
ICANN78 | Prep Week – Universal Acceptance Community Update
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 - 6:00 to 7:00 HAM

SEDA AKBULUT:

Hello and welcome everyone. Thank you for joining the Universal Acceptance Community Update session. We will get the session starting now and we have a tight agenda today and let's make the most of our time together. 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 Q&A pod will be read aloud at the time set aside for question and answer. Questions written in chat may not be read aloud.

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With that, I will hand the floor over to UASG Chair, Anil Kumar Jain. Thank you. Over to you, Anil.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Seda. This is Anil Kumar Jain. I'm Chair, UASG. So we'll start the session. Can we have the next slide? Session overviews will be like this. There'll be updates from the four working groups, measurement, technology, email, and communication working group. And then last session will be update from the ICANN Org. And then finally, we'll have the recent question-answer sessions. And that is the most important session in all community updates from UASG. Next slide, please.

As far as the universal acceptance is concerned, the people who are not aware about universal acceptance, it is basically a question of having the domain and email addresses in languages other than English. This is important because more than 60% of the world population do not communicate in English. The concept is not only English, but also universal acceptance refer to those domains and emails which are more than three characters. Now, if you see the bottom, basically it means that the OS system should be able to accept the non-English speaking character. And it should also validate the same after accepting. The operating system and the computer should process this. And we can store it before communicating it to the distant end. And at the distant end, the recipient should be able to see the display in the language

which is intended by the sender. And if we are able to achieve this, we are able to achieve the universal acceptance. Next slide, please.

To make universal acceptance, we in UASG categorize that the most important people in this process is the businesses, the governments, and the academia. So we are asking all the three in different areas. For example, in business, we are asking that you please access your business system. Are they compliant with UA? And we are supporting them through various UA ready IT system like UASG 026, UASG 004. And we have recently started a self-certification guide for the EAI.

For government, we are appealing that government procurement should mandate all the vendors should be UA ready. [inaudible]

SEDA AKBULUT:

Sorry about the cutting, but you seem to have a network issue probably. We don't hear you very well. It's a bit cutting on and off.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Okay, thank you. And then from the academia, we want that the students should learn about UA from the start of the college itself. So I think these are important areas where we want to communicate. Now, in addition to the four working groups, we have UA ambassadors and local initiatives, which are carrying the message of UA to the masses. Next slide, please.

So as far as UA ambassadors are concerned, we have added five new UA ambassadors in addition to the 10, which we already have, 13, which we

already have. So total UA ambassador as on data are 18. So the new one entered are listed here. Next slide, please.

And if you see the existing one, which are from Benin, Colombia, China, Egypt, India, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey, and Zambia. And we desire that more and more number of committed volunteers should come as UA ambassador to carry the message of UA to the masses. I just want to inform you that we have started in 2015, where initial work was to make the UA as awareness to the people. Now we have shifted the gear from awareness to the adoption, training, and deployment. So this is the work which we are asking the UA ambassador to do. Next slide, please.

So local initiatives are those organizations in various countries, in various groups of countries who are engaged with local stakeholders with a focus on UA deployment. Now, if you see the China, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are consistently working, and I'm very happy to inform you that UASG is financially supporting both UA ambassadors and UA local initiative. Now, I want to inform you that the Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe is with seven countries. They are undertaking the local initiative without any assistance or financial assistance from us. Here, I want to appeal everybody that we desire a local initiative from LAC region and Europe region to make it totally geographical diversity, and more and more countries are requested to join us. Now, to take it further, I want to hand over the session to Nabil, who is the chair of Measurement Working Group. Over to you, Nabil.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you, Anil. Thank you for introducing me. So this is Nabil Benamar for the record. I'm speaking of the Measurement Working Group chair. So our Working Group plans and oversees and directs the gap analysis efforts of the UASG for different frameworks and technologies and reports on UA readiness progress in all these technologies. So we have so far published the UA readiness reports 45 of popular identity platforms that includes Okta, Auth0 and OpenIM. And then we have also published the UA readiness report of 2023. We are still working on the UA curriculum for the academia. We are rating email software using the EAI self-certification guide that has been published by and developed by the EAI Working Group. And we are in the process of writing white paper to advocate that developers change from IDNA 2003 to IDNA 2008 because it's important and valuable. Next slide, please.

