

GISB FTTF
April 19 - 20, 1999
El Paso Energy, Houston, TX

Call To Order

Susan Croley, Chairperson of the Future Technology Task Force (FTTF), called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM, on April 19, 1999 at El Paso Energy offices in Houston.

Antitrust

Susan Croley reiterated the GISB antitrust statement.

Minutes

Mike Shahan, from CNG, volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting.

Introductions

The participants in the room introduced themselves. See attached attendance list.

Agenda

With no objections, the printed agenda was adopted.

Updates From Related Bodies

Susan gave a brief update of what is happening with other standard making bodies and efforts to align them with GISB (agenda item #6), including:

- the PGP/RSA issues with the PA group
- IETF will be meeting in Dallas on May 3, 4

Minimum Versions for EDM (for July publication)

Current recommendations are from 9-16-98. There was discussion as to when any changes would take affect since some people may have already made purchases versus some current configurations which cannot be purchased today.

A motion was made and seconded to raise the CPU speed from 166 to 300 MHz. Motion passed (5 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions).

A motion was made and seconded to raise the display resolution from 800 x 600 to 1024 x 768. Motion failed (2 for, 6 against, 1 abstention).

A motion was made and seconded to raise the minimum display resolution to 1024 x 768 in June, 2000 and this be footnoted in the current standard. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to leave the minimum memory requirement at 64 MB with a footnote to recommend more memory for users who want to have multiple applications or EBBs open simultaneously. Motion passed (8 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).

Discussions were held concerning browser characteristics and version levels. It was noted that browser versions have had several upgrades and JDK 1.1.6 does not support SSL. There are currently 2 ways to provide SSL (40 bit RSA) with JDK 1.1.6. 1) purchase and provide a class library from a 3rd party with the plug-in (this must be licensed for distribution) or 2) provide SWING components to the client - this would mean that SSL would be at the mercy of the browser vendor and any subsequent releases.

A motion was made and seconded to change the implementation guide to remove references to SSL and replace it with 40-bit encryption to be consistent with the standard. Motion passed (7 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).

A motion was made and seconded to leave the JDK version at 1.1.6 for now but reviewed for movement to a higher release, by June 1, 2000. Motion passed (5 for, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions).

A motion was made and seconded to move the browser levels to Netscape v4.51 and Internet Explorer v5.0 (pending testing). Motion passed (6 for, 1 against, 2 abstention). Testing will be done at these browser levels by various TSPs and users (Duke, ECT, Enron), and if problems are found, FTTF will revisit this decision (via teleconference within a few weeks).

Some questions were raised about ActiveX and its support under Netscape. Susan will check with Altra about the use of ActiveX.

	Current	Change
Hardware		
CPU	166 MHz	300 MHz
Memory	64 MB	no change
Display resolution	800 x 600	no change 1024 x 768 in 6/2000
Operating System		no change
Connection	56 KB	no change
Browser Characteristics		
Netscape	v4.06	v4.51
Internet Explorer	v4.0 sp1	v5.0
JDK	1.1.6	no change reviewed for a higher level by June 1, 2000

Corresponding changes need to be made on the Example's page. Windows NT 4.0 needs to go to service pack 4 to be Y2K compliant.

There were no other recommended changes.

XML

Andy gave an update on XML. It appears that XML is moving forward and GISB should continue to monitor this technology. FTTF needs to become more familiar with XML and it's potential use and impact on us. Richard Hamilton will try to recruit some experts on XML to provide us more information.

PGP/RSA

Susan gave a brief summary of the issues with RSA and PGP and a recap of discussions and teleconferences. There are no known issues to monitor here.

Updates From Related Standards Bodies

Susan referred to her earlier comments.

General Discussions

The group discussed the best way to address completing updates to the implementation guide. Everyone seems to be extremely busy with development and implementation and working on these guides is not a high priority. It was suggested that working meetings may be the best way to work on the guides.

Footnotes

Display Resolution - The minimum display resolution will be raised to 1024 x 768 in June, 2000.

