

May 15, 2018

Attendees:

John Wack
John Dziurlaj
Katy Owens Hubler
Lauren Massa-Lochridge
Herb Deutsch
Kim Brace
Ericka Haas
Jared Marcotte
Jim Halter
John McCarthy
Judson Neer
Josh Franklin
Neal McBurnett
Lynn Garland
Ian Piper

Status Updates:

- VVSG Requirements Development
 - Working with Center for Civic Design to go through draft requirements and rewrite in plain language, more understandable.
 - They have a higher-level view of all requirements, which has been helpful. There is a working draft of requirements available on the Twiki.
- VRI CDF – John Dziurlaj
 - Group mapped a path forward for VRI work – use cases for lookup transactions and absentee ballot requests.
 - Changes to model are complete – new JSON and XML schema available.
- Ballot Definition – John Dziurlaj
 - The differences from ENR spec are very small, have decided to add them to the new version of ENR specification and discontinue ballot definition as a separate model/schema.
- Election Modeling – John Dziurlaj
 - Helping with the more difficult terms/definitions in the glossary that need a rigorous once-over to build good, concrete, unambiguous definitions.
 - Going to a third-party graphic design studio to build visualizations to bring the work to life. Hope to have something to share in the next month.
- Voting Methods Group – Lauren Lochridge
 - There is a roadmap available in the Twiki and GitHub.
 - Set of 19 tabulation process flows – diagrams and descriptions of steps.
 - Group was focused mainly on RCV for some time, focus now is on other voting methods.
- Cast Vote Record specification – John Wack
 - Is complete and ready for internal NIST review prior to publication.
 - Is available on GitHub, could use help/feedback on CVR examples in the specification.

- Cast vote records and supporting audits – Lynn Garland
 - Audits of statewide races require the ability to collect and exchange data, so interoperability is key.
 - Where to put information on ambiguous marks, etc. and also information that happens after the audit, like how something was adjudicated.
 - Neal: things that could be split out:
 - A CVR might be the record of how the vote was cast in the original system, or it might be the record of how the audit board interpreted a piece of paper. We should be flexible in how to represent that – either by human auditors or a system.
 - Worthwhile to discuss further – John Wack will schedule a telecon to discuss this.
- Glossary – Katy Owens Hubler
 - The latest version of the glossary is available on the Twiki (in a Word document). Please review and send comments to John Wack or Katy Owens Hubler.

Discussion:

- Barcodes and applicability to common data format. Would it be helpful to have CDF for this?
 - Clarify what the data elements are - candidate selections on a ballot? Yes.
 - What is driving the common data format for this?
 - VVSG requirements 1-A.2 requires data encodings such as bar and QR codes standards, publicly-available and document protocols for exchanging or encoding data. Some feeling that this isn't enough.
 - In order to have transparency of how votes are counted, needs to have transparency in what the code is used for. Privacy and transparency issues.
 - Is there a worry that CDF would stifle future innovations? Worry that it would be somewhat limiting.
 - Would requiring a vendor to produce an export of the codebook enough? Test labs would need to know this.
 - We're trying to move to evidence-based elections so it needs to provide transparency to voters to do that interpretation. It would need to be shared in a way that the public can understand – what the information printed on the ballot that they're supposed to be verifying is actually saying?
 - There would need to be a standardization of how codebook information would be available.

Next Steps:

- John Wack will have conversation with Lynn Garland about what is needed for CVR applicability to audits.
- Continue conversation on barcodes via email.
- Examine VSAP's use of barcodes.