UA Report for November 2015

Activities

IGF

The UASG, in partnership with The DNA, organised and participated in the 2015 IGF in Brazil. You can watch the session (just under 90 minutes) or read the report.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwnEPMaKO2E
- http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/workshops/list-of-published-workshop-proposals

African Language Script Generation Panel

The UASG was invited to participate in the African Language Script Generation Panel meeting in Point Noir, Congo.   Because of time zone and technology constraints, we provided a scripted PowerPoint slide deck which was delivered by Sarmad Hussein who is a participant in the UASG.

Discussions

White Paper

Discussions are continuing with a small working group on developing a White Paper along the lines of the Greasing the Wheels report. https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/bcg-internet-economy-27jan14-en.pdf
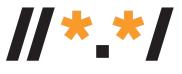
UASG & The DNA

A small working group of members of the UASG and The DNA met to reaffirm their commitment to work cooperatively going forward. The DNA has appointed Jordyn Buchanan of Google as their liason person.

Hackathon

The UASG had extensive discussions about participation in a potential ICANN organised Hackathon around the ICANN55 meeting in Morocco. After discussion with interested parties within ICANN, it was agreed that we wouldn't proceed in Morocco as there wasn't enough time to execute well.   While this opportunity has gone by, there was interest within the UASG community or have a UA focused Hackathon and this may be included in the 2016/17 budget and business plan.   Based on discussion it is vital to get a very focused objective before execution.

Regional Mailing List

There was good discussion during the month about setting up regional mailing lists to facilitate local discussion and activities. In the end, it was decided that this was not something the UASG wanted to do and that everyone should be encouraged to participate in the global UA discussions. If local communities want to have their own mailing lists they should be able to set them up themselves outside of the UASG umbrella.

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Local Engagement Model

A small working group convened to talk about a model for local engagement groups.   An outline was agreed and that's been filled out and currently with the small working group for review and discussion.

EAI Discussions

Brent and Don are working on a program for a gathering of EAI developers.   As part of this, we're trying to identify all those who are actively working on EAI. At this point, our list is:

Google	Microsoft	Apple	Yahoo	Core Mail
Open Find	SaudiNic	Horde	Afilias	Throughwave

If you know of anyone working on EAI NOT on this list, please let Don know.

Brent also met with folks from Apple and from Yahoo. His report:

> *I've met with folks from Apple and Yahoo about EAI support. Here's a summary of those conversations.*
>
> *My takeaways from the conversation with Apple were they're interested in supporting EAI if we can provide a safe user experience (and we bounced some ideas about how to pull this off). They're actively adding IDN and EAI support to their OS and mail applications, although they did not go into detail about where this falls on their roadmap. We all agreed that when it comes to EAI, we (mail service and software providers) should stay in the loop and do things in concert to avoid creating a broken experience.*
>
> *My takeaways from the conversation with Yahoo were that they were supportive of EAI, that send/receive support for EAI seems feasible for the Yahoo Mail team. It's just a matter of prioritizing limited resources. They said they should be able to work on this in Q1 or Q2. Over the past week, I've been emailing with their engineering team about implementation details.*
>
> *I shared test accounts with both Apple and Yahoo, and I have emails out to the fine folks at Coremail and THNIC to introduce them. In the meantime, we'll continue moving forward with testing on our end.*
>
> *This conversation highlighted something that I had not fully accounted for: it's difficult for anyone to make public commitments about delivering feature sets for an unproven standard. Everyone is on the same page about internationalized email addresses and IDNs being a good thing for the world. But I think we're going to find everyone moving forward thoughtfully, not necessarily with the urgency that the UASG would like, because it's a lot more straightforward to figure out gaps when you make conservative moves.*
>
> *When I put myself in each company's shoes, this is a smart business decision. It's just something we need to consider as we move forward (and is part of the reason why we've framed the UASG's mission as a 10-year project).*
>
> *Brent*

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Publications

Fact Sheet

The UA Fact sheet, originally planned for Dublin and then for the IGF, has gone through a large number of editing processes.   There's general agreement among the publication review group that its existing state is fine for publication and that there will be subsequent revisions as time goes on. The document is currently being formatted and will be released, in English and Spanish, during December.

Introduction to Universal Acceptance

The fourth edition of this document was released for comment.   There are still gaps to be completed and a dedicated technical writer is being sought to complete the document and review its structure. This is still expected to be completed by the January 14 UASG meeting.

UASG for Dummies

A simple background on UASG, stemming from questions that arose during the IGF, has been produced.   It's available at http://1drv.ms/1NHPkMb and will go through the UA publication review document.

Quick Guides to Good Practice

We've started on a couple of short, Quick Guides to Good Practice, to provide ready reference at a high level. These are still in draft 0 state and will be shared later in December.

Activities

China

There's some activity happening in China around UA:

This from Zheng Song:

> *Update from CAICT:*
> *1. Last week China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) organized a meeting to discuss UA with major industry players including Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent and other software developers. The goal of this meeting is to both raise awareness and discuss on a road map to push forward UA in China. CAICT introduced ICANN UASG's work to date at the meeting. It is decided that MIIT and CAICT will first form a leading group, then organize an industry expert team to provide overall guidance and coordination. My understanding is MIIT is going to use its influence to encourage UA in China, but not in a mandatory way.*
> *2. I briefed Mr. Liu Yue of CAICT about UASG's recommendation regarding participation in UA-Discuss mailing list. He and Mr. Guo Feng are going to join the list as the first step. Once they get more familiar with the ongoing discussion topics and working priorities relevant to the Chinese community, they will invite more Chinese colleagues to join in. During this beginning stage, they would also welcome direct communication with you and UASG leaders for guidance and recommendations. (They already have close connection with Edmon.)*

Jian Wang and Jiangkang Yao are also working on UA & EAI issues in China and are actively engaged with the UA-Discuss mailing list.