Memory - Users who want to have multiple applications or EBBs open simultaneously should consider more memory.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the above footnotes. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Recessed

The FTTF meeting was recessed for the day to restart tomorrow morning at 9:00 AM.

Meeting Reconvenes

The FTTF meeting reconvened at 9:10 on Tuesday, April 20, 1999.

Minutes from January Meeting Approved

We reviewed the January minutes with faxed changes from Steve Hinton.

- A quote was changed to "After uploading the flat file, pipelines should be able to provide the response on their EBB."
- Another quote was corrected to read "FF flow could be bi-directional."
- Steve's name was removed from a quote.
- Another quote was corrected to read "... the fact that the notice was indeed sent by to the shipper..."

The January minutes were approved with the above changes.

Digital Signature

Terry Lehn reported that he has researched both Netscape and Microsoft. Netscape is still unsupported and Microsoft at least mentions it now. Microsoft implies that more standards need to be set (x.509). Terry believes it will be at least another year until digital signatures on forms is available.

Netscape 4.51 and Enron

Terry Lehn reported that Enron's Java Script problem is apparently not fixed in v4.51.

Election of FTTF Chair

Mike Shahan was nominated and elected as Chairman of FTTF to be effective after this meeting concludes. The group acknowledged Susan Croley for a fine job as Chairperson during the past two years.

Review of Draft Implementation Guide for Batch EDM

NOTES: All guides must be to EC for approval in order to get in this year's publications. Susan-Information Postings, Richard-Batch EDM, Terry-Interactive FF, and John-EBB are working on the drafts. We would like all the drafts for review in two weeks and will be discussed via a the teleconference on browser minimum versions. (Call Rae and check on timing for approval and inclusion in 1999 publications).

Richard Hamilton reviewed his draft document for batch EDM and noted several suggested changes from the group. The 'related standards', and the 'flow diagram' sections are still incomplete. The group drafted a flow diagram to be included in the document. The group also reviewed previous minutes and the memo to the EII which identified related standards.

Sending a batch EDM

1. OPEN HTTP connection
2. Check connection
3. Post
 - i. Authentication * footnote encoding of password
 - ii. Send multi-part form
4. Wait for close (from other side)
5. Close connection
6. Check HTTP status code (200 is good)

7. Parse response
8. Log results
9. Take care of file

Receiving a batch EDM

1. Parse multi-part form
2. Validate fields
 - i. To, From, Input-form, Input-data, Trans-set
3. Save data
4. Create Time Stamp
5. Return HTTP Response Back to Server
 - i. Transaction ID, Time Stamp, Server, Status
6. Check status from TCP
7. Close connection
8. Log
9. Route file to next process based upon input format

Flat File EDM Guide

The group reviewed Terry Lehn's draft on Flat File EDM.

Correction to S53

It was noted that S53 from the EII document still references SSL. Mike Shahan will bring this correction to the next EC meeting (should just reference 'or equivalent encryption').

SUSAN CROLEY IS TO COMPLETE THE MINUTES FROM THIS POINT!

Attendance List

				4/19	4/20
Mike Shahan	CNG	(304) 623-8523	MShahan@cngt.cng.com	x	x
Terry Lehn	EDS	(713) 853-7178	tlehr@enron.com	x	x
Susan Croley	Texas Eastern	(713) 627-6021	spcroley@duke-energy.com	x	x
Steve Hinton	Transcapacity	(978) 535-7500		x	x
G. W. Fortney	Tennessee Gas	(713) 420-2292	FortneyB@epenergy.com	x	x
Andy Sicignano	ECT	(713) 853-3142	asicign@ect.enron.com	x	x
Richard Hamilton	Williams	(918) 573-4329	RHamilton@wis.twc.com	x	x
Michael Bencal	Dynegy	(713) 506-3635	mgbe@dynegy.com	x	x
Joe Kardas	National Fuel	(716) 857-7984	KARDASJ@natfuel.com	x	x