

Registries Stakeholder Group Statement



Draft Guidelines for Advancing UA Adoption

Date statement submitted: 13 April 2026

(this is a copy of the comment submitted via the ICANN public comment platform)

Reference url:

<https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/draft-guidelines-for-advancing-ua-adoption-23-02-2026>

Background¹

The Universal Acceptance (UA) Expert Working Group (EWG) has developed guidelines for identifying strategic and practical mechanisms for encouraging UA adoption across a diverse set of stakeholders. The stakeholders include big tech organizations, open-source communities, standards organizations, software development professionals, system administrators, the Domain Name System industry, hosting and Internet service providers, public sector and intergovernmental organizations, and academia. The UA EWG has also suggested developing a framework to measure effort and outcome in the areas of awareness, policy support, implementation and capacity development towards UA adoption.

Documents

- [Guidelines for Advancing Universal Acceptance \(UA\) Adoption \(pdf, 620.36 KB\)](#)

Related RySG comments

- [RySG comment on the Universal Acceptance Roadmap for Domain Name Registry and Registrar Systems](#) (October 2022)
- Supportive comments on Strategic Initiative 24 [FY27 Plans and budgets](#) (February 2026)

Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) comment

The gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Guidelines for Advancing Universal Acceptance (UA) Adoption and appreciates the UA Expert Working Group (EWG) for compiling this comprehensive document.

The important work on UA and IDNs requires coordinated efforts at multiple levels and is of particular importance with the Next Round of New gTLDs approaching. ICANN Org is in a central position to coordinate and drive UA adoption forward and should lead by example by showing that it is possible to achieve 100% UA readiness across all relevant systems, including e-mail, the ICANN Portal, and the TLD Application Management System (TAMs) for the 2026 Round, RDAP, etc.. We acknowledge that the DNS Industry, including the gTLD Registries, are stakeholders in this endeavour and welcome the dedicated outreach and capacity building suggested under section 6 of the document.

¹ Background: intended to give a brief context for the comment and to highlight what is most relevant for RO's in the subject document – it is not a summary of the subject document.

We would like to call attention to the following item to ensure the “Guidelines for Advancing Universal Acceptance Adoption” are comprehensive and effective.

The Critical Role of National Governments in UA Dissemination

The current draft focuses on intergovernmental organizations, but lacks a direct emphasis on the role of national governments. Governments are uniquely positioned to disseminate UA information across public and private sectors.

Without direct government intervention to update e-government standards and internal digital infrastructure, innovative TLDs face significant adoption barriers. We recommend the guidelines explicitly encourage GAC members and government departments managing digital standards to lead by example, ensuring equitable digital access across all government-managed platforms.

