

## Approved Meeting Notes from the EMA-TC Teleconference

Date: June 11, 2010  
12:00-13:00 EDT

Next Meeting: June 25, 2010

### 1. Attendance

Agha Ahmed (AA)	Aviv Siegel (AS)	Bill Tabor (BT)	Buddy Ackerman (BA)
<b>Camille Osterloh*</b> (CO)	Claire Carpenter (CC)	Daniel Ryan (DR)	Dara Ung (DaU)
David Box (DB)	Dee Schur (DS)	Denis Gusty (DG)	Don Beattie (DoB)
Don Uyl (DoU)	<b>Donald McGarry*</b> (DMG)	<b>Doug Allport*</b> (DA)	Elysa Jones* (EJ)
<b>Gary Timm*</b> (GT)	Gavin Treadgold (GTr)	Hans Jespersen (HJ)	Herbert White (HW)
Jacob Westfall (JWe)	Jane Harnad (JH)	Jeff Waters (JWa)	Mark Titus (MT)
Mary McRae (MMR)	Norm Paulsen (NP)	<b>Patrick Gannon*</b> (PG)	Paul Denning (PD)
<b>Rex Brooks*</b> (RB)	<b>Rob Torchon*</b> (RT)	Robin Cover (RC)	Shayne Barr (SB)
Sukumar Dwarkanath (SD)	<b>Thomas Ferrentino*</b> (TF)	Thomas Merkle (TM)	Tim Grapes (TG)
<b>Werner Joerg*</b> (WJ)	William Cox (WCx)	William Flannigan Jr. (WF)	William Kalin (WK)

\* indicates voting member

*Quorum* – achieved

2. **Review of Agenda:** approved.
3. **Review of May 28, 2010 Draft Minutes** – WJ suggests 3 editorial fixes. DMG moves, RT seconds to accept as amended. Approved.
4. **Current Business:**
  - WCDM: post event reports. (TF) EJ's poster presentation was well attended and incited good follow up questions. The FEMA IPAWS group met with DA's group and started discussions on how to communicate between the IPAWS Profile and CAP-CP. Several follow up meetings are being considered (DA): Detroit-Windsor, Sarnia-St. Clair County, Michigan and Lambton County, Canada.

DA described a couple of interoperability efforts going on in CDN, such as (1) the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) (Lance Valcour), with focus on Police, Fire, and Medical Services, (2) DA's presentation at last years CITIG Conference on MASAS<sup>1</sup> with CAP Interoperability, (3) a Technology Alliance Group.

DA continued - Key thing out of WCDM: we got Canada's two funding agencies together with the FEMA IPAWS team. There is a strong commitment to interoperability across the border using CAP and EDXL-DE. There could be an announcement as early as next week involving 2 or 3 of the TC's Canadian members towards this goal. One of the target projects would be interoperability between DM OPEN and MASAS, using CAP and EDXL-DE. As a result of the conference, particularly the FEMA poster presentation, the traffic in our area has been exceptionally high. Reactions to DA's presentation showed an interest for less

1 MASAS = Multi Agency Situational Awareness System)

common alerting needs, such as Great Lakes Marine Community and NAS<sup>2</sup> Canada who have a very strong interest in broadcasting their alerts through the CAPAN<sup>3</sup> System using the CAP protocol.

DA reported also that very quietly this week CAPAN launched their national public alerting system - “very quietly” because, in spite of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments not being up to date on the policy front, Canada now does have a national alerting system built on CAP.

DA reiterated that the FEMA poster presentation spoke to interoperability using CAP and EDXL across the border: one of the illustrations highlighted WA State with BC using DM OPEN, then Maine and NB using the Canadian equivalent; then two slides showed a couple of scenarios linking the two systems, with key stakeholders potentially having ties into each other's systems for redundancy. “It really caught people's attention!”

PG inquired about whether funding should be budgeted for cross border interop events this year. TF: have determined in conversations with NP that if DM OPEN 2.0 is released, we'd like to include CAP-CP in the Fall IAEM Interop scenarios – decision deadline is Aug. 1.

DA observed that WCDM has been reduced in size over the past two years and focused more on business continuity than interoperable communication. TF sees this as an opportunity to move into interoperability between public and private using CAP and DE (FEMA has an office for private partnerships). DA believes that the main traction would come from the public stakeholders – if they show any interest at all, the private vendors would automatically show up.

DA and TF agree that it was a wise choice not to make a big splash at this year's WCDM – the poster format was perfect in terms of scale.

- Regarding cross border demos, DA suggests to make something “more virtual” in nature, where we'd invite many of the Canadian stakeholders to look in through a webinar. TF: let's look into this after IAEM. RT wonders whether the webinar approach would necessitate a change in policy to allow non-OASIS members to participate.