So for the UA readiness of popular identity platforms, the objective was to develop a test method and evaluate OAuth standard and design structure that identity products integrate into. Then to assess the UA readiness of three identity platforms, we agreed on three main identity platforms during our debates in our Working Group that use OAuth standards. So mainly we have Okta and Auth0 from the commercial source and one open source software, which is OpenIM to make a balance between commercial and open source software. So out of 21 email addresses in different categories, UA readiness testing was run and we have found that Auth0 has performed 100%, Okta 40% readiness and 24% for OpenIM. So definitely, as you can see, Auth0 is performing very well. Next slide, please.

So for our work on preparing material for academia, for curriculum, we have found that the existing curricula in relevance technical programs, mainly for computer engineering, do not cover background in internationalization and technical topics, specifically IDNs and the EAI. So we have discussed the different things on how we can provide the patches, if I may say, patches for existing courses and the modules in existing curricula, so that we don't start from scratch or propose something that will remove all existing works or courses and to place with this, but we are just suggesting patches on how we can add relevant topic for different modules and courses, ranging from basic programming fundamentals, advanced programming languages, data structure, databases, networks, advanced topics in configuring network services, programming for email address internationalization, and also for security and how we deal in different operating systems from desktop operating system and also in mobile applications and operating system. Then the Unicode support in operating system as a main content to be added to operating system theory courses. So that's for me, thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Nabil, thank you very much. Now I'm inviting Jabhera, who is vice chair of the tech working group. Jabhera Matogoro.

SEDA AKBULUT:

I think I can cover on behalf of Jabhera because he just texted me that it's a bit rainy in his area and the signal is unstable for his connection. So I can cover the technology part. So the UA technology working group

focuses on the remediation of existing UA gaps in programming languages, tools, development platforms and standards, as well as development of technical trainings. The group engages with technology enablers and technology developers as primary stakeholders. So since our last meeting with all of you, the technology working group has published one report called UASG046. This is a follow-up report of the UASG039 where we had tested 2000 top global websites about their UA readiness. And then as a follow-up step in this final report, we tried to reach out to the websites that are not UA ready and discovers the whole remediation process and the strategy and how the UA readiness outreach and remediation can be done. So that's a good example. At the moment, the technology working group is mainly working on two main topics. One of them is identifying the big picture and challenges in adopting UA. For this reason, the working group has developed a survey that consists of several steps. The first step will be sending the survey to the experts to consult them on identifying the UA strategy and the second step will further develop survey for different stakeholders, including developers, managers, and governments. And the second main topic the technology working group is working on is identifying the technology stacks. And for UA testing, they identified JavaScript libraries such as React, Angular, and Node and the work will follow in the upcoming weeks. So next slide.

This slide shows the UASG046 report where we had five email campaigns to conduct the remediation process to reach out to 1,758 websites that are tested as non-UA compliance in the UASG039 report. And other than these five email campaigns for the top global websites, the vendor for this work has also tried to conduct different remediation

processes in different strategies, such as establishing close contacts with some local websites selected from government, academia, and industry for pilot study and they have conducted awareness remediation workshops and coding sessions directly with the website developers and the website holders. And as a result of this remediation strategy out of 56 websites, 22 of them became UA ready and eight of them had some issues because of the plugin called Contact Form 7 and that makes it unable to implement fully for the UA readiness. And with that, I will leave the floor to our EAI working group chair, Mark Svancarek.

MARK SVANCAREK:

Thank you. Hi everybody, this is Mark. Welcome to the EAI session. We're gonna talk to you about internationalizing email. As it says here on the slide, internationalized email is defined in a set of four RFCs, 6530 to 6533, and it expands the old email system that everybody's been using for decades. Our group is trying to address the technology gaps and remediate them and create training materials for email software and service providers. There's a lot of misinformation out there about the best way to support internationalized email and the message hasn't gotten all the way out to everybody and so we're trying to resolve that.

So our goal is at minimum that all email software services, components, libraries, etc., can be configured to send and receive internationalized email messages from internationalized email addresses or to them. And ideally they would be set up like that to do it by default. So we're trying to ensure that all aspects of the email experience support universal readiness. That includes address books, list servers, things like that.

