

W3C: An Open Platform for Web Standardisation

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These slides at
<http://www.w3.org/2010/12/dd-w3c.html>



Plan

- Open Standards and W3C
- W3C ways of working
- Lessons for other communities

Open Standards Policies

- No-one should require people to purchase particular software for access
- Promote longevity of information
- Openness helps to maximize reuse of knowledge
 - *colleagues, friends, public, companies, governments*

- Open standards promote research!

Open Standard Definition

A lot of debates nowadays for a common definition of Open Standards (IGF, EC, etc.)

- Transparent process
- Open participation
- Technical Consensus and Appeal
- Running code
- Free and Persistent Specification
- [W3C Patent Policy](#) for Web Technologies

Challenges...

- The Internet and the Web is the easy part : Web, email, forum, online chat, IM, etc.
- Lots of non-internet technologies: telephone, fax, PDA, SMS, MMS, Wifi, Bluetooth, RFID, biometric, smart cards, TV and radio, etc.
- New technology-specific platforms: geolocation, foaf blog, mashup, ads, etc.

W3C Exec Summary

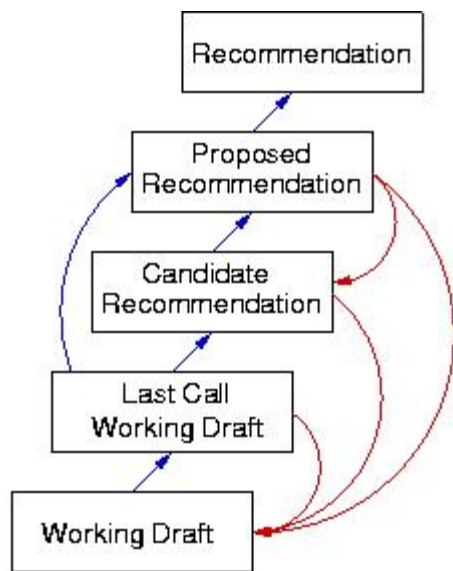
The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an International Consortium where Member and External organizations, a full-time technical staff, and the public work together to lead the World Wide Web to its full potential by developing Web standards such as protocols and guidelines that ensure long-term growth for the Web.

- Goals: Interoperability, Universality, Functionalities
- Neutral/nonforprofit, consensus based, open participation, open results

- ~350 members, ~50 staff,
- ~60 Working Groups ~20 Coordination Groups and Interest Groups
- Hosting: MIT (America), ERCIM (Europe) and Keio University (Japan) + [Offices](#)
- Advisory Board, Technical Architecture Group
- Liaisons with [40+ other standards bodies](#), Accountable to the global [Public](#)

Director: WWW (http, HTML, URL) inventor Tim Berners Lee
<http://www.w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/>

W3C Process Flow

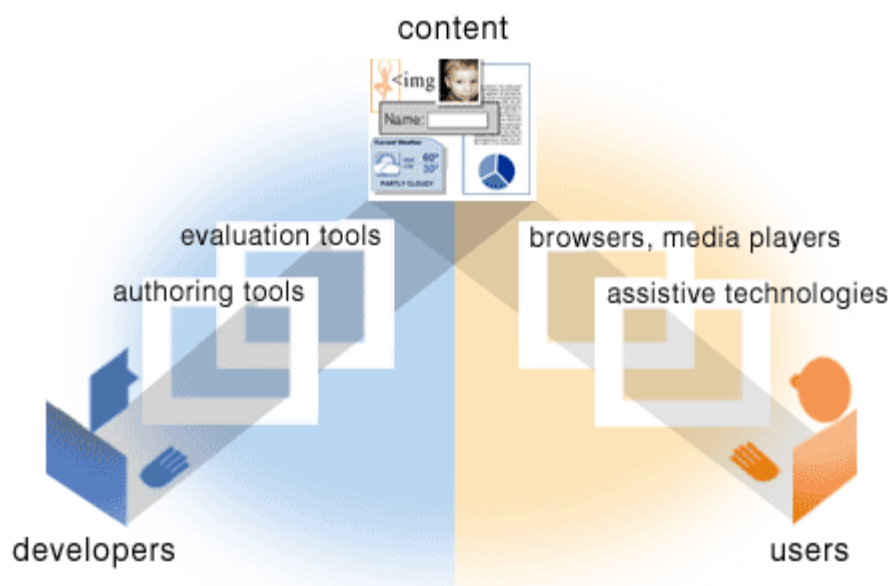


Web Standards



Transparency has many faces

Accessible Web site



Open Data

Public data is data that is not subject to valid privacy, security or privilege limitations

