

October 6, 1997

To: Internet Look & Feel Task Force

From: Sylvia Munson, Altra Energy Technologies

Re: Proposed standards for resolution of GISB Board directive

In the Task Force meeting on August 27, there appeared to be two distinct types of solutions to the Internet Look & Feel problem. The first is to determine standards where all Web sites will be of the same format, accessible by the same software, utilize the same colors and layout. The second is to determine a set of standards that will make downloadable data accessible in a common manner to all users. This proposal addresses the second type of solution. The issue of presentation and color becomes a secondary issue once this, the accessibility issue, is resolved.

Whether the user of a data provider's system is a fledgling marketer working in the proverbial garage or a sophisticated user with automated systems, all GISB standard downloadable data should be retrievable without mystery or a lot of hide-and-go-seek. GISB should adopt a common URL structure composed of the ID of the data provider, as a prefix, followed by a GISB constant qualifier and a GISB defined suffix. In the format of:

/id/GISB/suffix

for example: */www.yourid.com/GISB/tariff*
/www.pipeline.com/GISB/tariff
/www.serviceprovider.com/pipename/GISB/tariff
/www.bigcompany.com/subcompany/little division/GISB/tariff

these are examples of the composite URL for tariffs where the id is represented by the italics

With this data structure a single user could access the list of GISB standard Ids and the list of GISB standard suffixes and retrieve any GISB standard data that they desired. If a sophisticated user wanted to build a jazzy interface to automatically retrieve the same data, that would be achievable with this same structure.

The following standards achieve that ability. We would propose that the task force or their assignees work to identify the suffix structure for all documents currently identified in 4.3.6 and all additional documents that need standard addressing would be requested through the standard GISB request process.

Standard 4.3.x

All parties with GISB standard downloadable documents on their Web site should provide GISB with the URL-ID of that site.

Standard 4.3.x

GISB should make available, on its home page, a downloadable document of all GISB member site URL-IDs. This document should be in HTML or RTF format. This document should be updated by GISB, at a minimum, once per month on a designated date and that update should contain all addresses that are provided to GISB, for dues current members, one or more weeks prior to the designated update date.

Standard 4.3.x

As documents are identified as GISB standard downloadable documents, including but not limited to those identified in Standard 4.3.6, those documents should be assigned an standard URL-suffix format.

Standard 4.3.x

GISB should make available on its homepage a downloadable document of all standard URL-suffix formats as they are adopted. This document should be in HTML or RTF format. This document should be updated by GISB on an 'as needed' basis, but at a minimum within two weeks of adoption and ratification of a new or modified URL-suffix format.

Definition 4.2.x

A URL-ID is that part of a company's web site address that is designated as the prefix to the addressing structure for access to GISB standard downloadable documents.

Definition 4.2.x

A URL-suffix is a GISB assigned suffix to identify the location on a company's web site where a standardized downloadable document may be retrieved.

As a starting point, below is a proposed addressing suffix format for the documents identified in standard 4.3.6:

1 Notices

//ID/GISB/notices/critical
//ID/GISB /notices/operation
//ID/GISB /notices/other

only notices currently in effect would be retrieved with this address

should there be a mechanism to retrieve historic notices? They are already retrievable via the capacity release order 563.

- 2 Affiliated Marketer
 - //ID/GISB /affiliate/alloclog/CCYYMMDD or CCYYMM*
 - //ID/GISB /affiliate/24h4disc*
 - //ID/GISB /affiliate/other*

- 3 Operationally available and unsubscribed capacity
 - //ID/GISB /oau/operational*
 - //ID/GISB /oau/unsubscribed*

- 4 Index of customers
 - //ID/GISB /cust_index*

- 5 Tariff
 - //ID/GISB /tariff*
 - //ID/GISB /tariff/rates*
 - //ID/GISB /tariff/general_terms*