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PWG Standards Development Process v3.0



The Printer Working Group

The Printer Working Group

Definition of the Standards Development Process

Version 3.0

Status: Stable

Abstract: This document defines the standards development process that guides and controls the work of the Printer Working Group, an organization developing open standards for the Print, Imaging, Multifunction Device, and related service industries. This document organizes the flow of standards creation from Brainstorming, Requirements gathering and Charter definition through Working Drafts, Candidate Standards and Standards. Herein are the guidelines for conducting Last Call, assuring interoperability and establishing levels of Formal Approval. This document defines PWG policy and process and does not define an industry standard.

This document is available electronically at:

<ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/general/pwg-process-30.pdf>

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Title: The Printer Working Group Definition of the Standards Development Process

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The IEEE-ISTO is a not-for-profit corporation offering industry groups an innovative and flexible operational forum and support services. The IEEE Industry Standards and Technology Organization member organizations include printer manufacturers, print server developers, operating system providers, network operating systems providers, network connectivity vendors, and print management application developers. The IEEE-ISTO provides a forum not only to develop standards, but also to facilitate activities that support the implementation and acceptance of standards in the marketplace. The organization is affiliated with the IEEE (<http://www.ieee.org>) and the IEEE Standards Association (<http://standards.ieee.org>). For additional information regarding the IEEE-ISTO and its industry programs visit: <http://www.ieee-isto.org>.

About the Printer Working Group

The Printer Working Group (or PWG) is a Program of the IEEE-ISTO. All references to the PWG in this document implicitly mean “The Printer Working Group, a Program of the IEEE ISTO.” The PWG is chartered to make printers and the applications and operating systems supporting them work together better. In order to meet this objective, the PWG will document the results of their work as open standards that define print related protocols, interfaces, data models, procedures and conventions. Printer manufacturers and vendors of printer related software would benefit from the interoperability provided by voluntary conformance to these standards.

In general, a PWG standard is a specification that is stable, well understood, and is technically competent, has multiple, independent and interoperable implementations with substantial operational experience, and enjoys significant public support.

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Instructions for subscribing to the PWG mailing list can be found at the following link:

<http://www.pwg.org/mailhelp.html>

Members of the PWG and interested parties are encouraged to join the PWG and relevant Working Group mailing lists in order to participate in discussions, clarifications, and review of the Working Group product.

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1. Introduction

This document establishes the process that is followed as the Printer Working Group develops open industry standards. The Printer Working Group (or PWG) is a Program of the IEEE Industry Standards and Technology Organization (ISTO) and all references to the PWG in this document implicitly mean “The Printer Working Group, a Program of the IEEE ISTO.” The PWG is an alliance among printer manufacturers, print server developers, operating system providers, network operating systems providers, network connectivity vendors, print and print management application developers chartered to make printers and the applications and operating systems supporting them work together better. In order to meet this objective, the PWG will document the results of their work as open standards that define print related protocols, interfaces, procedures, and conventions. Printer manufacturers, vendors of printer related software and the consuming public would benefit from the interoperability provided by voluntary conformance to these standards.

A PWG standard is a specification that is stable, well understood, technically competent and has multiple, independent implementations with substantial operational experience, demonstrated interoperability and significant public support. The PWG may issue a standard as a PWG standard and/or when appropriate submit the standard to other standards organizations, such as the IETF, ISO, ITU, W3C, IEEE, or ECMA. In developing a standard, a Working Group of the PWG may define durable documents such as WSDL, Schema or common industry semantics that need to have well known, persistent filenames and file paths.

This process document establishes

- 1) The phases a PWG standards project will go through from Charter and Requirements through Drafts, Candidates and Standard to the final, Maintenance phase of an established standard.
- 2) Working documents naming and versioning
- 3) Standards naming and numbering

If this policy document is updated, the new version is subject to Last Call and Formal Approval as described, herein.

2. Organization of the PWG

The Printer Working Group is composed of representatives from printer manufacturers, print server developers, operating system providers, network operating system providers, network connectivity vendors, and print and print management application developers. PWG Member Organizations are those companies, individuals or other groups (i.e. a university) that have agreed to participate and operate under the processes and procedures of the IEEE-ISTO by-laws, the Printer Working Group Program Participation Agreement, and this document and have paid the annual assessment. Multiple individuals employed by the same company or other organization cannot join the PWG as individual members. Associates or affiliates of PWG Member Organizations which are beneficially controlled or owned by said member organization with more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting stock or equity shall not be considered a separate entity and are not eligible for separate membership in the PWG. The annual assessment is set each year by the PWG itself.

