

NIST Workshop on a Common Data Format for Electronic Voting Systems

October 29-30, 2009

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Opening Remarks

- Cita Furlani, Director, Information Technology Laboratory, NIST
- John Wack, Technical Manager, NIST Voting Program
- James Long, Computer Engineer, Election Assistance Commission

CDF Workshop Goals

- To identify and agree upon a set of requirements for a common data format for voting systems
 - interoperability of different equipment
 - auditability
 - transparency
 - publishing (communication with consumers of election data, such as media outlets)
 - integration between polls and registration
 - transition to electronic record-keeping

CDF Workshop Goals

- Stakeholders include
 - voters
 - manufacturers
 - election officials
 - consumers of election data
 - organizations with existing data formats (e.g., OASIS)
 - academics and others with related work

CDF Workshop Conclusions

- We will catalog requirements as they are identified and discuss them on Day 2
 - Panels moderated by Mark Skall
- Requirements determined by the end of this workshop will be distributed to you for review and comment, using
 - cdf@nist.gov and
 - <http://vote.nist.gov>

Workshop Structure

- Opening Remarks
- Four Panels
 - Election official and State experiences
 - Common data format research
 - OASIS EML overview
 - Manufacturer and integrator panel
- Requirements summaries and next steps

The TGDC's VVSG 2007

- Does not identify a specific standard, but encourages formats such as OASIS EML or output of IEEE Voting System Electronic Data Interchange Project 1622
- Has mostly SHOULD requirements:
 - The voting system SHALL use a non-restrictive, publicly-available format with respect to export of report data.
 - Voting systems SHOULD use a common, consensus-based format for export and interchange of data and reports.
 - The voting system manufacturer SHOULD use a common format for export and interchange of data and reports across its major device categories.

Panel 1: Election Officials and State Experiences with Common Data Formats

This panel presents state election official experiences dealing with election data and common formats. The goal of the panel is to discuss and derive requirements for a common data format.

Panel is from 9:45 till 12 noon

Break at 10:15 – 10:30

Each speaker has 20 minutes including questions

Panel 1: Election Officials and State Experiences with Common Data Formats

- Paul Miller, Voting Systems Manager, State of Washington, Office of the Secretary of State
- Lowell Finley, Deputy Secretary, Voting Systems Technology & Policy, California
- Paul Lux, Supervisor of Elections, Okaloosa County, Florida
- Paul Stenbjorn, Information Services Manager, Virginia State Board of Elections
- Scott Hilkert, Managing Principal and COO, Catalyst Consulting Group, Inc.
- Neal McBurnett, Consultant, ElectionAudits

Panel 2: Common Data Format Research

This panel presents research and other industry conclusions regarding common data formats, including

- What data needs to be represented by a CDF
- Usability issues with a CDF
- A data model for a CDF
- Points within the election process where data in a CDF is needed

Panel is from 1 PM till 4 PM

Break at 2:15 – 2:45

Each speaker has 30 minutes including questions

Panel 2: Common Data Format Research

- Andrea Mascher, The University of Iowa
- Sharon Laskowski, NIST
- David Flater, NIST
- John Sebes, Co-Director, Open Source Digital Voting Foundation
- Kim Brace, Election Data Services

Panel 3: OASIS Election Markup Language (EML) Overview

This panel presents information about OASIS Election Markup Language (EML). The goal of this panel is to learn more about EML in light of requirements generated by this workshop.

Panel is from 4 PM till 5:30 PM

Each speaker has 30 minutes including questions

Panel 3: OASIS Election Markup Language (EML) Overview

- John McCarthy, Verified Voting
- John Borrás (via phone), Chair of OASIS E & VS Technical Committee
- David Webber, OASIS / Open Voting Solutions Inc.

Panel 4: Manufacturer and Integrator Panel Discussion

This panel presents manufacturer and integrator information about specific common formats, how common formats affect manufacturers, interoperability issues, and requirements.

Panel is from 9:00 till 11:00 AM

Break at 10:15 – 10:30

Each speaker has 15-20 minutes including questions

Panel 4: Manufacturer and Integrator Panel Discussion

- Duncan Buell, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of South Carolina
- Ed Smith, Dominion
- Eric Coomer, Sequoia
- Parker Abercrombie, Open Voting Consortium
- Daemmon Hughes, Overseas Vote Foundation
- Aaron Strauss, Voting Information Project

Requirements Roundtable Discussion

Next Steps

Adjourn