

# **GAS INDUSTRY STANDARDS BOARD FUTURE TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE MEETING**

**May 23, 2000 – 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The details for the May 23, 2000 Future Technology Task Force meeting are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2000  
Location: CMS, Houston, TX  
Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Central

Agenda for the meeting is:

- Administrative
- Antitrust Guidelines
- Adoption of Agenda
  - Add election of 2000 Chairman to end of Agenda
  - Adopted unanimously
- Approval of Minutes from the 3/21/2000 Meeting
  - Page numbers reflected in meeting minutes under Review of Minimums in Standards are not necessarily correct due to differences between .pdf and other formats. However, the sections referenced are correct.
  - On the attachment to the minutes, Examples of User Workstations, reference is made to effective date. If new recommendations are adopted, dates should be updated to reflect the change.
  - List of Attendees: Andy's name has an additional unnecessary "a"; s/b Sicignano
  - Adopted unanimously
- Discussion of SSL and encryption (carryover from previous meeting)
  - Discussion revolved around the reasoning for limitation to 40 bit encryption. Consensus is that the reason was due to Government limitations on encryption technologies.
    - Group would like to know the FACTS concerning the current status of government limitations.
    - Group will check with EC members and vendors to see if anyone has a definitive answer.
    - Question was posed that even though the law may have changed, have our requirements of our business changed?
    - Consensus : "It ain't broke; don't fix it"
  - Authentication
    - Certificates vs Basic Authentication
    - Perhaps Certificates could be an option for workstations attaching to websites.
- Discussion and Development of Interoperability Survey
  - Should GISB consider an objective third party?
    - May increase response
  - Research existing Groups that may have already produced a "user survey"

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- Kim will check with API
- What is the purpose of the Survey?
  - Identify gaps
    - between Server and Client
    - between recommended min and reality
  - Training?
  - Identify opportunities for improvements
    - Formatting
    - Technologies
  - Determine how close are we to “upgrade” time
    - Minimum Technical Requirements
    - Versioning
  - Current vs planned
  - The purpose of the Interoperability Survey is to assist the FTTF in the annual review of Minimum Technical Characteristics in Appendix C (pursuant to GISB Standard 4.3.59) & appendix D of the GISB EDM Related Standards manual.
- Who will conduct the Survey?
  - FTTF will develop
  - GISB will distribute
    - GISB may want to consider requesting other industry groups to distribute the Survey as well
      - NGS
      - INGA
      - NEMA
      - AGA
      - IPAA
- Who is the consumer of the Survey?
  - FTTF originated the Survey through discussions concerning popular use of hardware/software
  - FTTF is the producer of the Survey
  - EC & the Board requested the Survey
  - Determine impact of the results of the Survey
- Who will receive Survey?
  - At a minimum, GISB members
  - Additionally, current non-member participants
  - Additional respondents?
    - Post on GISB site for open response
      - Blanks for segment & company type
  - Who is the audience?
    - (individual or Company profile)
    - How will respondents respond?
      - Response should be centralized.
      - Instructions should be developed
      - Anonymous? YES
        - Filter results to exclude any specific references to companies and/or individuals
        - Should this issue be returned to EC for determination? YES
      - By Segment? By Company? By User type? Current Company Profile or Planned Company Profile
        - Design to send one per company (vs individual clients) some questions may require multiple answers

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- Review of Mike Shahan's strawman
  - This is the strawman for Client information
  - Mike will provide consensus version of his strawman
    - Sense of room concurred: Mike will post changes and convene a conference call if any changes are made.
- Should there be a section covering issues?
  - Many attendees say yes.
- Server Side
  - Plugins
  - Proxy Servers
  - Readers (
  - Chat Software
    - Net Meeting
    - Instant Messenger
  - Authentication

- Review of XML Taskforce (if an involved party is present)

NOTE: Interested parties should send recommendations for survey issues and/or questions, in the form of work paper(s), to the GISB office for posting by May 19, 2000

- The XML Subcommittee is preparing a draft document to be presented to EC concerning what, if anything, should be done with regard to XML and why. Pros and cons will be presented.
- Election of 2000 Chairperson
  - Mike Shahan will be willing to serve another year if he can get a co-chair.
  - Vote was taken: Mike Shahan will be chairperson for 2000. Mike Stendar will check with his management to see if he can co-chair. Pete Whatley will do likewise.
- Agenda and Date of Next Meeting
  - Mike Shahan will check with GISB to reserve time for a conference call in June and post the results. June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> seem to be available; will attempt to reserve.
  - Server Side Survey on next agenda.
  - Next meeting: potentially middle of July; will discuss on conference call.
- Adjourn