



Report to the Community on UASG Activities

June 22 2018

EAI

Publications

The UASG has published UASG012 – Email Address Internationalisation (EAI): a Technical Overview. This is the last of our major pieces of documentation for the UASG. With this completed, we'll now review our existing Quick Guide as well as the University Lecture Notes that we've previously produced to make sure that all documents are aligned.

Announcements

Both Microsoft and XgenPlus made major announcements recently. Microsoft built on their announcement in February of support for Indic script languages with additional announcements for support of Chinese and Thai. Their support includes being able to "Send To" and "Receive From" these EAI Addresses, but not yet host them. XgenPlus continues to expand their offerings of EAI, including hosting, to include Thai and Korean.

Evaluation

A contract was let to New Zealand based company Catalyst to do the first part of the EAI Evaluation project. In this first phase they will develop the test cases and expected results as well as criteria for selection of applications and services that will be tested. We're expecting the first consultation call on **July 8/9 2018**.

Outreach

UA Ambassador John Levine was joined by long-time UASG participant Barry Lieba in

presenting a session on EAI & UA at the M3WAAG meeting in Munich.

What's Missing?

We're told that there are several MUAs and MTAs available as Open Source solutions, we've not yet seen an Open Source EAI Ready IMAP or POP3 server. We're quite keen to get this gap in the eco system filled.

EAI Evaluation

The next steps are to complete the first phase of the EAI Evaluation criteria which will include the Use Cases as well as criteria for selection of eventual evaluation candidates.

Once this is done then we'll run an instance evaluation and exercise the evaluation criteria.

And, finally, we'll run an extensive review of EAI Readiness for email Software and Services.

EAI Widget

The UASG has commissioned the development of a simple widget that will allow a first-pass determination on whether an email address is supported by EAI Ready (announcing SMTPUTF8) email service or software. This is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Outreach

India

The UASG signed an agreement with IAMAI in India to run a series of events around the country, at least one in each of the major language communities. These events will target local developers and encourage them to develop applications for the local language communities and make sure that their code is



UA ready – which includes support for all TLDs – including IDNs.

UA Ambassador Harish Chowdry provided an update to a recent Indic Language Generation Panel meeting in Delhi.

The UASG has also seen a recent tender from the state government in Rajasthan that included a requirement for support of EAI addresses in an anti-abuse software platform. This tender document made use of language suggested in [UASG009](#).

The State of Rajasthan has also committed to providing all citizens with a Hindi email address to make it easier for the community to engage with government.

And the Government of India is looking to provide each of its 5 million employees with an email address in Hindi. This will be run by their internal government email providers.

China

The UASG was one of the sponsors of a recent CDNC (Chinese Language Domain Name Consortium) meeting in Beijing where Microsoft announced support for Chinese language email addresses.

The UASG continues to work with partners in China (ICANN Beijing Office, CNNIC, MIIT, KNET, Coremail) to advance awareness raising. The community is specifically targeting government departments, some of the largest email providers, and the very large e-commerce initiatives.

The UASG has signed a partnership agreement with CNNIC to support their national road-show to raise awareness of IDNs, EAI and UA generally. Presentations at University software courses have already shown promising results.

Thailand

UASG Vice-Chair Edmon Chung participated in a THNIC organised event on EAI in Bangkok in June. There's keen interest in the Thai community where Throughwave have been an early developer of EAI software.

USA

In February we heard (and saw) that the Senate and House email systems were able to receive from and send to EAI Addresses. No word yet on the other parts of the United States Government.

Egypt

UA Ambassador Abdalmonem Tharwat Galila worked with ICANN Regional VP Baher Esmet to initiate a UA Evaluation exercise at the Egyptian Ministry of Communications. They are making use of UASG Documents, including UASG015 – the Blueprint for CIOs. The first step is an inventory of all their applications

Singapore

ICANN GSE staff met with the Government of Singapore IT executives to talk about Universal Acceptance. The topic was well received and additional information sought. Singapore is a multi-cultural country and operates IDN ccTLDs in Chinese and Tamil.

Brazil

Several UASG documents, including our UA101 – Introduction to UA, have been translated into Portuguese and published in local industry newsletters.

Other Translations

Work continues on the translation of core UASG documents into local languages. These are all published on uasg.tech/documents.



