

UA EAI Working Group Meeting

27 June 2023

Attendees

Mark Svancarek

Nitin Walia

Jim DeLaHunt

Harsha Wijayawardhana

Prof Ibrahim Tchakala

Solomon Kutiname

Tabitha Wangechi

Kunle Olorundare

Arnt Gulbrandsen

Yin May Oo

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Draft an [SOW for FY24 Action Item E2.1](#) (Make it easier to experiment with a self-hosted working EAI systems)
3. Clean up the EAI Self Certification [Guide](#)
4. AOB

Meeting recording: [Link](#); password <9sb&Z1HCd#>

Meeting Notes

Discussion of SOW for FY24 Action Item E2.1

Mark said the aim is to facilitate the users of EAI self-certification guide through a system, without using the UASG email address, when we receive the test results for EAI self-certification to determine Gold/ Silver/ Platinum levels.

Jim said the title of the SOW does not reflect the purpose, and the purpose could be rewritten to reflect hosting different languages. From having nothing to having a prototype to help determine the Gold/Silver levels, the main users would be the email administrators and their technical staff rather than software developers, and also organizations which need local language in email applications. Right now, the target audience of this document seems to be software or email service developers. Jim would like to rewrite the title of the document, so that it would

empower the users to have confidence in asking for applications or platforms where emails with respective languages could be used.

Nitin pointed out that when we say we would like to experiment with the self-hosted EAI platform, there must be a certain product which needs to be listed out here. Nitin asked if anyone would like to suggest any open-source product from a specific vendor.

Mark agreed with Nitin and said that for the first step, everyone needs to agree on the purpose of E2.1.

Harsha agreed with Nitin on setting up using an open-source platform, and said that to set up a tool, configuration and fine-tuning would be required. Harsha would like to know more on what approach would be taken, or what kind of EAI system is to be made. Mark would like to hear inputs from meeting participants.

Nitin would like to know the steps or guidelines before asking the vendor.

Harsha said some configurations are not straightforward with the examples such as Roundcube, Dovecot and MySQL. Harsha offered that he could share his experimenting experience if required. Nitin said the solution tool could be either open sourced or private, when it would be open sourced, it would be the community's contribution.

Nitin also clarified that UASG is not funding the preparation documents at the moment, if the work needs to be done by OEMs, the community should prepare for that document for the vendor. And the vendor should be able to determine whether open-sourced tools or licensed tools to be used to build the solution.

Jim shared the thought of creating an internet that has more experimental gold or platinum level EAI systems deployed and operating under more domain names with email addresses of many possible scripts. Jim said the purpose of this is to help people set up one of those experimental EAI systems. There are many combinations of tools to set up an experimental EAI system, let us take one solution to start with Roundcube (for example). And to share the gathered information and answer the technical questions. The guide could be rather an assemble of all components to work together as these example steps:

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1. Get a domain name
 2. Register an email address to work with this system
 3. Install Roundcube, follow the instructions
 4. Install other components
 5. Configure as follows, etc.

The vendor would be to make and maintain a “Docker Container”, which contains all different pieces of software components configured to suit the EAI needs. Our measure of success would be an actual running system. And then we can invite other email system developers to share about theirs to the UASG, and they would be listed as successful EAI email systems. Another thing is to suggest they self-certify their own systems and share, so that would leverage more to join in.

Mark expressed that we need a full consensus agreement to build one.

Mark shared his understanding of the two concepts. One is to share a bunch of scripts and configurations of various components such as MUA or MSA, to be integrated together to work with the domains. Another is something similar except there would be pre-selected components for you, for example Dovecot. *Nitin asked in chat “Can UASG make documents to promote some specific products.”*

Mark said this could be tricky, and Jim answered it is possible. And Jim highlighted that the purpose is to empower the experimenters. It would be good to pick a tool to start with, although there could be side effects of selecting one over another, however, we do not purpose to promote the tools.

Harsha shared that some of the members could share their own experiment experiences. Mark would like to clearly know what we should ask from the vendor.

Nitin added that initially, this is to offer a hosted platform, and not self-hosted. For the vendors who are participating in the self-certification guide process, willing to give a hosted platform of its own, where everybody can host and deploy their domain name to experiment their EAI systems. And then, we can list all those products on the UASG page. We are looking for a partner to work on this. Nitin noted that Abdalmonem had deployed a self-hosted system in his country, Egypt. Nitin hoped Harsha could do something similar with open-source tools and share the successful combination of scripts and configuration.

Nitin noted that in the case of volunteers contributing, we may not need a vendor.

Harsha said he would share the documentations, however, would like to know if this is enough for the community or if we need a bigger solution.

Mark shared that having a vendor to work with Abdalmonem or Harsha or other EAI WG members or all, to maintain these systems and share or answer questions of new experimenters. the vendor would have to make set up guides, configuration guides and all those.

Harsha said he is willing to share his Roundcube experience, and Nitin reminded that this would not be a one-time activity, it may need to answer tech questions in the future.

