

# Rebooting the Web Of Trust

## a design workshop

San Francisco – November 3rd & 4th 2015

### Specification Guidelines

A specification is different than a white paper, in that it describes the externally visible behaviors of a system that implements that particular solution. A white paper explains the problem and a recommended solution, but a specification defines the solution's input, the expected output, and any change of state.

### Specification Process

1. Create a first pass at a title / subtitle for the specification.
2. Who are the developers and other stakeholders?
3. Map out/outline the visible behaviors of the system including:
  - A. What the developers need in order to build the system.
  - B. What the testers need in order to validate the system.
  - C. What other stakeholders need to know in order to approve the cost to implement the system.
4. Map out/outline the specification to include:
  - D. The functional interfaces through which external entities (the actors) can interact with the system (both input and output).
  - E. How the result of those interactions produces a preferred change of state.
5. Share any thoughts on possible unanticipated problems that may exist when implementing the specification, such as technical questions, logistical issues, scaling problems, potential security vulnerabilities or other weaknesses of that specific implementation approach or that of the specification itself.
6. Share a list of any related code or other resources that will assist in implementing the specification.