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