

IGF Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues

Meeting minutes

Meeting No. 1

UNESCO, Paris

November 14, 2018

The IGF Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues (DC-DNSI) held its inaugural meeting during the IGF2018 in Paris, France at UNESCO. Approximately 25-30 attendees from businesses, NGOs, civil society, academia, national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs), and governments joined in a discussion on the purpose and scope of the DC-DNSI, including the focus of the DC for the first year of its work: Universal Acceptance (UA). This will be the focus of the DC-DNSI during 2019, up until the IGF2019 in Berlin, Germany, where the outputs of the DC-DNSI will be presented. (Further discussion on “outputs” below)

Attendees shared their interests in the broad subject of Universal Acceptance with the group, including:

- Seeing that consumers with new gTLD email addresses are able to interact with websites, ensuring better user experience;
- The preservation of culture through universal acceptance of non-Latin scripts;
- Ensuring that IDNs work seamlessly so that communication in different languages can occur seamlessly;
- Progress made by some companies in sending/receiving Internationalized email, including IDNs.

The first year of the DC-DNSI will build upon four years of work on UA by the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG). The current chair of the UASG, Ram Mohan, gave a background of the UASG (via speakerphone). The UASG has worked to, amongst other items, define UA and build common vocabulary; conduct a macro-economic study to explain the value of UA for corporate decisionmakers; develop readiness assessments, and develop technical documentation to guide organizations towards UA readiness. The next step, for the DC-DNSI to take on, is to connect with government and business policymakers on UA and to encourage actors to move to being UA ready. Conducting this work within the IGF environment can help to reach new and different audiences.

A conceptual framework was presented to the group for UA messaging, that is the “ABCs” of Universal Acceptance: Awareness, Buy-In, and Completion.

Potential outputs of the DC-DNSI discussed included case studies, ‘answers to questions’ that decisionmakers will have when deciding whether to embrace UA, and messaging to be used by different audiences (e.g. government, business, civil society). The DC-DNSI may wish to launch a survey to assist with creating outputs. Written work created by the DC-DNSI over the coming year should be accompanied by outreach and networking. In this sense, the work of the DC-DNSI will proceed in two dimensions – producing materials and building connections.

Virtual meetings will take place at least every three weeks, with in person meetings to be arranged where a sufficiently significant number of actors are present, e.g. MAG meetings. EuroDIG was also suggested.

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