Agenda

• What is Universal Acceptance
• How is it seen
• Who’s Doing something about it
• What are they doing
• How you can help
What is Universal Acceptance?

• All Domain names operate equally:
  • Acceptance & Validation
  • Storage
  • Processing
  • Display
• IDNs, EAIIs, IRIs,
• Long ASCII
• Recently added gTLDs
Validation on Entry

• Not all domain names are accepted in all applications
• E-mail addresses may be rejected at validation
• Browsers interpret a valid domain name as a search term
• Non-ASCII, “long names”, “new names”
Storage

- Domain Addresses could be stored as 8-bit UTF-8 characters (Unicode) instead of the standard 7-bit ASCII.
- Domains Addresses could be stored as Puny Code (xn--…) instead of Unicode.
  - There is no standard nor convention
- URL vs IRLs – what’s to the Right of the “/” – and how is that stored?
- Transformation may need to be done on the way in and on the way out
Processing

- There are probably some network devices that have firewalls hardcoded for TLD validation.
- Browsers need to learn when an address is an address and when it is a search term
- Other devices need to know that there are new TLDs being added every day and that addresses are no longer all in ASCII. [Think about your clever photocopier that will e-mail your scanned document. Can it cope with an non-ASCII address?]
Display

• Software needs to determine what it will display and under what circumstances.

• Unicode or Punycode?

• What if the device can’t display the characters?

• What if a Unicode script is not installed?
E-mail

- How are addresses treated?
- Are all Mail Servers compliant? Clients?
- What happens when mail encounters a non-compliant server or client?
- What happens when a list of addresses included EAIs and ASCII addresses?
- What happens when scripts are mixed? Particularly Arabic or Hebrew (Right to Left scripts)
So, who’s doing something about it?
UASG: Universal Acceptance Steering Group

- Community initiative supported by ICANN
- Four Groups
  - Topline & Technical Issues
  - International
  - Measurement & Monitoring
  - Community Outreach
Topline & Technical

• Identifying most effective areas to focus
• Developing definitions
• Developing technical specifications for solutions
• Developing use cases
• Defining UA ready
International

- Internationalized Domain Names focused
- Email Address Internationalization Focused
- RFCs
- Identifying Good Practice
Measurement & Monitoring

- Defining success
- Building test platforms
- Monitoring based on definitions
- Building knowledge base
- Collating complaints
Community Outreach

• Slicing and dicing communities of interest
  • Geographic
  • Application
  • Industry
• Creating white papers
• Ambassadorships
Getting Involved

• The Universal Acceptance Steering Group needs and wants a few more participants.
• Greater diversity is wanted – particularly geographic, language and gender diversity
• We’re looking specifically for
  • Geeks
  • Community Outreach people with a local focus
  • People with Passion
  • People with a bit of time
• Mailing Lists
  • General: http://tinyurl.com/ua-discuss
  • Topline & Technical: http://tinyurl.com/ua-topline
  • Community Outreach: http://tinyurl.com/ua-community
  • International: http://tinyurl.com/ua-intnl
  • Measurement & Monitoring: http://tinyurl.com/UA-MandM
  • Web Site: http://tinyurl.com/UA-Wiki-Page