The ensuing discussion centers on the inherent conflict between the EMA-TC's mission to promote OASIS Standards and OASIS Policies preventing non-members from participating in interoperability events. The question then emerges whether interop events must be run under OASIS: basically any organization can setup such an event that applies OASIS Standards - for instance at WCDM the demo could be organized by some Canadian organization and IPAWS; other conferences may call for different involvements and setups. The fact is that it is getting easier to pull almost any data from various providers through the net. *[At this point DMG confirms that weather data is available in CAP at the myStateUSA site and “it couldn't be easier to pull it – I've just been lazy”. This statement causes an uproar culminating in RB observing that he'd like to order up a few more people lazy like Don. Upon which DMG announces that Mitre will get some more developers to help port next year. This could open more possibilities for tool development.]*

RB: we need to be careful about how we do that. TF: need to check back with OASIS staff about what we can and can not do. PG: if we are talking about how to expand participation in OASIS sponsored interop demos, we have policies adopted by the board. It is always possible to put forward a request for a waiver – it is incumbent on us to make a case. A part of the policies is about IP, but in the case of demos where standards are being used to achieve interoperability, IP may not be the issue. The other part is the funding: in past

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2 NAS = National Airports System

3 CAPAN = Canadian Association for Public Alerting and Notification

Interops the OASIS members dues that get aggregated into the member section were being used and vendors paid an additional vendor fee. So in order to make it equitable, non-members would have to pay the vendor fee plus a member section fee. We could make a compelling case on this basis and apply for a waiver. TF/RB: if priced right such a scheme could become an incentive for non-members to join without alienating members. The value for members lies in the increasing experience we are getting from setting up more interop scenarios.

- About the EDXL Product Directory: PG inquires about the possibility to include CAP-CP which is not a OASIS spec., e.g. by going through a ratification process for the Canadian profile. DA indicates that he has a project to define how to manage CAP-CP on an ongoing basis. The project team includes Mary and Jimmy Clark in a minor capacity, plus federal, provincial representatives, and academic experts. One option is to have OASIS involved, but there is a lot of push for a national standard – DA considers this as overhead with little value. Expect a recommendation by October in terms of the next steps to formally recognize and manage the CAP Canadian Profile – the goal is to stay fully compliant with CAP.

Upon TF's inquiry about American vendors that write to CAP-CP and could refer to that in the Product Directory, DA confirms that there are several that do, and that CAP-CP is already set up to solve the multi language challenge: there is a requirement for using geocode along with one of a very long list of event references, so that it can automatically compose a message in any language using table based translation to standard CAP values and phrases such as the phrases for urgency, severity and certainty in combination with an event and location name. This enables uni-lingual users to issue bi-lingual messages. There are some additional constraints to achieve this, such as limiting each alert to one event type and the event designation must come from the official event list. TF notes that these constraints are similar to the IPAWS profile. We recognizes the value of such multilingual capabilities and we should explore ways to have the broader community benefit from them.

DA: our challenge with putting CAP-CP into OASIS is that we want to support the international protocol but we do not want to give up national control over our profile.

RT suggests that this may be the right time to pay more attention to the international and multilingual aspects of profiles – ideally we keep them under one structure with the ability to modify specific details.

We agree that this approach could ease dilemmas such as the one presented by CAP-CP but these ideas are mostly outside of the EMA-TC's scope - they need to be brought forward to the EM-TC and the appropriate SCs.

Regarding feedback capability for members on Product Directory – WJ: we'll have to contact OASIS staff to decide on how to capture and direct such feedback. PG notes that a few more vendors have added entries – none of them are currently on the call. TF has more contact information and will urge them to make entries. CO did contact myStateUSA and DesktopAlert, but has not heard back – she wondered whether there was a way to determine whether a company has registered but its entry has not been completed – may be CG has the answer. The point is (PG) that we get more entries by the end of June and motivate companies to do so by announcing that by July 1 we'll start promoting the list.

- IAEM Workshop status: no additional info yet. TF: Over 500(?) proposals for workshops were submitted (FEMA IPAWS made 2 submissions). Expect feedback by mid to late June. Vendor registration deadline for Interop and/or webinar participation is still Aug. 1.
- Scenario Development Task Force – PG: e-mail list with archive is set up and an initial message has been posted. No further action yet due to conference travel. CO suggests that

Cathy McMann (a member of the NIMS-STEP working group) be included in the participants – DMG will follow up.

*Given the limited time left, WJ suggests that the next items – “EDXL 101” and “Writing Resources” be skipped (nothing new), in favor of the New Business item “NCOIC update”, and then come back to Subgroup reports. No objection.*

- NCOIC update – RB: NCOIC has officially joined OASIS and this opens several possibilities for how we can proceed. Their purpose for joining is collaborating with the EM-TC and EMA-TC. Some of the possible activities would dovetail nicely with NIMS-STEP: the All Hazards Alert and Warning Pattern is in its final review. Once that is complete RB will submit it to the EMA-TC and EM-TC for approval: the pattern requires the use of both EDXL-DE and CAP, and one of the ways to validate that is through NIMS STEP. Another possibility is presented by the “Building Blocks” program which certifies on the NCOIC side that a given product is a valid component for a particular pattern.

#### 5. **Subgroup reports:**

- Collateral & Documents (RB): continuing work on multiple fronts; Product Directory is the most recent deliverable. The EMA-TC had accepted the SC's recommendation about the Promotional Handout and is consulting with the Member Section about the scope of the rewrite activity. PG: Steering Committee meeting has been rescheduled to next Friday – to be followed up. The intent is to have the rewrites done at latest for distribution at the IAEM conference.
- Events & Demos (TF): WCDM and IAEM discussed above. APCO conference is in Aug. - do we want a presence there? DMG may attend – to be decided next week.
- Outreach and Education (PG) new issue: TEP – acceptance as new project will be voted on at next EM-TC teleconference. Had some discussions about the necessary interfaces to HL7 and HHS, identifying key individuals and the formal interfaces.

Session adjourned 13:06.

Redacted and submitted by

Werner Joerg, co-Chair  
OASIS EMA-TC

100625/wbj  
Approved 100709/wbj