2.1 PWG Membership Categories

The PWG recognizes that support and contribution comes from diverse group of companies and individuals working in a wide variety of circumstances. Three membership categories (Large Corporation, Small Corporation, and Individual) are defined to accommodate these participants. Each Member is required to accept the same intellectual property agreement and operating procedures. The PWG's policy on intellectual property and confidentiality is contained in the "PWG Policy on Intellectual Property and Confidentiality" available on the PWG web site.

The PWG Formal Approval process operates on a one vote per member basis. The lowest membership level (Individual) has no voting privileges, however this member level is eligible to lead and direct the activities of a PWG Working Group (e.g. Working Group Chairman, Secretary, or Editor) and, thereby, server as a member of the PWG Steering Committee. The Individual Member cannot, however, serve as Officer of the PWG. An individual is free to join as a Large or Small Corporation if they wish to vote on PWG matters or serve as a PWG Officer.

The table below outlines the three PWG membership levels and associated privileges. Dues are representative and subject to change based on PWG fiscal needs.

| Member | Annual Revenue | Annual Dues* | PWG Officer | W/G Officer | Voting |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| Large Corp. | ≥ \$10M | \$1,500 | Y | Y | Full |
| Small Corp. | < \$10M | \$250 | Y | Y | Full |
| Individual | n/a | \$50 | N | Y | None |

*Note: Annual dues are representative and are subject to change based on the PWG fiscal needs. The current version of the PWG Membership Agreement form is the authoritative source for current annual dues amounts.

2.2 PWG Officers

The PWG has a Chair position responsible for organizing the overall agenda of the PWG. The PWG Chair is elected in odd numbered years by a simple majority of the PWG members to a two-year term of office that begins on September 1st. Responsibilities of the PWG Chair include creating Working Groups, appointing Working Group Chairs, assuring that Working Groups maintain adequate leadership, making local arrangements for PWG meetings (this may be delegated as appropriate), setting the high level PWG agenda, chairing the PWG plenary session, ensuring that the PWG web and FTP site are maintained, and assisting Working Group Chairs to accomplish their tasks. The PWG Chair must be a representative of a PWG Member Organization. The PWG Chair is an ex officio member of all Working Groups.

The PWG Vice-Chair is elected in odd numbered years by a simple majority of the PWG members to a two-year term of office, beginning September 1st. The Vice-Chair's responsibilities are to act in the absence of the Chair and provide assistance to the Chair in carrying out his or her role, as required. The PWG Vice-Chair must be a representative of a PWG Member Organization. The PWG Vice-Chair is an ex officio member of all Working Groups.

The PWG Secretary is elected in odd numbered years to a two-year term of office by a simple majority of the PWG members. It is the Secretary's responsibility to record and distribute the minutes of all PWG plenary sessions and other meetings, as required, to support the PWG Chair. The PWG Secretary must be a representative of a PWG Member Organization. The PWG Secretary is responsible, in cooperation with the IEEE ISTO, for managing number blocks for standards naming and maintaining a PWG Member Organization roster including contact and company profile information, including logo, as it pertains to representation on the PWG web site. The PWG Secretary is the only member authorized to install submissions or make changes to the "standards", "candidates" or "informational" top-level permanent file directories of the PWG.

The PWG Steering Committee is composed of the PWG Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Chairs of all active Working Groups. The Steering Committee shall meet upon the call of the PWG Chair or by a majority of its members to discuss matters of concern of the PWG. Where matters come to a vote in the Steering Committee, decisions are made by simple majority of the entire committee (abstentions/non-votes are counted as no votes), with one vote per person.

2.3 Working Group Officers

Under the PWG Chair are a number of Working Groups (WG), which are chartered for the purpose of developing a specific standard. Working Groups are chartered as required to address specific areas of standardization. A Working Group is considered active until it satisfies its charter or is otherwise terminated by the Working Group Chair with the agreement of the Steering Committee.

The PWG Chair appoints the Chair of a Working Group, with approval (simple majority) at a PWG plenary. The Working Group Chair's term is indefinite and would normally extend through the period of time during which there is active maintenance on the standard(s) developed by the Working Group. The Working Group Chair must be a representative of a PWG Member Organization. The Working Group Chair is responsible for appointing a Vice-Chair and Secretary for the Working Group, creating the Charter, setting the agenda for meetings, chairing Working Group meetings, appointing editors for Working Group documents, driving the work to completion, and reporting status of the Working Group at PWG plenary sessions.

