



85 | COMMUNITY
FORUM



Enabling Universal Acceptance Adoption

ICANN85 - Community Forum Mumbai

11 March 2026



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Enabling Universal Acceptance Adoption

- Universal Acceptance (UA):
 - All domain names and email addresses are treated equally and can be used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems.
- Panel Discussion:
 - Discuss the motivations and challenges faced by different organizations in enabling the adoption of Universal Acceptance (UA).
 - The participants will also discuss their experiences and solutions.

Panelists

**Mark
Davis**

—

**Unicode
Consortium**

**Ronald
Schwärzler**

—

**The geoTLD
Group**

**Abdalmonem
Galila**

—

**UA
Committee
of ccNSO**

**Jorge
Canto**

—

**Modelo
University**

**Devesh
Tyagi**

—

NIXI
**National Internet
Exchange of India**

A stylized world map composed of a grid of small dots, rendered in a lighter blue shade against the main blue background.

Mark Davis

Unicode Consortium

Mark Davis – Biography

Mark co-founded the Unicode project and served as the President of the Unicode Consortium from its incorporation in 1991 through 2021. He continued his leadership as Chair of the Board of Directors and CTO through 2023/4.

As a principal co-author of the original Unicode Standard, Mark has authored numerous technical publications that enable global digital communication, including standards for bidirectional text, normalization, regular expressions, segmentation, and most recently, link detection and formatting.

Notably, he authored the first successful emoji proposal in 2000 and chaired the Emoji Subcommittee until 2019. He also originated the ICU and CLDR systems.

Early in his career, Mark developed the first Japanese, Hebrew, and Arabic systems for the Macintosh at Apple. Following roles at Taligent and IBM, he joined Google in 2006. Today, he focuses on software internationalization, ensuring the effective and secure implementation of Unicode and global libraries across Google's product ecosystem.



Making URLs Readable for Humans

People around the world need to use their writing systems in URLs.

The majority of humanity uses characters outside of A-Z.

But *not* all browsers and other programs do a good job with domain names, and many make the *rest* of the URL unreadable.

Consider user handles:

x.com/rihanna

www.youtube.com/@핑크퐁

Copying the Address Bar

x.com/rihanna works well in practice
— because it is all ASCII. Copying from
the address bar and pasting into text
provides a readable result.

But ...

www.youtube.com/@핑크퐁



**youtube.com/@%ED%95%91%E
D%81%AC%ED%90%81**

Copying the Address Bar: Even Worse

hi.wikipedia.org/wiki/महात्मा_गांधी



hi.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A4%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE_%E0%A4%97%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A7%E0%A5%80

Other Side of the Coin: Linkification

1. ... see <https://example.com/αβγ/δεζ?θικ#λμν>.
2. ... see <https://example.com/αβγ/δεζ?θικ#λμν>.
3. ... see <https://example.com/αβγ/δεζ?θικ#λμν>.
4. ... see <https://example.com/αβγ/δεζ?θικ#λμν>.

UTS #58: Unicode Link Detection and Formatting

Specifies how to format *and* linkify

URLs and email addresses

in readable, predictable, user-friendly ways

Data files cover all of the 159,000+ characters in Unicode

Ronald Schwärzler

The geoTLD Group

Ronald Schwärzler – Biography

Ronald Schwärzler is the CEO of punkt.wien GmbH, dotKoeln GmbH (operating the geographic top-level domains .wien, .koeln, and .cologne) and the Registry Services Provider RyCE GmbH.

A long-standing expert in the global domain industry, he focuses on Universal Acceptance and the digital representation of city identities. He also serves as Treasurer of the geoTLD.group, an international association representing geographic TLDs.

Prior to his work in the domain sector, Schwärzler held senior roles in the Austrian media industry, including Online Director at ORF and Managing Director of major newspaper digital platforms.

His professional strengths lie in digital infrastructure, internet governance, and smart city development.

He is a regular speaker at international conferences and industry forums. Ronald Schwärzler is based in Vienna.





Promoting local digital Identities for Cities, Regions, Languages and Cultures on the Internet

Enabling Universal Acceptance Adoption

Ronald Schwaerzler
punkt.wien GmbH, CEO

ronald.schwaerzler@domainworx.consulting

geoTLDs and Universal Acceptance

- GeoTLDs are top-level domain (TLD) extensions based on a geographic name, geographic identifier, geographic origin, a linguistic or cultural community, created with the purpose of serving their respective regions or communities.
- GeoTLDs play a key role in promoting local digital identities of cities, regions, languages, or cultures on the Internet.
- Achieving this goal requires seamless support for language-specific characters in domain names and email addresses, as well as the recognition and use of TLD extensions that extend beyond the traditional two- or three-character formats.

geoTLD.group UA Local Initiative Activities

from awareness ...

Universal Acceptance i el valor digital del català - A Internet, català amb totes les lletres.

Universal Acceptance and the digital value of Catalan – On the Internet, Catalan with all the letters.

