

UA EAI WG Meeting

28 January 2025

Attendees

Mark Svancarek
Nitin Walia
Jim DeLaHunt
Anil Jain
Abraham Selby

Henrietta Ampofo
Ernest Mafuta Katoka
Nosipho Nandipha Ntsaluba
Seda Akbulut

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Continue working on the [SOW](#) on EAI self-certification training videos
3. Suggest feedback on UA Day technical materials, presentations
4. Dovecot 2.4

Meeting recording: [Link](#); Passcode: t&&5VPfa1+

Meeting Notes

Dovecot

- Dovecot 2.4 email server (most likely MDA) supports EAI
<https://lists.icann.org/hyperkitty/list/ua-eai@icann.org/thread/LTTU7PLBGWCFSP7DVUEOVAMPRBFTTOSN/>
- Dovecot is not considered a Mail Transfer Agent (MTA); instead it primarily functions as an IMAP and POP3 server, focusing on user access to emails rather than the actual delivery of mail which is the primary role of an MTA like Postfix or Exim.
- Also Dovecot does not directly support SMTP functionality on its own; it primarily functions as an IMAP and POP3 server, meaning you need a separate SMTP server.

- Jim suggested having a guide for those who are receiving emails that they do not recognize script.
- Jim suggested reviewing the mailing list discussion on ua-eai list, and what does it mean having an email list with WAI subscribers in a World where not everybody has silver or better support? In those mailing lists you can receive emails but cannot reply to.
- Henrietta asked why don't we use translation for the email addresses that are written in a script we don't recognize. Jim answered that translation of email addresses is not the right idea as it will become non-commutable. The body of the email is translated by many email servers. However, it is worth discussing about how to address the fear of people when an email in a script they cannot read.
- If you can't read the address, this feature isn't designed for you. It's acceptable for features to cater to users of non-Latin script languages and that not all features need to be universally applicable to ASCII users. Essentially, if you can't type the address, don't worry about it; the feature isn't intended for you.

Mailing list conversation: <https://lists.icann.org/hyperkitty/list/ua-eai@icann.org/thread/4T2AZ64DVX6YFDKYYBOLPEISPRWREQQ4/>

This is the problem of a deficient email infrastructure. Let's say a list has four subscribers E1, E2, A1, A2, where E1 and E2 are EAI addresses and A1 and A2 are ASCII addresses on ASCII-only systems. Subscriber E1 sends a message to the list. Sending it to E1 and E2 works, but sending to A1 and A2 will fail since they don't accept EAI mail. What does your system do? Jim will refine the email thread to find the objections and relevant approaches to address them.

UA Day 2024 EAI Training Slide Review

- It was suggested adding followings to the UA Day 2024 EAI Training slides. In general, the slides are very good and comprehensive. However, the flow may be different and some slides may be merged.

- The audience for this presentation must be for various degrees of technical people.
- 3 slides in a presentation about Dovecot 2.4 explaining the following:
 - Information about the fact that Dovecot 2.4 now supports EAI better. Frame it as a big step way forward, to give the message that the world is moving towards EAI
 - How widely Dovecot is being used?
 - What has this upgrade in Dovecot unlocked? What was not possible before and current status.
 - As an alternative to the slide, there may be a diagram showing the email system flow between the email components and it maps Dovecot in the diagram to explain what to do to take advantage of Dovecot, how to implement, what was not possible before and which sections of the certification guide applies to. (Fit this Dovecot update in the diagram to UA Day EAI Training 2024 slide#10, by calling out Dovecot with an arrow.)
 - Explain What kind of user experience is enabled with Dovecot 2.4? (Note: Dovecot can only fit in MDA.)
- Slide12: Wording is a bit clumsy where it says “What is not EAI”: that seems to imply if you have UTF8 in the subject line then you are not EAI compliant. And that’s a wrong message to send.
- The purpose of the EAI slides is to speak of mostly on Self Certification Guide Levels.
- Slide 13 is an old slide, it should include silver-gold-platinum language and badges instead of Level1 and Level2. Also, concept of “send” and “receive” versus “create” is still a valuable concept but it’s been superseded.

- Instead of detailing EAI's limitations (e.g., it only applies to email addresses, not subject lines), the presentation should explain what each support level entails, and the steps administrators need to take to advance from one level to the next. The core message should be how to empower users of non-Latin script languages to fully utilize email.
- Quiz questions need some updates, and should not be repeated.
- Slide #18: There is a big difference from configuring existing email software to do internationalized addresses better versus writing your own email software. We need a better introductory slide than slide#18 explaining:
 - What is it?
 - How is it built and certified?
 - If you've got this software, is there any additional information you need to know?
- Slide 20: If you're creating a functional system that can be certified as silver, or better, there are 20-30 features in the self-certification guide that are touched by the protocol change with the signaling flag.
- Slide21: Needs a bit re-organizing though the content is good.
- Another message is, if the person doesn't write in Latin characters, how can you give them a full power of email?
- The general presentation (awareness or technical overview) should also talk about the self-certification guide, new EAI level terminology and Dovecot's new release.

- Jim: “There is another presentation I would like to review. UA Days will have some slides of general news about UA improvements and progress. Those slides should talk about EAI in terms of the Self-Certification Guide. Those slides should celebrate the Dovecot release as an important step towards UA.”
- Mark: “Anybody who thinks it's interesting that the protocol now includes SMTPUTF8 is going to be interested in the guide. Anybody who isn't interested in a protocol change might still be interested in the guide.”

Action items:

No.	Action Item	Owner
1	List the objections on the mailing list conversation and a create a paper with answers. https://lists.icann.org/hyperkitty/list/ua-eai@icann.org/thread/4T2AZ64DVX6YFDKYYBOLPEISPRWREQQ4/	Jim
2	Share the slide deck for further feedback for the UA Day EAI training: https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/UA-EAI-Training-2024.pptx	Staff

Next meeting: Tuesday 11 February 2025, 14:00 UTC