

OASIS Election and Voter Services Technical Committee: Meeting 2004-01-22

Attendees:

London: Farah Ahmed (FA) (Secretary) UK e-Envoy, John Ross (JR) UK e-Envoy

Phone:

John Borrás (JB) (Chairman) UK e-Envoy, Paul Spencer (PS) UK e-Envoy, Paul Brown (PB) Scytl, Alan Goldfine (AG) NIST, Hans Van Spakovsky (HS) US Justice Dept, Jim O'Donnel (JD) Opt2Vote, Craig Burton (CB) Everyone Counts.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM JULY MEETING

ACTION	OWNER	RESULT
JB to clarify IEEE's position for the TC.	JB	After discussion with the IEEE group, JB reported that since the group's Terms of Reference had been finalised, they had been struggling to gain membership to take it forward. The aim of the group was to produce a data model to work around. JB offered the work the TC has already produced, but has yet to hear back from the IEEE group.
JB to meet with the SERVE project team.	JB	JB met the SERVE team in autumn 2003, where they agreed on the need to be under the EML umbrella; however nothing has been put into action as yet. AG reported that an election project team in South Carolina may be interested, as they are e-enabling a mini election for the State.
JB and FA to report back to the TC on the scope of the Matrix system	JB & FA	To discuss in Item 5.
JB to report back on cross/refer check.	JB	JB reported that this requirement from the Council of Europe has been incorporated into version 4 of EML.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

JB reported on the current situation within the UK, focussing on two strands of activities; a) the lessons learned from the 2003 UK pilots, and b) examining requirements for using EML in European scenarios. A Council of Europe ministerial directive will be announced later this year that will require member states to consider initiating e-enabled elections, using interoperable and common standards across the board. Additional requirements (for example, new voting systems, counting systems, pre-ballot boxes) from both work strands have been taken onboard and are expressed in the EML (draft) 4.0a.

Action: TC members to review version 4.0a (available on the TC members' site) and send comments/suggestions by 28th February.

The TC were advised to read the UK Customisation (version 2.1) document available for download on [GovTalk](#), as this provides a very useful background as to the application of EML in specific scenarios.

3. PROPOSED CHANGES FOR VERSION 4.0

ELECTION RULE ID

From lessons learned from the UK pilots and bearing in mind future scenarios, it was suggested that ElectionRuleId is no longer needed. It was noted that the majority of suppliers involved in the UK pilots did not use it, but it was accepted that it does appear in

a number of schemas, although it was felt that it complicates these already complicated schemas.

The TC was advised that ElectionRuleID should be removed, unless members of the TC say otherwise.

Action: Members of TC were asked to identify examples of this element being used in practice before 2004-02-28.

NEW 130 RESPONSE MESSAGE

PS proposed that it would be worth investigating the use of a generic response message in the next version of EML.

RENUMBERING SCHEMAS

PS explained that since new schemas have been added, the numbering has become slightly unordered and highlighted that this needs to be addressed.

MESSAGE FLOWS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

The current draft describes the data process, but the TC was asked to consider describing message flows in diagrams to aid understanding. A positive response was received from members.

Action: FA to post a message on this as part of the review process to initiate discussion as to how to take this forward.

OTHER ISSUES

As a result of the UK pilots, the use of multiple addresses (commonly a temporary and permanent address) was identified as an area to be addressed by the TC.

Action: To discuss further at next meeting scheduled in February. TC members to put forward suggestions to the TC.

JR reported that extra auditing information has been enhanced considerably in EML 4.0a, explaining its necessity for subdividing elements into different components.

JB stressed that EML only deals with interoperability, and it is not in the TC's Terms of Reference to produce standards on accessibility and security. With this in mind JB reported that the Council of Europe are currently producing papers that set out the requirements for these areas.

JB proposed that the TC investigate these areas further and assess what actions to address these aspects should be taken and by whom.

Action: JB to provide the TC with the draft documents from the Council of Europe.

