



CA/B Forum 2022-2024

Plans - Strategy - Tasks



Issues with Bylaws - Charters

- Review and alignment of WG Charters
 - Divergence between Bylaws CWG template and other WGs (Elections, officers, **quorum**)
 - How Membership is managed and how Members are removed
 - Clarify which parts of a CWG charter is allowed to deviate from the Bylaws
- Ambiguity for where to send/post CWG meetings
 - We should clarify that CWG meeting minutes must be sent to the CWG public list AND the public web site
- All Forum/CWG elections should be handled at the Forum level
 - Need consistency, practicality for the election and voting procedure of new officers
- Update “Associate Member” categories in Bylaws/Charters:
 - Certificate Issuer (probational state)
 - WebTrust/ETSI/ACAB-c/FPKI (more “permanent” state)
 - Perhaps call it “Probational Certificate Issuer” category (open to other category name ideas)
 - 1 year duration, renewable
 - Explicitly call out privileges (e.g. attend teleconferences and F2F meetings, post to mailing lists, access to wiki, private mailing list)



Issues with Bylaws - Charters

- Consolidate Root Certificate Issuer and Certificate Issuer
 - They are effectively the same
 - Same Membership requirements, no different treatment in the Bylaws/Charters
 - Maintaining two titles only creates administrative overhead
- Resolve the “third-party” website requirement for SCWG Charter
 - Either justify the need to be a “third-party” site for SCWG or remove
 - If the decision is to keep, possibly extend to other CWG Charters (Code Signing, S/MIME)
- Remove the need to “READ” the antitrust statement before each meeting
 - Most promising proposal is to incorporate the antitrust statement by reference, along with the Code of Conduct and IPR policy, as handled at other standards bodies
 - Each meeting could begin with: *“All participants are reminded that they must comply with the CA/Browser Forum anti-trust policy, code of conduct, and intellectual property rights agreement. Please contact the chair with any comments or concerns about these policies”.*



Issues with Bylaws - Charters

- Check for consistency of provisions between Forum Meetings and Forum Teleconference
 - Forum Meetings were supposed to be the F2F meetings
 - Forum Teleconferences were supposed to be the remote teleconferences



Tasks for Infrastructure SC

- Minutes
 - Currently all CWG/Forum-level meeting minutes are listed in a [single page](#)
 - Suggest using “tags” that can help separation. The most obvious tags are “CWG name”, “Forum”, but we could also add whether these are for a “teleconference” or a “F2F meeting”
- Workflows for new ballots via member tools and/or GitHub issue forms and pull requests
- Allow only CABF Members to contribute to GitHub (issues or PRs)
 - Create a disclaimer that one must be a CABF Member otherwise issue will be closed and comment ignored
 - If we manage to limit access-control, if a CABF Member wants to contribute, send their GitHub account to the Infrastructure SC (or WG Chair/Vice-Chair) and permissions will be granted



Define specific release cycles for Guidelines

- Current issues
 - Administrative burden for officers
 - CAs may need to implement changes outside their regular development cycles
 - Auditors are often not prepared or **do not have defined audit criteria** to assess new requirements
 - Alignment with other SDOs (ETSI/WebTrust) is very challenging
 - Auditors are confused and have no uniform guidance for resolving conflicts caused by different versions of CABF/ETSI/WT during an audit period
- Proposal:
 - Ballots and IP Review continues as-is
 - New Guidelines to be released twice a year (**March 15, September 15**) by incorporating all Ballots with cleared IPR. Allow CWGs to pick different dates if we really need that.
 - **Emergency Guidelines would be released bypassing the 6-month limit.** Decision about whether a Ballot is declared an “Emergency Maintenance Guideline” could be done by a separate Ballot with a strict 7 days discussion and 7 days voting period



Control Matrix for Guidelines (future)

- Multiple Baseline Requirements
- Overlapping requirements
- Most requirements meaningfully the same and just replace e.g. TLS with S/MIME or CodeSigning
- Add requirement identifiers and be able to extract these in a spreadsheet
- This assists CAs and auditors which will have a clean checklist of requirements that need to be followed and what controls mitigate/satisfy each requirement
- This is **especially useful** for CAs that issue **multiple certificate types** and try to align operations and controls