The Working Group Chair appoints the Vice-Chair of a Working Group, with approval (simple majority) of the Working Group. The Working Group Vice-Chair's term is indefinite. The Vice-Chair acts in the absence of the Chair and assists, as appropriate, in carrying out the responsibilities of the Chair.

The Working Group Chair appoints the Secretary, with approval (simple majority) of the Working Group. The term of office is indefinite. The responsibilities of the Working Group Secretary are to record and distribute minutes of Working Group meetings and to record attendance for members of that Working Group.

2.4 PWG Meetings

The annual face-to-face meeting schedule for the PWG is set in October of each year. As a guideline, it is common to hold face-to-face meetings every 6 to 10 weeks with phone and web based conferencing during the interim. Face-to-face meetings are to be distributed geographically to try and normalize the travel burden among members. Meeting schedule and locations are determined through a proposal / consensus process and no other specific process or guarantees are implied. Meeting location details are to be published at least 4 weeks in advance of meetings. New documents must not be introduced under any circumstances less than 1 week prior to a face-to-face as this only leads to confusion and ineffective meeting results.

Non-standards related administrative and procedural decisions made at PWG administrative, business, or plenary meetings require a simple majority, 1 vote per PWG Member Organization.

Dial-up and web conference details, agenda and reference materials are to be published at least 48 hours in advance when work is being conducted via remote conferencing.

2.5 PWG Communications Infrastructure

The PWG will maintain

- 1) A PWG web site <http://www.pwg.org> where PWG Working Group information, meeting schedules and document links and other pertinent information may be found.
- 2) A PWG ftp site <ftp://ftp.pwg.org> where PWG working drafts, standards, procedures, schema, templates and other useful and necessary documents may be accessed.
- 3) An e-mail reflector, including archive, for each active project. Instructions for subscribing to the PWG mailing lists can be found at the following link: <http://www.pwg.org/mailhelp.html>

3. PWG Standards Development and Maintenance

There are 3 main phases to standards development in the PWG – Charter, Development, and Maintenance (Table 1). These phases are a guideline to the activities and types of documents a Working Group should expect to encounter. There are no specific exit criteria from these phases. Exit criteria apply to PWG standards-track documents and are outlined in Section 4.

Table 1 - Three Phases to developing a PWG Standard

| Phase | Activities in this Stage | Internal Documents | PWG Standards Documents |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| Charter | Identify need Brainstorm Develop Charter Gather Requirements | White Papers | Charter Requirements Statement Preliminary Working Draft |
| Development | Develop PWG Working Drafts Prototype Promote to Candidate Standard Demonstrate Interoperability Promote to PWG Standard | White Papers Proposals Developer Guides Interop Test Plans Interop Test Results | PWG Working Drafts Candidate Standards Supporting durables such as WSDL, Schema |
| Maintenance | Maintain PWG Standard Maintain PWG Candidate Standard | Errata Registration of new keywords, enums | Standard Supporting durables |

4. Formal PWG Standards-track Process

Standards development consists of the progression of documents used to define and articulate standards. PWG project documents consist of the Charter, a set of Requirements, Working Drafts, Candidate Standards and the Standard, itself. Publication of completed PWG Candidate Standards, Standards, and Best Practice documents requires Last Call and Formal Approval as described in Section 8. Technical briefs and proposals relating to a standard, while helpful and encouraged, are not treated as formal documents and do not require Last Call or Formal Approval. The life cycle and organization of PWG standards-track and other project documents are defined below. For current best practice on the formulation of file namespace and file path names see Section 7.

4.1 Editing Documents

The Working Group Chair will appoint an editor for each PWG standards-track document. The editor will be approved by a simple majority vote of the Working Group. Normally an editor will work in this capacity throughout the life cycle of the standard, although exceptions may occur. Editors are responsible for reflecting the decisions of the Working Group, rather than their own personal views. Ultimately, the editor has responsibility for the quality of the document, making sure that it is readable and has a coherent style, even when it has multiple authors or contributors.

4.1.1 Document Status Levels

A PWG document SHALL be labeled with a status level that will appear on the title page as follows:

Status: <keyword>

Table 2 – Status keywords

| Status keyword | Indicates |
|----------------|--|
| Initial | Initial attempt to specify the standard. |

| | |
|------------|---|
| Interim | Standard in development. Significant changes to the standard expected in the future. |
| Prototype | Content of the standard is functionally complete and ready for prototyping. |
| Stable | Standard is very close to completion. Standard is either getting ready for, is in, or has completed Last Call. |
| Approved | The document has successfully completed PWG Formal Approval (see 8.3) |
| Obsolete | The document has been obsoleted by another PWG standard or industry standard. The obsolete PWG document is deprecated and should not be implemented. |
| Superseded | The document has been superseded by another PWG standard or industry standard. The superseded PWG document is substantially technically correct and may be implemented for compatibility. |

“Approved,” “Obsolete” and “Superseded” status are only applicable to documents that have successfully completed PWG Formal Approval.

