
MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs of the EBB Internet Implementation Task Force - Carl Caldwell, Mike Novak, Tammy Hopkins, Dona Gussow, Paul Keeler

FROM: Susan Croley, Chair of the Future Technology Task Force

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EBB INTERNET IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE**

DATE: October 28, 1998

CC: Rae McQuade, Mike Bray, Jerry Hahn

Covered in the attached document, are the drafted definitions and standards for Flat File/EDM proposed by the Future Technology Task Force (FTTF). FTTF will present a brief report on their recommendations to EII at the November 2-4, 1998 meeting in Houston, Texas.

**Discussion on Flat File/EDM
from the Future Technology Task Force
to the EBB Internet Implementation Task Force**

During the course of the Future Technology Task Force meeting held October 19-20, we discussed the various models of Flat File/EDM that could be used. There were two very distinct categories that have cropped up in our discussion. The first, which will be referred to as "Batch Flat File/EDM" is automated in nature where the actual upload of a flat file occurs by use of a program or batch browser and the receipt of the response is expedited by the use of a Web CGI program waiting for incoming files. The technical architecture required to implement "Batch Flat File/EDM" is almost identical to that used for EDI/EDM. The second, or "Interactive Flat File/EDM" is conducted by the customer using an interactive browser to upload his/her file to the service provider Web site and should receive an initial HTTP acknowledgment of receipt immediately with a more complete response/confirmation of the success of the submission made available at a later point. The "Interactive Flat File/EDM" does not require a customer to maintain Web server capability, on-site or through an ISP-supported Web server.

Although the representatives from segments other than the pipeline segment seemed to indicate the preference for "Interactive Flat File/EDM", we felt that we did not have enough representation from customer segments or pipeline business personnel present at the meeting to formulate any conclusions about the elimination of one or the other. Hence, we made the decision to proceed with the drafting of definitions and standards for each. We simply felt that those decisions relating to which model would actually be utilized by customers should be made in the EBB Internet Implementation Task Force.

As a result of our discussion and review of prior EII definitions, we recommend modifying the EII definition of Flat File/ Electronic Delivery Mechanisms (FF/EDM). What was troubling to us was the use of the words "Computer to Computer" since this implies the batch model. It was moved to take those words out. **Voted:** For: 10 Against: 1. Moved to add "for GISB FF/EDM" at the end; **Voted:** For 11 , Against , 0, Abstention: 1. Further refinement of the definition of FF/EDM for the two models are proposed as follows:

Definitions(2):

For GISB FF/EDM, "Batch Flat File" is the term used to describe the automated computer to computer transfer of flat files.

For GISB FF/EDM, "Interactive Flat File" is the term used to describe the transfer of flat files using an interactive browser.

Passed unanimously: For 12, Against 0.

**Proposed Definitions/Standards from the Future Technology Task Force
to the EBB Internet Implementation Task Force
on
Flat File/EDM**

Interactive Flat File EDM

Security

Standard(s):

For Interactive Flat File EDM, 40-bit Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption should be used. Where possible, 128-bit SSL encryption is strongly recommended.

Passed unanimously: 10 present, 2 on phone

For Interactive Flat File EDM, access should be protected by HTTP Basic Authentication.

Passed unanimously: 10 present, 2 on phone

In the course of our review of potential conflicts with existing EII standards on security with what we would consider for Interactive Flat File EDM, we recommend that EII Standard S34 be changed to remove the words “using 40-bit encryption”.

Passed unanimously: 10 present, 2 on phone

Internet Protocol(s)

Note to EII:

No new proposed standards for Interactive Flat File EDM on internet protocols. However, we have identified an existing GISB EDM standard under which both Interactive and Batch Flat File EDM and all other EDM would be included. This EDM standard is 4.3.8 in the GISB Business Practice Standards. Specific implementation guidelines for Interactive Flat File EDM should be developed by FTTF to be included in the Electronic Delivery Mechanism Related Standards manual if there is further direction from EII to pursue this.

Other

Standard:

For Interactive Flat File uploads, one or more hyperlinks should be provided that allow the sender to determine the status of received transmissions and transactions.

Passed unanimously: 10 present, 2 on phone

**Proposed Definitions/Standards from the Future Technology Task Force
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Flat File/EDM**

Batch Flat File EDM

Note to EII:

No new proposed standards for Batch Flat File EDM. However, we have identified existing GISB EDM standards under which Batch Flat File EDM would be included. Specific implementation guidelines very similar to that for EDI/EDM should be developed by FTTF to be included in the Electronic Delivery Mechanism Related Standards manual if there is further direction from EII for FTTF to pursue this.

The existing GISB EDM standard on security that covers Batch Flat File EDM is 4.3.15.

The existing GISB EDM standards on the Internet protocol recommended for Batch Flat File EDM are 4.3.8 and 4.3.11.

Because the implementation is so similar to that of EDI/EDM, existing EDM standards that will apply to Batch Flat File EDM in areas related to the URL, timestamping, and units of work are as follows:

URL

4.3.7

4.3.12

Timestamping in the Response

4.3.2

4.3.3

4.3.9

4.3.10

Units of Work

4.3.13

4.3.14

Passed unanimously: 10 present, 2 on phone

**Proposed Definitions/Standards from the Future Technology Task Force
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Flat File/EDM**

General Notes on Existing Standards

Needed corrections to existing EDM standards were identified as a by-product of our review of these standards:

Correct standard 4.3.8 to insert the word “be” before the word “HTTP” in the first sentence. Correct standard 4.3.2 to replace the word “designed” with “designated”.

Also, FTTF recommends that the EDM standard 4.3.9 be modified to lead with “For EDI/EDM and FF/EDM, ...”.

Passed unanimously: 10 present, 2 on phone