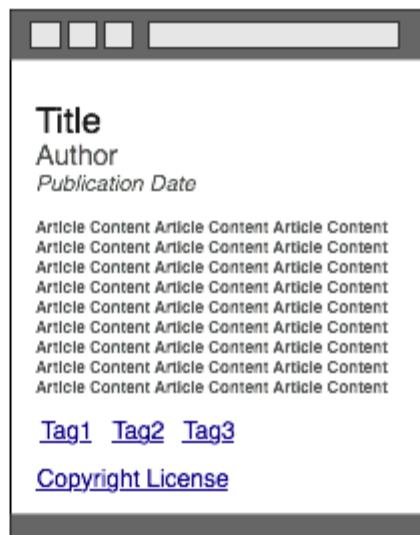
(could be Your Data as well..)

- Complete: All Public data is made available online.
- Primary: Public data is as collected at the source.
- Timely: Public data is made available asap.
- Accessible: Public data is available to all.
- Machine readable: Public data allow automated processing, [several levels](#).
- Non-discriminatory: Public data is available to anyone, no registration.
- Non-proprietary: Public data is encoded using Open Standards.
- License-free: Public Data is available at no cost.

See [original OGD document](#).

Semantic Technologies

- Example: reducing the cost of road excavations
- [Geographic Referencing Framework](#)
- ...many more SWEO cases



Making Standards at W3C

- Open and transparent process to form consensus
<http://www.w3.org/Consortium/Process/>
- Responsive to the public
- Transparent patent policy <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/05-patentsummary.html> that protects IPRs and promotes proliferation of standards
- Free results (might be essential for their success!) - find all of them here: <http://www.w3.org/TR/> (and use and implement!)

Inclusiveness is the rule.

W3C Eating its own dog food!

W3C works with thousands of engineers using the Web and the Internet as a platform.

- Emails, open archives (e.g. [HTML5 WG](#) today)
- Web sites under w3.org (public, member, team)
- Web 2.0 applications (action item, issues tracker, [web survey](#))
- Web DB tools (to manage group participants)
- Instant Message (IRC) + bots for teleconferencing
- VOIP, slides in HTML/CSS, etc.

Many using Semantic Web technologies on the server, and accessible to participants with disabilities.

Like IETF, our process is one of our specification (bootstrap principle)

Some simple rules - great impact

- everything is on the web, starting with a solid process/bible,
 - *paperless*
 - *history - archiving and versioning*

be your own usecase

- conform to open ICT standards + many open source tools are available
- document your communication - use mailinglists and logged chat
- be open to new applications of standards : RSS, Wiki, SemWeb, etc.
- go public - listen to the public - respond to the public, microblog

Some of our tools

- ☐ Meetings tools (either face to face or - mostly - on phone) see:
<http://www.w3.org/2004/12/wg-tools>
 - *logged IRC (RFC1459 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1459.txt>) for minuting*
 - *Semantic Web based tool "Zakim" meeting and phonebridge management <http://www.w3.org/2001/12/zakim-irc-bot.html>*
 - *an "RRSAgent" bot to draft meeting minutes <http://www.w3.org/2002/03/RRSAgent>*
 - *action tracking, Issue tracking*
 - *good teleconference facilities*
- ☐ Other communication tools
 - *public and members only mailing list (100s) <http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/>*
 - *wikis <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>*
 - *blogs <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog>*
 - *IRC (RFC1459 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1459.txt>) for instant messaging*
 - *action tracking <http://www.w3.org/2005/06/tracker/> , issue tracking ... <http://esw.w3.org/topic/TrackingIssues>*
 - *WBS: Web-Based Straw-poll and balloting system <http://www.w3.org/2002/09/wbs/1/>*

Summary

- Put everything on the Web, with a URL, and tracking will be trivial
- Use Open Internet and Web Standards that are proven to work
- Practice inclusiveness in a flat world (a shared file space with fine acl)

- Minute/record all discussions/decisions, with easy searchable archives
- Use independent facilitating tools like irc/zakim/tracker/rss/etc.,
- Never ignore the minority

Technology makes life easier, a staff of experts is a plus !