Normally, a Working Draft will progress through each status level from “Initial” to “Stable”. Status levels may be skipped for some limited standards efforts. It is possible for a Working Draft to achieve reduced status if an unexpected, serious problem is found, for example, during prototyping.

The status of a Working Draft will be established via Working Group consensus.

4.2 Organizing and Naming Documents

Early versions of a Working Group Charter, Requirements, whitepapers, and other supporting documentation may circulate on the pwg@pwg.org e-mail reflector. During formalization of their Charter and Requirements, a Working Group will choose an abbreviation (usually 2 to 4 characters), to preface their document names. This must be accomplished before the first Working Draft is published. The Working Group abbreviation is subject to approval by the PWG Steering Committee.

4.3 Working Group Charter

The first order of business for any Working Group is to create a Charter that clearly describes the scope of their work. Brainstorming, fact-finding, guest speakers and other enlightening activities often precede or coincide with Charter development. In addition to scope, the Charter should define milestones and schedule, including an expiration date. The PWG Steering Committee, based on perception of progress and commitment of the Working Group, may grant extensions. In some cases the Working Group may choose to publish their standard in affiliation with an outside standards organization such as the IETF or W3C. If this is evident, the Charter should indicate the desire for formal affiliation with another standards organization and include a liaison plan with the other organization. Charter definition, requirements gathering and outlining a preliminary Working Draft may occur simultaneously. In many cases, this is encouraged, as new information gleaned from these activities may alter perception of the Charter.

A Working Group Charter requires Formal Approval (see Section 8.3).

Note: Revision or re-chartering of a formally approved Charter is allowed at the discretion of the Working Group with approval of the PWG Steering Committee.

4.4 Statement of Requirements

Prior to completion of the first Working Draft, a clear statement of requirements for the standard to be produced is required. A requirements statement documents the best effort collection of known requirements on a particular protocol, interface, procedure

or convention. The requirements statement is important as it leads to a clear, common understanding of the goals, provides a guide for developing the standard, and can be used as a final test to measure the completeness of the resulting specification. It is not necessary that the resulting standard meet every stated requirement, but the standard should be explicit about which requirements it does not meet, and why. Requirements may be updated during the development of the standard, as they become clearer. As with Charter (above), brainstorming, fact-finding and associated activities frequently accompany the process of requirements gathering. Often, at the beginning of a project, the Charter, Requirements, and early versions of an initial Working Draft are all undergoing simultaneous revision until a clear direction emerges and the Charter and Requirements are formally approved.

A Working Group Statement of Requirements requires Formal Approval (see Section 8.3).

4.5 Working Draft

When rough consensus has been reached on the Charter, Requirements, and there is sufficient information to begin writing a standard, the initial Working Draft will be written. Charter and Requirements must reach Formal Approval prior to completion of the first Working Draft. A PWG Working Draft facilitates reaching consensus on how to approach the PWG Standard and provides a backdrop for discussion and agreement on details of the specification. The initial Working Draft, when reasonably complete, provides a foundation for further work on the Standard.

Working Drafts correspond to a specific version of the Standard they are defining. Unless the Working Group is engaged in an effort to revise an existing PWG Standard, the Working Drafts are always defining PWG Standard Version 1.0.

A PWG Working Draft cannot progress ahead of any given normative reference that it contains.

A transition to PWG Candidate Standard requires prototyping, Last Call, and Formal Approval of a stable PWG Working Draft.

4.6 Candidate Standard

When agreement has been reached among the participants about the details of a Standard, the current Working Draft is ready to transition to a PWG Candidate Standard. A Working Draft **MUST NOT** be approved as a Candidate Standard unless it is supported by 1 or more prototype and is thought to be ready for implementation. The purpose of prototyping is to generate information that will help design or perfect the final standard. As each type of standard may differ, the PWG process does not define specific, measurable prototype criteria beyond the commonly held notion of a test-of-principle model or early version of a technological device or process. A PWG Candidate Standard **MUST NOT** progress ahead of any Normative Reference that it contains.