So recently we've done a few things. We've finally released our EAI readiness self-certification guide. This is a guide that tells you how to certify your EAI solution, whether it's a component, like I'm just supporting an MUA or an MTA, or whether it's an end-to-end solution, or maybe it's just some tools like an address book or something like that. You can score them using the self-certification guide. And we've also put up, you can see the link there, a certification page so that you have access to these resources. And we'll update that from time to time as we expand this work further. The things we're working on right now are ways to experiment with self-hosting your own EAI systems. This turned out to be a little bit trickier than we expected it. Not everyone wants to take a bunch of open-source software and configure it and run it in their environment. That's the most straightforward thing that we could suggest, but it's not what everybody wants to do. And so we're trying to find a solution that works for everybody. That's ongoing. We're also working on a score generator that's based on the self-certification guide. Right now it's an Excel spreadsheet or a Google sheet, whatever the Google version of an Excel spreadsheet is. And you put in your test scores from your self-certification, and it tells you what score level you apply to. Could you go to the next slide?

This is what I mean by the score levels. Now, if you've been following us for a while, you've seen this slide before. I've included it for completeness because some people are offline and maybe can't see the session. But just very quickly, there are three levels of scoring, silver, gold, and platinum. Silver is the barest minimum that you can do to say that you support EAI. Gold meets all those requirements, but also might be able to do address hosting. So not just sending to and receiving from,

but actually configuring mailboxes themselves. And then platinum is the level above that. And it's what we'd call aspirational. We'd really like everyone to be at this level and have your documentation supported and everything be set up by default. Next slide.

So here's what we've done. Here's what's ahead. The self-certification guide at the last meeting, this was in a beta release. We've just completed it now. The knowledge base in the technical community. So going to places like Stack Overflow and Server Fault, finding the questions that are inaccurate and attempting to update that information with accurate information. We struggled with this in the beginning, but we have an approach that we're taking now. The self-certification tool to generate the scores. That's in progress, almost done. It just needs to be prettied up a little bit. Supporting the self-certification, that's an outreach type goal. So that's on the roadmap. And then referencing the service providers and the customers as a showcase to show where adoption has been successful and what lessons were learned. That's also on the roadmap. So that's where we're at with email.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Mark. Thank you for update. Now I'm inviting Raymond, who is the Vice Chair of the Communication Working Group to update on the Communication Working Group. Raymond.

RAYMOND MAMATTAH:

Hello, Raymond here from Accra, Ghana. Thanks, Anil. Next slide, please. So we are the Communication Working Group. We carry the

information about UA and do the various outreach and engagement activities. We do this in conjunction with the other working groups and the various programs. Some of the works that we have completed so far, one is the UASG newsletter. And it covers several other things, which will be shown in the next slide. And as I mentioned already, we do the outreach and engagement activities for UA. For instance, if there's a proposal that needs to be done for any program, we do that and we go ahead and do the presentation and coordinate the presentation for such programs. Some of those are the Global IGF, the African IGF and other programs. We do the engagement on behalf of the UASG.

Some of the ongoing works so far are the promoting and supporting the annual UA Day. I'm sure most of you want to know more about the UA Day. And we invite you to join us during the main session to know more about the UA Day. And we are also presently updating the website to make it look better and more appealing to the visitors who go to the website to know more about what we are doing. And we are also working on the newsletter, the next edition, which should be coming out possibly before the month ends. So be on the lookout to see what it contains. Next slide, please.

So the first newsletter, the July newsletter actually contains UASG highlights. That is various activities that we have done as a UASG. And we also had remarks from the leadership, which includes the remark from the outgoing chair and the newly elected chair. It was important for us to give them that audience since the outgoing has finished a very good tenure and the new one has just taken over. So we gave them the opportunity. We also had a call for action from the various working

group leaders. This was done purposely to encourage people who do not know much about those working groups and they want to have fair idea on how they can engage. So the call to action was to encourage the public to join in any of those working groups. And we also highlighted on our UASG social media handles. And lastly, we gave report on the recent activities, the workshops and the various reports that we had done during the time. Next slide, please.

With UA Day, as you all know, it aims to rally local, national, regional, and actually the whole world to cause a buzz around adopting UA. And we successfully celebrated the initial UA Day. The first one on 28th of March, which was held in India, it was very well celebrated. The next one, which we'll be planning for and be giving more details about it, will be during our meeting on Wednesday, 25th October. We encourage you to join us there to know more about our plans for the 2024 UA Day. And we assure you that you really have more information and get prepared for your proposals for celebrating the 2024 UA Day. Next slide, please.