Europe

This from Lars Steffan

> *We had the in late October the meeting of our working group for e-mail providers with more than 30 attendees e.g. from 1&1 Internet AG, Deutsche Telekom AG, HostEurope GmbH, STRATO AG, DATEV eG, Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), NetCologne etc.*
>
> *As it was just a short introduction to the topic with a call for feedback how aware the community is about UA, I could collect the following points:*
>
> *Most of the attendees were aware of new gTLDs, IDNs, EAI and UA (e.g. NetCologne is the registry of .koeln/.cologne). But as we have already discussed in Dublin, most of them "wait & see" without immediate call to action - same with IPv6...*
>
> *Regarding new gTLDs they are even more aware when spamhaus.org announces at M3AAWG to establish a TLD reputation index that could lead to conclusions like "98% of e-mails based on .xyz/.ninja are spam". If this drives some providers to filter certain TLDs in general we have another field of action to fix.*
>
> *Regarding the technical level, if e-mail systems can handle EAI, the smaller ones still don´t see any urgency. 1&1 promised to check it their systems are able to handle EAI properly. Several attendees also mentioned that they rely on third-party-software running their business that might not be UA compliant. In that case I offered to get us in contact with those companies to provide accurate information. When it comes to suffix-lists, they are definitely interested in our advice which lists should be used and how they should be implemented for dynamic updates.*
>
> *So they will be definitely interested in our documentations we will publish next year and raised the point, that "some tools" would be nice, e.g. the use a proper TLD-Check on websites etc. Maybe an idea for hackathon-projects.*

Dusan continues to carry the flag during Eastern European IGF and Domain Name events.

Other Stuff

APNIC

We had discussion with folks at APNIC, the RIR for the Asia Pacific region. They have started a similar exercise as ICANN IT to review their applications and systems and they have come to a similar conclusion.

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The UASG has submitted a presentation proposal for the APRICOT meeting in February 2016 in Auckland to talk about UA and for APNIC to share its experiences.

Bug Reports
We had a number of 'bug reports' identified on the list
- The implementation of IDNA2008 was discussed.
- Indexing of IDNs by search engines and display by browsers were also discussed.

Administration
- Planning is underway for the UASG Face-to-Face meeting in Washington, DC on January 14/15 2016.   It will be a very full two day meeting. So far, I have only had one non-Coordination Group person expressing intention to attend.
- Travel Funding Rules have been drafted and are pending adoption by the UASG Coordination Group. It covers funding for attendance at UASG events only and doesn't cover a UA Ambassador type program for Community Outreach.
- A UA Expected Standards of Behaviour has been drafted and is also waiting review by the UA Coordination Gorup.

Finances
The UASG, as at 31 October 2015, is 95% underspent, with no efforts apart from gatherings and staff and associated costs incurring costs.

Still to be done…
There are a number of tasks still to be done:

	What	Who	When	Comments	November Update
1	EAI: Recommend local part transformation	Brent	January 14, 2016		
2	CIO Guide/System Architect Guide	Brent, Mark, Don	January 14, 2016	Includes identification of additional drafting resources to be contracted in. Also breaking existing Introduction to Universal Acceptance into small, more targeted chapters.	Additional drafting resources acquired early December. CIO Focus group sought early December

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3	Identify and create forum for different stakeholders: Programmers, CIOs	Christian, Rich	January, 14, 2016	Create space within existing communities such as GitHub or StackOverflow. Need to identify resources to monitor space to answer questions. Finding a space where CIO's go may be more challenging. If necessary, the UASG may need to create such a space	
4	Develop a model for local outreach	Don, Tony, Pensri, Edmon	November 30	Develop a first draft of a local community engagement model	Discussion panel convened, outlined approved, first draft of model distributed for comment.
5	Talking Points Memo	Christian, Emily, Yuri	January 14, 2016	Produce a data based set of talking points and, along the way, identify what data is available and what data which is not available would be useful.	
6	Partner Engagement			Reach out to a variety of potential collaboration partners, including: • The DNA (Christian, Gwen, Mark, Don, Rich, Adrian) • M3AAWG (Christian, Brent) – including possible membership model or leveraging existing	The DNA has identified Jordyn Buchanan as their liason person. No response from ISOC

				common relationships • ISOC (Don) – Include learning from ISOC's IPv6 and DNSSEC advocacy efforts.	
7	Create method for sharing details of when we've reached out to website owners (and others) who have not been UA Ready and the results, if any.	Elaine, Lars, Mark, George	January 14, 2016	This could include the establishment of a database or shared Google Docs	Information available from Eco and Donuts. Still need to reconcile and align.
8	EAI Report	Brent, Edmon	January 14, 2016	Report on the status of EAI developments and deployments within the very large email software and service providers	
9	UA Ready guidebook for Registries and Registrars	Dennis, Rich	January 14, 2016	First draft available by January 14, 2016 followed by a public comment period, with an expected publication after ICANN55. Include generic scorecard of UA Readiness Achievement (ICANN, Rich, Dennis)	Reports of activities between GoDaddy and Verisign
10	Define Linkification scope and prepare initial good practice guide	Dennis, Mark, Andrew	January 14, 2016		

UA Wiki

We need to review the structure of the UA Wiki and publish materials there. We've been waiting for Michelle to get on board and get trained in how to do this.   The UA Wiki will be the repository for our publications and our internal documentation, including agendas and notes and domestic policies

The UA Wiki should also hold copies presentations and links to recordings where they are available.