Mélange – Miscellaneous Mixtures of Multilingual Internet

More Details and Register at: https://ua-day.internet.in/

21st March 2023

Venue: CII Auditorium, Management House, IEM Kolkata
Sector-V, Salt Lake Kolkata India

About Universal Acceptance (UA) Day

The inaugural Universal Acceptance (UA) Day, which will be held on **21st March, 2023**, in Kolkata. Led by the volunteer-based Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) and ICANN, UA Day will be an opportunity to rally local, regional, and global communities and organizations around the world to spread UA awareness and to encourage UA adoption with key stakeholders.

UA Day will consist of UA awareness and technical training sessions hosted by the UASG including its UA Ambassadors and UA Local Initiatives, ICANN, and interested global partners and organizations. The sessions will aim to engage and mobilize top technical and language communities, companies, governments, and Domain Name System (DNS) industry stakeholders to better understand the benefits of UA and how to make their own systems UA-ready.

Partners and Supporters

Universal Acceptance (commonly referred as UA) is a technical requirement that ensures all valid domain names and email addresses can be used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems. While the DNS has changed in recent years, the checks used by many software applications to validate domain names and email addresses remain outdated. Many systems do not recognize or appropriately process new domain names. These domain names include new generic top-level domains (e.g., .photography), Internationalized Domain Names (e.g., एमईआईटीवाई.सरकार.भारत/, 红螺寺.网址, صحة.مصر, стопкоронавирус.рф), and country code top-level domains (e.g., .ไทย). In addition, not all online portals are primed for the opening of a user account with a related email address. That is why awareness of and support for UA is critical for a truly global, multilingual Internet.

[BENEFITS OF UA]

The current Internet population is made up of more than 5 billion active users, and at least one billion more are expected to come online by 2023. Achieving UA for all valid domain names and email addresses is crucial to enabling consumer choice online and achieving digital inclusivity for all of these users. Further, there are important economic and social benefits of supporting multilingual Internet users in their ability to access and connect to ecommerce, local communities and governments, as well as to embrace and proliferate cultural traditions through language.

[ABOUT THE UASG]

The UASG is a community-led initiative that was formed in 2015 and funded by ICANN. It is made up of representatives from more than 120 companies, governments, and community groups. The UASG works to raise awareness of the importance of UA globally, provide free resources to organizations to help them become UA-ready, and measure the progress of UA adoption. To learn more, visit https://uasg.tech/.

[PROGRAM]

"Mélange - miscellaneous mixtures of multilingual internet" Date: 21st March, 2023 **Venue: CII Auditorium - Institute of Engineering and Management, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata**			
Time (IST)	**Program Details**		
9:30am - 10:00 am	**Registration**		
10:00 am - 11:40 am	**Session - 1 -- Starts at 10:00 am**		
	Welcome Address	Mr. Sushanta Sinha	UA Ambassador, UASG (Universal Acceptance Steering Group)	5 mins
	Keynote Speech 1	Dr. Ajay Data (Virtually)	Chair, UASG (Universal Acceptance Steering Group)	15 mins
	Keynote Speech 2	Mr. Anil Jain (Virtually)	CEO, NIXI (National Internet eXchange of India)	15 min
	Keynote Speech 3	Prof. Ayan Kumar Panja	Asst. HOD, (CSE - AI/ML/CSBS) - Institute of Engineering and Management	15 min
	Keynote Speech 4	Mr. Sanjay Kumar Das	Joint Secretary, IT&E Department, Government of West Bengal	15 min
	Keynote Speech 3	Mr. Nitin Wali	Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement for the South Asia region, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)	15 min

	Showcasing Linguistic Diversity Dashboard	Dr. Sibansu Mukherjee. Director and SNLTR Team	Society for National Language Technology Research	15 min
	Vote of Thanks	Mr. Anupam Agrawal	Chair, India Internet Foundation	5 min

11:40am - 12:00 pm	**Networking Break**

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	**Session - 2 --- Starts at 12:00 pm**			
	Panel Discussion - with multi-stakeholder group **"Reaching out to next billion internet users with the language they speak" - Opportunities and Challenges**			
	Panel Moderator	Sushanta Sinha	UA Ambassador, UASG	
	Panel Member 1	Mr. Aman Masjide	UA Ambassador and Trust and Safety Strategist/Consultant	Industry
	Panel Member 2	Dr. Rimi Ghosh Dastidar	Asst. Prof. West Bengal Education Service	Linguistics
	Panel Member 3	Mr. Sovan Tarafdar	Researcher, Media and Communications	Civil Society
	Panel Member 4	Mr. Abhijan Bhattacharyya	Sr. Scientist, TCS Research	Technology
	Panel Member 5	Dr. Aniruddha Nag	Aviation Industry (Mgr. Tata Air India), Secretary IETE	Professional Community

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	**Lunch Break**	
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm	**Session - 3 (21st-March)**	**Session - 4 (22nd-March)**
	Technical Workshop (UA Programming) **Enabling UA to support IDN and EAI** **(Anand Raje, Sushanta Sinha)**	**Technical Workshop (Continued..EAI)** **Enabling UA to support IDN and EAI** **(Anand Raje, Sushanta Sinha)**
5:30 PM	**Closure of the Program**	

Partners and Supporters