Jim clarified that his focus is on hiring a vendor to assemble the solutions and instructions to assist someone who would experiment with EAI. The second point is to do support, which was not done after sharing the source codes and information. Mark and Nitin confirmed the estimated budget for this action item, the allocation is 150,000 USD.

Jim said his concern is on helping the experimenters do their experiments successfully. If a vendor has hosted an email system, they have a whole solution to be deployed under one's own domain name. This could become the mail server for an experimental email domain that would meet the needs that we listed. The SOW should be written in that direction which helps the experiment succeed.

The second point is about support for a self-hosted system. We can do the work for writing the instructions and then leave it to people to figure out with no support. This is what we did with recommendations on programming languages. So, this would be the same way. The thing about the hosted system is that the vendor is expected to host either with regular hosting fees or with one-time payment. Mark said we are flexible; however, we need to be careful of spending. Jim would like to invite proposals from vendors if possible. Nitin said we can announce on the website to invite volunteers and proposals, we need to prioritize what activity to do first and spend the allocated budget. Jim said rather than relying on the volunteers' input, hiring a vendor would allow us to get the job done without sacrificing the bandwidth of the working group.

Draft of SOW for FY24 Action Item E2.1

Mark said we could call out for vendors and ask them, also sharing what we have from Abdalmonem and Harsha or more people's solutions. The appointed vendor or volunteer would take all this information and consolidate it. The WG agreed that this reflects the purpose.

Concerns on the SOW (by Arnt, Jim, Harsha, Nitin and Mark)

- Why is it self-hosted, would non-self-hosting work?
 - To be self-hosted is not the main priority, to cover the scope is.
- Arnt will meet interested person if this makes a difference
- Talk to people who already have solutions like Harsha, Abdalmonem, THNic, and work with their inputs, the vendor to work based on these
 - Would encourage Local Initiatives to share their EAI knowledge
 - All these sharing would be reflected in the SOW
- The system is expected to support non-Latin script email addresses.
- Do we pay the vendor per solution or the overall coverage?

Jim shared in the chat:

I have asked the UA-discuss list: "[UA-discuss] Experimental EAI "free trial" services under one's own domain name?" <<https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/ua-discuss/2023-June/004341.html>>

Regarding the SOW, Mark noted that the solutions are identified. After communicating with LIs and calling for proposals, there will be submissions to evaluate. Once they are evaluated and accepted, the vendor(s) will test the solutions and work with the LIs to achieve the level of completeness.

The input of the community on the SOW document is reflected in the screenshot.

working EAI systems

Ver.: 2023-06-27

Purpose

This work will facilitate experimentation by system admins and promote the use of the EAI self certification guide by the mail service providers, software vendors, and developers to provide by providing them with technical working EAI setup(s), configuration(s) and test(s) for self-hosting. This may include but is not limited to scripts, instructions for locating and/or downloading resources, and images of pre-configured email servers which people can install at their machines to implement EAI.

The aim is not to host an email server at UASG.tech to provide test emails.

- UA Working Group proposing the work item: UA EAI WG
- Reference to the Action plan: FY24
- Reference to work item(s): E2.1

Description of Work

The project will consist of the following parts.

1. Solutions are identified by UASG based on vendor submissions
 - a. Both hosted and self-hosted solutions would be considered
 - b. Must use non-Latin domain names and mailbox names
 - c. NOTE: several are already known and some are involved in local initiatives - UASG to help identify some
2. Vendor evaluates the submissions and makes recommendations
3. The vendor is required to test the solutions and work with the submitter to achieve a level of TBD completeness
4. ...
5. ...
6. The vendor shall create a brief FAQ page linked from the web based form. This FAQ will cover possible questions mail service providers, software vendors, and

Figure: Screenshot of the changes in SOW document

Description of Work, #1, #2, #2 and #6 were defined.

No. 3 would be negligible if the submissions are almost complete (99%). If submissions are about 60% complete, the vendor would be working with the submitter to achieve higher goals. This would be depending on the budget. The vendor also needs to compile the FAQ page.

Cleaning up the Guide

Mark, Jim, and participants agreed on working on this after laying out other tasks which are not directly related to the guide.

The following week, Tuesday July 4th would be a holiday due to Independence Day, so the meeting could be skipped or scheduled for another day.

Proposed agenda for the next meeting

- SOW for E2.1
- Clean up the guide

Next meeting: Tuesday, 11 July 2023 and 14:30 UTC

Action items

No.	Action Item	Owner
1	Resolve and finalize the Score Generator Sheet [E1.1.a]	Mark
2	Ask EAI WG to respond to the comments on the guide via email	Jim
3	Share the experience of promoting Sinhalese email addresses	Harsha
4	Make decision on Score Label Badges	EAI WG
5	Add input on the FY24 Draft Action Plan to reword E1.1 for having the program cover settling the badges	Jim