We want you to get involved with us, join the family. It is really an interesting family to belong. And there are several ways for you to get involved with us. You can follow us on our various social media handles and also join the general UA discuss mailing list, which anybody can join as long as you want to know more about UA. And you can also join the various working groups. And if you actually have any problem you want to report, you can actually go to the link there to do the reporting. You can also visit our website, which is the uasg.tech, to know more about what we do. And if you want to email us, you can email us on

info@uasg.tech. Next slide. Thank you. And we hope to see you more in our events.

SEDA AKBULUT: Thank you. So thank you, Raymond. And thank you everyone for the UASG updates. Now we are moving on to the updates from ICANN Org and we will start with Arnt Gulbrandsen.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Sorry, Seda, if I may interrupt, there's actually a question in the Q&A pod. I'll read that aloud. It's from Maria Kolesnikova. Hello, how it was discovered that the mentioned 22 websites have become UA ready? Is there information on what was the problems on these websites and how their owners managed to solve them? What exact software and steps they made in the report? So that's a question. That can be spread as a best practice for other website owners, probably. Thank you. So would you want to respond to that? Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT: Thank you, Maria. Thank you, Sarmad. Yes, the websites are using different type of platforms and the details are actually included in the UASG 046. The report, the ones that have the contact form seven plugin just had some issues, but the other ones that was solved without any issues. So you can find the details on the UASG 046. I will include the link in the chat queue. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: There's another question from Azhar Mohd Zabidi. So, hello, my question is UASG still have a COI problem because one person—Okay. So this is about some administrative issues because one person occupies multiple positions, e.g. members of leadership team and also chairs of chartered working groups. This hinders more qualified persons in filling positions at UASG. When will the UASG team resolve this? So Azhar Mohd Zabidi, I guess Anil would want to take this question, but I guess we would request that we keep the questions focused on the technical content and you can reach out for any additional questions at info@uasg.tech. We'll type that email in the chat as well. Thank you. Anil, please.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Sarmad. Thank you, Azhar. This is CIO problem is being discussed. It has been raised within the group and in the coordination working group where all the leaders are there who takes the collective decision, this question is under consideration, and we hope that the community will get the answer to this question very soon. Thank you. So I hand over back to Seda.

SEDA AKBULUT: Yes, over to you, Arnt. Thank you.

ARNT GULBRANDSEN: Thanks. Although I thought Gary was to go first. Next slide and we'll see what the slides say. Again. Yep. So that's me. I'm Arnt. I do... direct

remediation. I do outreach to companies that are relevant and I submit patches to open source foundational tools to try and get as much action as we can. Next slide, please.

Our strategy, my part of it has three parts. We do outreach. I'm going to mention Facebook Meta as an example of that later. We do contributions to key open source things. The Java and Python programming languages are examples. We do training such as what I did yesterday. I'm still tired from my flight. And we work to improve academic curricula and help local organizations who are changing the education at their universities.

At the moment, what we're focusing on is perhaps linkification more than anything else, which is recognizing links in straight text such as typically posted to Facebook or in instant messaging. When you see blah, blah, ICANN.org, blah, blah, blah, ICANN.org should be a link to ICANN.org. Well, at least I think so because I work at ICANN.org. This doesn't work equally well for everyone for good reasons and bad. We are working to get rid of the bad reasons at least and perhaps also the good reasons. We're also working with email to make Unicode email addresses more accessible usable, following up on patches that we submitted quite some time ago but still have not been accepted. One example there is that I submitted a change to the Thunderbird mail reader in March and it hasn't moved yet. And there are many small things. I'll also be describing our plans for the next few months. Next slide, please.

We have found that most of the software that matters is extremely skewed. In any single area, there's one extremely important piece of

software or service and then some minor contenders and a lot of small things. Email is the very best example. Gmail has 60 to 75% market share depending on where in the world you measure. Then there are a couple of with perhaps 10% and there are thousands of mail software systems with less than 1%. The web is another example. WordPress dominates not with 65% but at least with 25% of the sites. So what we're doing is identify the key actors, test and identify the problems that matter most there and then we go to them and provide specific, very clear, very understandable problem reports. Not general things such as you should support Unicode email or you should support IDNs, but this thing doesn't work. Sequence of things to click. That approach works fairly well with some companies, not so well with others. Since we have limited time, we don't try to push water up hills. We don't spend much effort on those that don't react. Next slide please.