4. TIMETABLE FOR VERSION 4.0

Facilities for video-conferencing will be organised for mid February (Post meeting note: the meeting has been confirmed for the 19th February 2004). The aim for this meeting is to walk through EML v4.0a and discuss comments/suggestions/issues in depth.

In parallel with the TC meeting, the Council of Europe will also be approving version 4.0a for their specific needs.

The TC was informed that once all parties have agreed to EML 4.0x, it will then be voted to become a Committee Draft. Then for it to become an OASIS standard, it is required to be tested and certified by three independent suppliers. Once certified, it can then be put to the whole of OASIS for vote to become a standard.

JB stressed his wish for EML to come under the umbrella of ISO, where the TC would remain as owners of the technical specification, but ISO would use their own committee process to make it a standard. It was agreed that this could be a possible future of EML, as the specification under ISO will lead to greater acceptance and wider visibility.

5. ACCREDITATION PROGRAMMES

It had been agreed by appropriate bodies in the UK and Europe that governments must

invest in and use fully accredited e-voting system products and services. Each state would set up its own accreditation service to suit the national scenario when necessary.

AG informed the TC that adoption of these standards were voluntary in the USA, it would be very useful if there was a formal international standard for accreditation and that an international organisation that would accredit it.

AG explained that in 1990 the FEC set voluntary standards for voting equipment. Tests were carried out by three independent companies, which would be sent hardware and/or software for testing. This standard has been updated recently, but it was stressed that it would be difficult to find one organisation that would be able to test a standard internationally.

JR reported that recently countries have been testing hardware/software on their own initiative. Each country involved has its own test labs for testing common criteria and allows mutual recognition between other countries (as they are all under bilateral agreements).

Action: JB knows of two organisations involved in this and will contact them to investigate their views.

Action: CB will investigate this area in Australia.

6. BIOMETRICS

Prompted by recent experiments using biometrics for identification in Switzerland, it was asked how EML would handle this.

JR stated that the VToken allows any type of information to be carried within it, and it also allows for expansion. If biometrics were to be used, then it would be required to know what would be in the message and what the standards on biometrics would be. In EML there is the possibility to go one step further by pushing the use of a particular standard for biometrics.

There will be an ISO meeting in Australia to ratify biometric standards in February. There is no reference to biometrics in current US federal standards at the moment, and there is also quite a great deal of paranoia surrounding the possibility of its use in the e-voting process.

It was agreed that this is a very sensitive area, but as colleagues in Switzerland are taking it on, it would be beneficial to all if the TC were to provide guidance. If it emerges as an ISO standard, then EML would naturally point to that.

7. AOB

HVS advised everyone to check through the internet for newspaper articles on the report into SERVE. [Click here](#) for an article from the EU portal. Go to www.avirubin.com to download full report.

The Democrats are holding internet primaries in Michigan in February, and will enable the public to vote from home and work computers.

Action: HVS to find contact details of suppliers involved.

The Election Reform Bill has now established a new federal agency whose sole job is to set out new voting system standards in the USA. Commissioners have recently been nominated so now the agency can start to make forward strides in the area of e-voting system standards.

8. DATES AND LOCATIONS OF FUTURE MEETINGS

19th February 2004 14:00-17:30: Video-Conference meeting at Washington DC & London UK

9. ACTIONS FROM MEETING:

Action	Owner
TC members to review version 4.0a (available on the TC members' site) and send comments/suggestions by 28 th February.	ALL
Members of TC were asked to identify examples of this element being used in practice before 2004-02-28.	ALL
FA to post a message on this (Message Flow) as part of the review process to initiate discussion as to how to take this forward.	FA
To discuss multiple addresses further at next meeting scheduled in February. TC members to put forward suggestions to the TC.	ALL
JB to provide the TC with the draft documents from the Council of Europe.	JB
JB knows of two organisations involved in (Accreditation Programmes) this and will contact them to investigate their views.	JB
CB will investigate (Accreditation Programmes) this area in Australia.	CB
HVS to find contact details of suppliers involved (in Michigan elections).	HVS