

Delivering a general-purpose format for exchanging emergency alerts over any network

The CAP OASIS Standard allows consistent warning messages to be disseminated simultaneously over many different systems, increasing warning effectiveness while simplifying the notification task.

Benefits

CAP addresses the challenges posed by the diversity of independently developed warning systems by:

- serving as a universal adaptor for alert messages, defining one message format with features essential for the broad range of alert systems and sensor technologies
- allowing senders to activate multiple warning systems with a single input, reducing the cost and complexity of notifying many warning systems and assuring consistency
- delivering compatibility with all kinds of information and public alerting systems, including broadcast radio and television as well as public and private data networks
- supporting multilingual and special-needs alerting systems
- allowing warnings from various sources to be compiled in tabular or graphical form as an aid to situational awareness and pattern detection

CAP Format

CAP messages are self-describing; they may contain unique identification numbers, references to other CAP messages, information on status and time sent, source, digital encryption, and signature techniques. Specific event data may be contained in multiple informational segments describing urgency, severity, and certainty.

“CAP has grown into a standard that is being adopted worldwide, helping the seamless transition of a host of alerts across platforms and systems. The result is a world better prepared for any emergency.”

*Chip Hines
Program Manager
Disaster Management eGov Initiative
FEMA DHS*

Using CAP, an event may be assigned to a category (e.g., geophysical, meteorological, safety, security, rescue, fire, health, environmental, transportation, infrastructure). CAP also supports digital images and audio.

Developed, Endorsed, and Used by Experts

CAP reflects best practices for effective warnings identified through academic review and real-world experiences. The standard was initiated in 2001 by an international group of more than 120 emergency managers and information technologists. The Partnership for Public Warning contributed CAP to the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee in 2002, where it was refined and tested in an open process. CAP v1.0 was approved as an OASIS Standard in 2004 and CAP v1.1 in 2005.

CAP implementors include the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. National Weather Service; U.S. Geological Survey, California Office of Emergency Services; and many others.

Get Involved

The OASIS Emergency Management Committee remains open to new participation and particularly seeks input from those in the international community. The team works to advance CAP in alignment with other specifications in its Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) suite.

For more information:
www.oasis-open.org/committees/emergency

OASIS Membership

One Organization, Many Opportunities

As a member of OASIS, you gain the power to influence the standards that shape our industry, whether you represent a:

- user** seeking to ensure your business requirements are met;
- government agency** wanting to minimize overlap of standards and reduce the risk in recommending new technology;
- software provider** driving industry cooperation through standards; or
- industry group** coordinating domain efforts with foundational work.

Benefits of membership:

- Participate in as many OASIS Committees as you choose
- Initiate new Committees to address identified market needs
- Influence the direction of existing Committees by contributing technical work and articulating preferences
- Gain access to early drafts of new specifications
- Identify partners and develop joint solutions
- Liaise with related efforts at OASIS to address convergence and interoperability issues at the development stage
- Protect development efforts from single-vendor bias
- Expand visibility through participation in interoperability events
- Work alongside the industry's most influential experts
- Learn and adopt best practices
- Foster a greater variety of competitive solutions
- Lower the cost of implementation
- Contribute to work respected as the product of the OASIS open process

OASIS is an international consortium dedicated to the development, convergence, and adoption of e-business standards. OASIS Standards are developed through an open process, one that provides for fairness, transparency, and full participation from the entire community.

Organization type / size	Annual Dues (USD)		
	Foundational	Sponsor	Contributor
Company employing more than 500 people	50,000	16,000	8,000
Company employing 100-500 people	48,000	14,000	7,500
Company employing 10-99 people	46,000	12,000	6,600
Company employing fewer than 10 employees	46,000	12,000	3,200
Academic Institution or Association	44,000	10,000	1,100
National government agency (OECD member country)	44,000	10,000	*
National government agency (non-OECD member country)	44,000	10,000	1,100
Local government agency	44,000	10,000	1,100

* Contributor-level dues for national government agencies from OECD member countries are based on the number of employees and correspond to the dues categories for companies (i.e., 8,000, 7,500, 6,600, or 3,200 USD). Individual-level membership is also available for those unable to join through their employers.