I'm going to give three examples of responsive companies. It took us a while to learn how to speak to first Facebook, now Meta in the right way. But in September 2022, we met with somebody at Meta and presented a list to them and we managed to do it in a useful way. They came back with the right colleagues and we have been able to give them a list of concrete things to fix. For example, when Facebook blocked links to some IDNs, [inaudible] cafe, e with an apostrophe, .com is affected. You should find out what the problem is that prevents posting a link to that specific domain and then fix that specific problem. This is a very good report from a software developer point of view because it's extremely easy to reproduce. The software developers at Facebook could just type cafe.com and find the problem and trace it. They fixed that problem a

few months ago. This is progress. We very much appreciate it. They are doing good work.

Our list did contain more than one point and some other things have not yet been fixed. This isn't a surprise. They always have more than one thing to do. I feel fairly confident that most of the things will be fixed in the next months, perhaps a year. I would guess that the linkification thing on screen has fairly high priority. Either way, now that we have learned how to explain it to them, there's progress. Next slide, please.

WordPress is my other example. It's the most important blog software in the world. And it also is used for much more than just blogs. There's a bike rental thing where I live that actually runs WordPress. Their website does not look like a blog. WordPress is a product. It's open source, but you can buy something and they make enough money to pay 2,000 employees. They have other products. I'm guessing that around 500 work on WordPress. It's quite a team.

The biggest, no, not the biggest, the most acute problem that we have seen is that WordPress sites do not accept Unicode email addresses in contact forms. This is something that other people have reported many years ago. Nothing's happened. We provided a concrete fix with testing, including automatic testing. The company has responded positively. They are asking us to do more. They want complete UA readiness. I feel very good about that. The approach that we are using now is leading to results, even if I could wish for quicker results sometimes. I should stress that even if WordPress is fixed, that will not lead to total universal acceptance from all sides. Next slide, please.

WordPress is an important component in a website, possibly the most important component, but it is not the only one. Once WordPress has been fixed, we will be able to find other less important components that also afflict the same sites. These, we treat as we're doing with WordPress. Identify, identify the problems, find and fix them, then go and talk to them. Next slide, please.

The most likely next components in the case of WordPress is two things called LinkifyIt and phpAutoLink. They do linkification, but they are not part of WordPress. When you make a WordPress site, you generally use at least 1,200 plugins, components, whatever. Modern websites are a frightfully complicated tower of software, as you can see on the illustration there. We have already identified two components that will affect some of the 25% of WordPress sites. We tested those two components. Only one of them needed any kind of change. The maintainer has accepted the change and it will be in the next version. This is good news for WordPress. It's also good news for a CMS called Joomla because Joomla also uses the same plugin. Next slide, please.

Some of the contributions that we have done in the past 11 months, roughly, include the three programming languages, Java, Ruby, and Python. Their status is slightly different, but we have two patches already merged in. They definitely will be in the next version. We have two patches likely to be in there and one is waiting on lawyers. Some well-known applications, Roundcube is the world's most used self-hosted web mail system. WordPress, as I said, we have progressed there. I have contributed something to Firefox that needs another round. However, they want to accept it. We also contributed to

unknown little things that are used by more well-known things. All three of my examples, Linkify, PHP Autolink, Rails Autolink, are used by very many CMSs, content management systems, in order to add links to text that people are entering in content. Next slide, please.

Training is another one of the legs we stand on. We offer trainings for internet service providers. We did that in Bahrain this summer. We will offer it to more local organizations that are interested. We also have trainings for developers and email admins. We've done some in relation, related to UA Day. We have done hackathons in cooperation with local hosts. We'll do it again. To some degree, we have done one-on-one technical assistance for early adopters. This is good for the early adopters, and it's also good for the rest of us. When I do such a thing, I can learn what fix the software needs upstream, and I can go and get it fixed upstream. Next, please.

Academic curricula. We are working, I suppose, together with the UASG on developing modular coursework. Nabil, I think, described this at length, and we're running late, so let's just say that this is work in progress, and skip to the next slides.