Date: 18 June 2025
Venue: IEC Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC), Barcelona
Working language: Catalan
Organisation: .cat registry (Accent Obert), supported by GeoTLD UA Local Initiative
Event: half-day UA awareness and training.
Objective: raise awareness and promote the concept of Universal Acceptance (UA), emphasizing the value of unique Catalan language characters in the global Internet context. The event also provided technical insights to improve UA adoption among digital stakeholders.
Participation: 50 onsite

Atelier Acceptation Universelle des noms de domaine et adresses email

Workshop on Universal Acceptance of domain names and email addresses

Date: 20 March 2025
Venue: CIC Est, Strasbourg, France
Working language: French
Organisation: .alsace registry (Sparking) supported by GeoTLD UA Local Initiative
Event: half-day UA awareness and technical training
Objective: general UA awareness and technical overview for the broader domain name industry (The event was organised in conjunction with the annual regional domain name industry event NddCamp Alsace)
Participation: 10 onsite + remote followers via LinkedIn stream

geoTLD.group UA Local Initiative Activities

to „events that make a difference ...“

Date:	Dates to be confirmed
Venue:	Vigo, Galicia
Event:	1x UA workshop, 1x UA technical training
Target audience:	IT professionals and Technical University students
Working language:	Galician
Organisation:	.gal registry , in cooperation with GeoTLD UA Local Initiative

Date:	21 November 2025 (morning)
Venue:	360.bzh , Rennes, Brittany, France
Event:	UA technical training
Target audience:	NDD Camp Rennes participants, students of the University of Rennes
Working language:	French
Organisation:	.bzh registry , in cooperation with GeoTLD UA Local Initiative

geoTLD.group UA Local Initiative Activities

to „events that make a difference ...“

Date:	9 or 10 April 2026
Venue:	Altes AKH, campus of the university of Vienna
Event:	UA awareness and training
Target audience:	<u>Participants of the WordCamp Vienna.</u>
Working language:	German, English
Organisation:	.wien geoTLD registry, in cooperation with the GeoTLD UA local Initiative

Date:	28 November 2025
Venue:	Donostia / San Sebastián , Basque country
Event:	UA introduction for students and lectures
Target audience:	<u>Students and lectures of the Faculty of Informatics of the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU).</u>
Working language:	Basque, Spanish
Organisation:	.eus registry, ICANN UA staff, facilitated by GeoTLD UA Local Initiative

geoTLD.group UA Local Initiative Activities

to „events that make a difference ...“

Date:	Saturday in May or June 2026
Venue:	University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa
Event:	UA student hackathon
Target audience:	Students of the University of Pretoria
Working language:	English
Organisation:	ZACR and DNS Africa, in cooperation with the GeoTLD UA local Initiative

geoTLD.group UA Local Initiative Activities

- held locally
- in local language & habits
- clearly targeted audience
multipliers - students, engineers
- hands-on experience

HUNT.ZA

South Africa's Universal Acceptance Bug Hunt

Event Brief

Prepared by	Tyto
Date	February 2026
Status	Proposal

1. Executive Summary

In one day, 40–50 University of Pretoria computer science students will systematically test South Africa's digital infrastructure for Universal Acceptance compliance, build production-grade email validation engines, and present their findings in a live demo session.

Delivered by Tyto in collaboration with ZACR, RyCE, ICANN, geoTLD.group, and DNS Business, HUNT.ZA is designed to generate concrete, evidence-based data on how South Africa's largest platforms handle .africa, .joburg, and .capetown email addresses — with technically rigorous standards to ensure the work is credible and replicable.

Abdalmonem Galila

UA Committee of ccNSO

Abdalmonem Galila – Biography

Abdalmonem Galila is Director of Numbering at Egypt's National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), overseeing the .masr (مصر) IDN ccTLD.

Active in ICANN since 2010, he is the first recipient of the Tarek Kamel Fellowship Recognition.

He chairs the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee and the GAC UA/IDN Working Group, advancing Universal Acceptance and Arabic IDNs globally.



A stylized world map composed of a grid of small dots, rendered in a lighter blue shade against the dark blue background.

Jorge Canto

Modelo University

Jorge Canto – Biography

Dr. Jorge Carlos Canto Esquivel is an electronics engineer and professor-researcher specializing in digital transformation, with a PhD in Social Sciences.

He is affiliated with Tecnológico Nacional de México – Mérida and Universidad Modelo, where he serves as Academic Coordinator at the Centro de Investigaciones Silvio Zavala.

His work focuses on Universal Acceptance and the integration of global Internet standards into university education in Latin America.



Integrating UA into the Curriculum at Universidad Modelo

Motivation

- Preparing **future Internet professionals**
- Promoting **digital inclusion and multilingual Internet**
- Aligning education with **global Internet standards**
- **Institutional commitment to remain at the forefront of digital innovation**

Challenges

- Language barriers in **technical documentation**
- Identifying where UA fits within **existing courses**
- **Regulatory frameworks and academic policies governing curriculum updates**
- Faculty training on **Unicode, IDNs and EAI**

Integrating UA into the Curriculum at Universidad Modelo

UA Awareness

- UA Day & academic events (2023–2026) **(8)**
- Faculty training workshops on UA concepts
- Integration of **UA microlearning modules** into existing courses **(11)**
- **Curriculum Integration**
- Development of pedagogical materials for **professors and students**

Student Learning

- High interest in the **multilingual Internet**
- Awareness of **email and domain interoperability**
- Engagement with topics of **digital inclusion and Internet governance**

Next Step

- **Regional Diagnosis of UA Adoption in Universities**
- Mapping UA awareness and curriculum integration in **Latin American universities**
- Identifying key academic actors and opportunities for collaboration
- Strengthening cooperation through the **UA-LAC Academic Network**

Devesh Tyagi

NIXI

National Internet Exchange of India

Devesh Tyagi – Biography

Dr. Devesh Tyagi is currently heading the National Internet Exchange of India and has over 32 years of experience in the IT/ESDM sector.

He has been actively engaged in promoting the IT/ESDM ecosystem and has contributed significantly in fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and product development in the country.

He has also played a key role in various policy formulation initiatives for the IT/ESDM sector.

Prior to joining STPI, Dr. Tyagi served at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in several capacities. He brings extensive experience in project management and software development, along with strong technical expertise, and has successfully delivered numerous notable projects throughout his career.

Dr. Tyagi holds a Doctorate from SHUATS, Allahabad.



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-  linkedin.com/company/icann
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