mail addresses are accepted in all software

applications. That's the universal acceptance. Let me repeat. All domain names, all e-mail addresses are accepted equally in all software applications. That's the universal acceptance. So if there is any standard to make a domain name valid, we cannot say it is invalid. So as for e-mail ID.

So the key here is that we must accept all kinds of domain names, all kind of e-mail addresses which are valid technically, as per their standards. And all software applications must follow the standards to accept them as valid. That's the principle we are talking about. If we have to solve the UA problem, we have to accept everything. We cannot ignore any domain name, any e-mail address out of our scope. That's where we are today. I hope it helps.

SEDA AKBULUT: We have a comment in the chat. Dr. Data, do you want to read it?

AJAY DATA: To utilize EAI universally, I believe EAI can be used as encryption signing IDs for S/MIME and PGP. Further, an important requirement for EAI is any other spam filter should not reject EAI because of—Yes, you're right. So anti-spam is part of our scope, so as the CRM, so as the website publishing, so as all applications.

So we are not worried about the MIME thing or PGP thing in this. Of course, if somebody wants to use PGP and if somebody wants to use EAI, it should work. That's what we are talking about. We are not talking about restrictive policy for any use. What we are saying, very simple, Yoshiro, that whatever you can do with your Gmail ID, you should be able to do with your EAI ID same thing. Simple. There is not much difference.

So, what we are saying, it should not be treated differently, because it is EAI, is what we are saying. Make your systems EAI ready, do not reject them because it has EAI and you require a change. So the idea is to bring them into the same platform where all the ASCII addresses which we all have been using are able to do and EAI is not able to do. We are trying to do that.

Another question is, how is all of your work funded? Does ICANN have this work in its operating budget? Yes, ICANN funds it and it is part of the operating budget. And I hope it answers your question. Any of my colleagues wish to add anything more? Satish, Anil, Nabil?

ANIL JAIN: Thank you, Ajay. I just want to appeal to all the participants in today's call and through them, the entire community. In case you are doing a UASG work and you are able to get a good result out

of it, kindly submit those information to us so that we can share with the entire community.

At the same time, if you are doing a UASG work and you find any problem in getting those things implemented, definitely, this group can help you also to resolve those issues and get the UASG as desired implemented.

And finally, as we have planned and we are promoting that to celebrate a UA Day every year, I request on behalf of UASG your suggestions, how we should formulate the UASG Day and how effectively we can take this message of UASG globally. Thank you.

Thank you, Anil. there is another question in the chat from Anne Aikman. Just wondering what your ICANN funding allocation is for each year, and is it enough?

AJAY DATA: I'll briefly answer, but I would request Anne to download our strategic plan. You will see every single line item, how much budget is allocated and how much we are trying to use. You will know everything. Just visit UASG.tech website, each working group very methodically, it is done with the help of community. So, you would like to look at the document and read it through. This will be very, very useful for you and you will get very high

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detail on that. And soon, we are going to talk about FY 23 with you all on our Discuss list. How much, it is around $400,000 to 500,000. And we always plan more, but we are never able to consume full.

Thank you. Yes, Anne. ICANN is fully committed. I think we all should know that universal acceptance is part of the strategic action plan of ICANN and this is where we are also putting—so ICANN entire leadership is committed for UA also, so I don't think money and everything is going to be a problem.

Yeah, so for UA Day, let me tell you what strategy we have followed. We have reached out to each SOs and ACs. Obviously, GAC is also part of it. And we requested for the liaison officers and there are liaison officers from each SOs and ACs. And we [aren't going to stop] there. We are going to be there in World Economic Forum, UNESCO, IETF, ISOC. We will go everywhere and make them involved as a part of UA Day. So we really wanted to make it happen. Of course, part of ICANN, ALAC, GNSO, ISPCP constancy, GAC, everybody is already part of it. And we already have direct connect by appointed person as a liaison officer to UA from each SOs and ACs [inaudible]. Mark, you want to say something.

MARK SVANCAREK: Going back to the question of our funding, what I've actually seen in UASG throughout the years is that the money is never the blocking thing. It's finding the volunteers. So there's really two

issues. One is we need volunteers within the community to contribute, and to work on statements of work that can later be contracted out.

And then we need those statements of work to be discovered by qualified people in companies who can actually execute the work in a high-quality way. So if we stay within our ICANN community, this becomes kind of a closed little community. So it's hard to get enough volunteers to work in the various working groups, it's hard to generate the statements of work quickly. And then when we submit the statements of work for contracting, it's hard to find the qualified people who can actually do the work for us because mostly, this is happening within our ICANN community, which seems big, but for this sort of specialized work, it's kind of small.

So we really need to have more participation, not just more money. So I wouldn't focus on the money, focus on building community, bringing in more people from industry and getting the word out to people who normally wouldn't be engaged in the domain name system or the domain name industry so we can accelerate this work in a meaningful way. So that would be my feedback on that question.

AJAY DATA: Wonderful said, Mark, couldn't have explained it better. This is absolutely on point. And that's where we struggle more than

money. And I see today many good names here, who are listening, asking questions, and raising hand. I would request all of you to please subscribe to the Discuss list. Seda just posted a link, UASG.tech/subscribe. Please go ahead and subscribe to this, be part of us and contribute wherever you can.

And also UASG membership is always open and on non-rejection basis. So we do not reject people. We welcome people. So if you wish to join and contribute, you will be welcomed with open hands and allow you to contribute in the capacity you want to do. No problem in that. So please, subscribe, be part of us and contribute and become part of the big mission we all have. Seda, do we have time?

SEDA AKBULUT: Yes, we have two minutes left for any questions or comments before we end the session.

AJAY DATA: Okay. Any other questions? No. So we can thank everybody for joining in and give their two minutes back to them for another meeting. Thank you everyone for joining in. We really appreciate your taking part in UA, taking interest in UA, and be part of the UA for the times to come. Thank you very much. Thank you for joining.

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