SEDA AKBULUT:

Yes, we are running late, so we need to move to the next and final section. Thank you, Arnt, for speeding up.

ARNT GULBRANDSEN:

Yep. In the next few months until the spring meeting, I expect to work more on email again, and look at the top CMSes. We will be writing more

issue papers for Meta and other key actors based on the pattern that is working with Meta, and we'll do more testing together with that, because writing those papers involves testing. And as I said, academic curricula. Next, please.

I'd like to end with a screenshot. What you see here is WordPress. It's my WordPress installation. You can see that I am able to add a new contributor with a unicode email address, and WordPress accepts it. It works. There's progress. The world is moving forwards. And with that, I hand the microphone over to Gary.

GARY TURCHAN:

Thank you, Arnt. I'm Gary Turchan. I'm a product manager with tech services with ICANN, and I'm here to speak about the internal status for our UA readiness within our internal systems. Slide, please. So we'll go over a short background, some assumptions and considerations that were taken within the project, our findings, and proposed next steps. Next, please.

So back, I think, two to three years ago, ICANN, within their fiscal year planning, devised a phased approach for UA readiness within ICANN Org. At the time, it was split into three phases. Phase one was in support of the short and long ASCII domains to make sure we can handle short and long TLDs. That was completed. Phase two supported IDNs in general in both Unicode and the ASCII form, and that was completed. In phase three, which is the current phase, we're looking at support for the email, for the international email addresses for the EAI, as well as just overall UA retrofitting and testing across the enterprise. Next, please.

So we've organized phase three into three sub-phases. The current phase, which is the gap analysis, which what we did was assess the status of systems within the ICANN ecosystem. We estimated levels of effort for each system to become UA ready, and we're in the process of producing a project plan for the next phase to move forward. Next phase would be to, acting on the results of the first two phases and 3A, is to implement EAI and UA support within the public-facing systems, as well as retrofit systems for EAI and UA support while managing ongoing maintenance. So keep the lights on as well as putting in the upgrades for UA.

Phase 3C would be an assessment of 3B as well as cross-system integration testing to make sure we're solid from a public-facing standpoint. And then phase four would continue with the efforts with the non-public-facing systems to implement those as well. Next slide, please.

So assumptions and considerations we had to define in order to do our estimates. The public-facing systems were given a higher priority over the non-public. The level of effort estimates are based on individual system upgrades, as well as an added two months for integration testing. And third-party vendor systems cannot be tested until vendors confirm UA compliance and upgrade. So we really couldn't estimate the amount of time a vendor would take to become compliant, but we could estimate the amount of time it would take us to implement that once we got the confirmation from the vendor.

So our findings within the phase 3A for the gap analysis, we started with 403 systems that were identified as active. And within the UA

parameters that were established back in phases one and two, we were able to narrow down the field to find that 180 systems are not applicable to UA which means that they didn't qualify. They don't use TLDs or emails in their processing. 144 systems were UA ready. So they're ready to go. They just need integration testing at the end of the tail end of the project. And these were UA ready through phases one and two from the work done. And 79 are applicable to UA and not UA ready. And those were the focus of our gap analysis was to go into those 79 systems and find out the status and the effort it would take to make them UA ready. Next slide, please.

So of those systems, 33 were found to be public facing and were the primary focus of the gap analysis. The upgrade estimates were made and discussed with each individual engineering team. System dependencies were identified. So there are quite a bit of cases where one system relies on another for user authentication or to receive data or processing and so forth. Vendor communications are continuing currently. And we're also creating contingency plans for each vendor in the case that they come back with a negative response regarding UA or if they're not responsive at all. So that's an ongoing effort right now to be ready for that in case we do get anything negative back. 46 systems were found to be non-public facing. Those were put on a secondary basis. So we're continuing the gap analysis on those and getting the estimates and such for those systems. Next slide, please.