Community Outreach Working Group

The UASG is planning on growing participation in the Community Outreach Working Group from early July. Expect to see an invitation for the 2nd week of July. During that call we'll review recent research work, look at the active players in the outreach efforts, and seek useful insight from the community. This will be driven by Christian Dawson and Lars Steffen who have been co-coordinators of the efforts.

Narrowing the Audiences

We're currently looking for someone to help us narrow our target audience. Our current focus is on CIOs, Systems Architects and Developers. We have one stream of work to focus just on Government CIOs, but this is still quite large.

We are keen for professional assistance to help us further refine our target audience.

UA Ambassadors

The UASG has seven UA Ambassadors plus members of the UA Coordination group plus the wider UA community who have been and are planning on reaching out to different communities. Some of their work is covered elsewhere in this update.

Technical Work

The UASG has been keen to get Open Source Programming Language Libraries reviewed, fixed (if necessary) and published.

We have completed the first exercise of the Python Library IDNA. It is currently with the Library Maintainer for review and publishing.

We will exercise a couple more and then review the efforts and results before determining the best way to move forward.

The current work will also provide a review of UASG018 and make sure that it's not too details, but sufficiently detailed.

The UASG remains interested in the viability of a 'Bug Bounty' program.

Monitoring

The UASG continues to have an "[issues logging](#)" facility. Complaints are managed by ICANN's Global Support Centre team. Issues continue to be raised and pursued by the GSC. Issues peak around ICANN related events like a meeting or a GDD Summit. There have been some resolutions.

Documents

Reviews

- The UASG has reviewed UASG001 (Knowledge Base) and UASG002 (Webmaster engagement letter)
- We are also reviewing UASG014 – Quick Guide to EAI now that our more extensive document is complete. As part of this exercise we'll also be reviewing UASG019B – the University Slide deck on EAI.
- We've also got a Help Wanted ad out for assistance in reviewing UASG005 (Quick Guide to UA) and UASG007 (Introduction to Universal Acceptance)

During the second half of this year we also expect to also review UASG010 – Quick Guide to Linkification and UASG018 – Programming Language Evaluation Criteria.

New Reports

The UASG is currently considering a couple of new reports.

- A Quick Guide to UA &EAI for the Anti-Abuse community. We are looking to partner with M3WAAG and will work



through their well-established document preparation process.

- A Quick Guide to Right-to-Left scripts. This will provide an easy to read document for developers to gain an understanding of the issues. It will provide pointers to more details.
- A Quick Guide to Variants. This is another sometimes-confusing topic. The UASG will prepare a high-level document that introduces the concepts and shows the different way that strings can be confused.

Administration

Position Descriptions

We're working on the development of Position Descriptions for the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. This is in preparation for elections in early 2019 when the current Chair, Ram Mohan, and vice-chairs Rich Merdinger and Edmon Chung will stand down as they are term limited.

Contracts

Here's a current update on recent contracting activity:

- Finishing up the Linkification Evaluation. Contract signed and PO Issued and work underway. ETA July 2018
- EAI Evaluation – Phase 1 – determining Use Cases and criteria for inclusion in Evaluation. Contract signed and PO Issued and work underway. First public consultation aimed for early July.
- Programming Language Review and Remediation – Contract signed and PO Issued and work underway. An evaluation framework has been built and the first programming language library reviewed, deficiencies identified, fixed, and submitted to the library maintainer for review and publication. Additional work,

including documentation of effort and review of UASG018 also underway.

- Local Initiative in China – Contract signed and PO Issued. Waiting for work to start.
- Local Initiative in China – Contract signed and PO Issued. Waiting for scheduled kick-off meeting.
- EAI widget – contract signed and PO Issued and work underway. ETA July 2018. This is a short piece of work.
- Technical Marketing Role – Partner identified and contract negotiated. Currently with ICANN administration for contract completion.
- Technical Resources – EAI. Partner identified, and short-term contract signed and PO Issued. Work underway. ETA for different components expected through September.
- Sponsorship Opportunities:
 - M3WAAG meeting in Munich – paperwork underway
 - CDNC meeting in Beijing – Paperwork underway
 - THNIC meeting in Bangkok – Paperwork underway.