

**Gas Industry Standards Board
Future Technology Task Force
Duke Energy, Houston, Texas
November 13, 1998
Draft Minutes**

Susan Croley stated the anti-trust guidelines.
Agenda was approved unanimously.
Andy Siciganano volunteered to take minutes.

Attendees:

Susan Croley: Panhandle Eastern PipeLine Company
Richard Hamilton: Williams
Andy Sicignano: Enron Capital and Trade Resources
John Tsucalas: EDS
Steve Hinton: Transcapacity
Chris Phillips: Columbia Gas Transmission
Chetan Shah: Proxicom

Minutes from Oct. 19, Oct. 20: decided to defer approval, since we didn't have the latest version to review.

Outcome of FTTF recommendations made to EII on Nov. 2:

All of FTTF's recommendations to EII were approved, with minor revisions.
We had a discussion of the scope of flat file implementation, including definitions of interactive and batch FF/EDM.

Pilot Project Status:

Andy: Tested ET&S JavaScript site. No problems running under Netscape 4.06 using SSL and IE 4.0
Tested Duke Java site > No problems with IE 4.0, although JAR file takes a long time to load. Could not access this site with Netscape 4.03, 4.04, 4.06, 4.5 because Java applet would not load.
Steve has been set up with required login/passwords but has not begun any testing.

Not tested:

- ICA
- Java thoroughly (RMI),
- ActiveX
- Stylesheets

General consensus that we are not very far along in process, and may not be able to provide much guidance to TSP's in their tool selection and implementation. The problem is that a site that uses a particular tool may not work well with both browsers but it could be a poor implementation, not a problem with the tool.

John demo'd site which uses ActiveX under IE, and Java under Netscape. Although site is fully functional with both browsers, initialization was almost instantaneous under IE, but took 4 minutes to come up under Netscape. Is this acceptable? Does FTTF need to say that sites running under both browsers need not only have equivalent functionality, but also offer equivalent performance? It will be difficult for FTTF to make recommendations because if a site only works with one browser, the problem may not be with the tool with which it was developed, but with a faulty implementation. There was some question about whether GISB standards and Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) Related Standards manual make clear that sites need to work equivalently with both commonly available browsers vs. working with one or the other browser.

Addition to implementation guidelines (to be inserted right after browser characteristics):

Any implemented browser feature should be compatible and usable on all browsers and versions indicated in the Appendix Minimal *Technical Characteristics of the Client Workstation*. In the previous statement, 'compatible and usable' means that the feature is reasonably functional in all browser implementations. For example, a scripting function that is only supported in one browser implementation would not be acceptable.

In Minimal Technical Characteristics of the Client Workstation: make following change:

In section with: Features as supported by both... insert 'and partially supported' by both Navigator and Netscape.

Steve moved to accept changes, seconded by Richard. Passed unanimously.

Segment Check:

	Yes	No
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End Users	0	0
LDCs	0	0
Producers	0	0
Services	4	0
Pipelines	2	0

Implementation Guidelines for FF/EDM:

Originally, the EDM Related Standards manual referred to only EDI/EDM. It will now also have to cover Informational Postings, EBB/EDM and FF/EDM. Further, FF/EDM will need to address interactive and batch modes. Need to have a tab for each of these topics in the EDM Related Standards manual, preceded by an introduction which explains how each of the EDM methods relate to one another. This introduction should include a diagram to elucidate the processes. Perhaps there should be a high-level diagram, followed by detailed diagrams of each of the modalities.

Nomination Related Standards Implementation Guide Outline:

Introduction

Executive Summary

- Industry overview
- Related processes

Business Process and Practices

- Brief overview of process (high level overview)
- Data flow diagram
- Principles
- Definitions
- Standards

Related Standards

- Overlapping GISB standards
- Other standards bodies

Specification

- Scenario
- Paper transaction
- Layout/format
- Data Dictionary

Appendix

Current EDM Related Standards manual outline:

Introduction

Executive Summary

Business Processes and Practices

Related Standards

Technical Implementation – Internet EDM/EDI

- Sending and receiving file transactions

Technical Implementation – Informational Postings

The problem is that information in the EDM Related Standards manual is hard to find, so it should be reorganized. For next edition, we need to have an introduction and executive summary for the whole process, then a breakout of topics as above for EBB/EDM, EDI/EDM, and Informational Postings, with perhaps FF/EDM split between EBB/EDM and EDI/EDM for interactive and batch FF/EDM respectively.

Proposed EDM Related Standards manual outline:

Introduction

- Purpose of EDM
- Flow diagram(s)

Executive Summary

Informational Postings Web Site

- Introduction
 - Industry Goal/Purpose
 - Outline of arrangement
 - Related processes
- Processes and practices
- Related standards
- Specification
 - Layout
 - Format

- Example
- Data dictionary
- Appendix
- Reference Guide

EBB/EDM (including interactive FF/EDM)

- Introduction
 - Industry Goal/Purpose
 - Outline of arrangement
 - Related processes
- Processes and practices
- Related standards
- Specification
 - Layout
 - Format
 - Example
 - Data dictionary
- Appendix

Reference Guide

EDI/EDM (including batch FF/EDM)

- Introduction
 - Industry Goal/Purpose
 - Outline of arrangement
 - Related processes
- Processes and practices
- Related standards
- Specification
 - Layout
 - Format
 - Example
 - Data dictionary
- Appendix

Reference Guide

Related Standards

Appendix (includes Flat File format specification)

Assignments:

Susan: Informational Postings

Terry: Flat File

John: EBB/EDM

Steve, Richard: EDI/EDM

The above people are editors of the assigned sections and are responsible for the creation of a strawman for the restructured EDM Related Standards manual due at the next FTTF meeting.

FTTF will probably be responsible all of the sections in the EDM Related Standards manual with the exception of the Appendix which will describe the flat file specification.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.