So next steps, suggested next steps to initiate phase 3B of the project with proper governance, charter and documentation. And that's currently being done. We're writing a proper charter and all the proper

documentation it will take to make this an official project and put it into the priority lists and start ranking and so forth within the organization. We were able to split the affected systems into three groups: Foundational systems, public facing systems that are internal and ICANN controlled and then the public facing systems that are third-party and managed by outside vendors. So the foundational systems, which are the core of the enterprise, we went through those, Okta, which is our security platform and identity management and so forth. We are beginning a solution. We have a solution for a workaround for the UA piece for Okta and ICANN account as well is the user identity and it works with Okta as well for authentication. Other foundational systems, Proofpoint, which is our main email threat protection for all incoming email. Currently, we're very close to being UA ready and compliant. And unofficially, I think I can say that we'll be ready within the next week or two to announce a formal completion of that, but we're in final testing right now. Postfix, which is related to Proofpoint, handles our outgoing mail process and it's being upgraded and tested along with Proofpoint and should go into production at the same time. Mailman, which is another email processing tool. It's related to Proofpoint as well. It's open source and we're currently waiting for the open source maintainer to approve the changes we've made for UA and soon that will be in effect as well. And Mailman handles the distribution lists within the email processing. Next slide. If there is.

Okay, so again, we've split out the systems. Here's the public facing ICANN systems. So these are individual system implementations. They all can have varying start dates because they're all within ICANN. Resources, dependent systems cannot be tested until all foundational

systems are available. So upgrade work can be done, but final testing really can't be done on most of these systems until all systems have been upgraded and we can do an end-to-end regression testing and solid testing across the board. The third-party systems, the vendor-based systems, we're continuing our communication with the vendors for their UA status. And we're also beginning contingency planning for those vendors in case they do come back and say that upgrades aren't possible or they don't come back with any response at all and such. So we wanna be a little bit ahead of the curve on that. So that's ongoing as well. And I think that was the last slide. Is there one more? Yeah, that was the last one. So thank you very much.

SEDA AKBULUT:

Thank you, Gary. So we are now moving to the last portion of the session. So I would just like to give you a few updates that we have recently published a few reports. One of them is the FY23 UA Readiness Reports in which you can find the scope of UA and the list of documentation that will help you to become UA ready for your systems and platforms and tools. And you can also find updates on the remediation activities. And finally, there's another report about the UASG's action plan. You can also find it on the uasg.tech website on the homepage. And finally, we will have more sessions at the ICANN 78 main week. We would like to invite you to all our UA sessions. Please join us online or on site at Hamburg. And you will have four different sessions on UA and you can see the sessions and follow us on ICANN 78. With that, we would like to thank you for your participations and questions and we can get maybe one more question before we close.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Sure, Seda. There are a couple of questions in the chat. Let me read these out. One for Arnt from Maria Kolesnikova. Arnt, have you made any investigation on if MS Active Directory or similar applications support Unicode for creating a user account? There's another question from [Butch Fremmer.] Very interesting gap analysis metrics, Gary. Great to hear that most ICANN public interfaces will be UA ready soon. Thank you. So maybe we can give the floor to Arnt to answer the question on MS Active Directory. Thank you.

ARNT GULBRANDSEN: That has been done, not so much by me. The answer is that MS Active Directory, the current version that you can buy from Microsoft is in fine shape. However, the version that Microsoft is using themselves for their cloud services is not the latest version. Microsoft perhaps should learn to upgrade its software a little more. So it's mixed. MS Active Directory, if you run your software on premise is fine. If you want to run it in the cloud, not so fine. I know that Mark Svancarek has been beating his colleagues with the club in order to get this fixed. Regrettably, his arms are not strong enough. I'll let Gary answer the other question.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: I think that was more of a comment, but Gary, if you want to comment back, thank you.

GARY TURCHAN: Thank you. Well, yeah, I don't know if it's soon. We do have plans to start work on the core system on Okta and ICANN account in November. And that will start the UA work for the core systems as well as we'll start on some of the internal ICANN systems. But honestly, implementation across before we really see something might be a year, year and a half out.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Gary. And I think we're already over time. So I'll hand it back to Seda, thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT: Thank you everyone. And Anil, do you have anything before we close to mention?

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Seda. I think it was a wonderful session by all speakers who have informed the community what we have done. And it is a promise from the ICANN also that after every three, four months, there will be update on this. I just want to update everybody that like this year, we are going to celebrate a global UA day on 28th of March, 2024 also. And I request everybody to participate whether in the local event, national event, regional event or at the local event. And as Seda has informed that we are going to have four sessions which are UA linked during ICANN 78. I request all of you to kindly join in large number and please

get answers to all your queries which you are not able to get today.
Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT: Thank you. Thank you everyone. And have a great day ahead. Goodbye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]