A PWG Candidate Standard forms the basis for comments from outside of the Working Group and the PWG, and provides the foundation for initial product development and interoperability testing. Implementations can comfortably proceed from a PWG Candidate Standard, knowing that it will not undergo significant change as it matures to a PWG Standard. However, if changes to a Candidate Standard become necessary, these changes will be accomplished via Working Drafts that must once again go through Last Call and Formal Approval. The Working Draft will then and only then regain Candidate Standard status.

Candidate Standards correspond to a specific version of the Standard they are defining. Unless the Working Group is engaged in an effort to revise an existing PWG Standard, the Candidate Standards are always defining PWG Standard Version 1.0.

When a document becomes a Candidate Standard, it is assigned an IEEE-ISTO standard number, which it keeps forever. To indicate the standard is at Candidate Standard status, the prefix “CS” is attached to the standard number, resulting in a number such as “PWG CS 5105.2.” If the Candidate Standard goes back to Working Draft status, “WD” replaces the prefix “CS,” resulting in a number such as “PWG WD 5105.2.” IEEE-ISTO standard numbers are tracked and assigned by the PWG Secretary.

A transition to PWG Standard requires demonstration of interoperability, Last Call, and Formal Approval of a stable PWG Candidate Standard.

4.7 Standard

When a PWG Candidate Standard has passed Last Call, demonstrated interoperability and acquired Formal Approval, it is promoted to the final status of a PWG Standard. At this point, “STD” replaces the prefix “CS” in the IEEE-ISTO standard number and “PWG” is replaced by “IEEE-ISTO,” resulting in a number such as “IEEE-ISTO STD 5105.2.”

4.8 Maintenance of Standards

When a document has reached the PWG Candidate Standard or PWG Standard status, maintenance activity may occur on that standard. Such revision or extension documents start as Working Drafts and then follow all rules above for progression to Candidate Standard and Standard. Note that the extension to a Candidate Standard cannot progress to Standard before the Candidate Standard it is revising or extending has progressed to Standard.

It is also possible that the PWG will decide to formalize PWG extensions for any (IETF, IEEE, or other printing industry) external standard (e.g., RFC2911). As above, such extension documents start as Working Drafts and then follow all rules in earlier sections above for progression to Candidate Standard and Standard.

The process for extension and revision of a standard under maintenance is described in Section 9.

4.9 Best Practices

Best Practice documents reflect policy and advice from the PWG. Such documents, while not normative, are often referenced for clarification of PWG and related standards. Because we want Best Practice to be reliable and accurate, we treat these as formal Working Group documents that undergo naming, Last Call and Formal Approval just like a Working Draft.

5. Informal Supporting PWG Documents

The following are considered informal, working documents that contribute to the development or clarification of a PWG Standard. As such, these documents require no Formal Approval process.

5.1 White Papers, Technical Briefs and Other Non-normative Documents

During the standards process, PWG members are encouraged to document proposals, clarifications or otherwise useful documents such as machine generated MIB fragments and XML schema as a White Paper or Technical Brief. These documents provide an informal means of communicating technical proposals among PWG members. It is strongly recommended that any topic open for discussion on the PWG agenda have supporting documentation made available for review at least one week prior to the meeting where the paper is to be discussed. Technical Briefs are particularly useful when two or more approaches to a standard exist and need to be debated. White Papers and Technical Briefs (treated the same) may be updated to reflect group consensus or individual positions on a particular topic. Since a White Paper represents current thought and individual contribution, they do not require any form of approval and have no formal status. White Papers, Technical Briefs and other documents, such as FAQ, are subject to change or withdrawal at any time. These documents should be posted to the PWG FTP site and announced on the Working Group mailing list prior to discussion at a PWG meeting. Discussion will be most fruitful when people have taken adequate time to review the papers prior to the meeting.

6. Exceptions to Process

To handle exceptional cases, the Steering Committee may decide that one or more of the steps in the standards process may be shortened or eliminated. Such an exception to this PWG Standards Process must be approved by unanimous consent of the entire PWG Steering Committee.

7. Publication of PWG Documents

All of the PWG standards-track and supporting documents described in Sections 4 and 5 must be available in either PDF or HTML format (others may be provided as well) and published on the PWG FTP site. Any document identified as PWG Charter, PWG Requirements, PWG Working Draft, PWG Candidate Standard or PWG Standard represents a formal PWG approved document, which will be published in a durable location with well-known path after achieving the appropriate Last Call and/or Formal Approval. Listed are examples of the directory structure using v1.0 Standards as an example. In use, “[working group document]” would be replaced by the abbreviation for a particular Working Group document (e.g., “psireq” for PSI Requirements). Note the prefix conventions established for these documents as reflected in the file name prefix in the examples below.

Charter – [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/\[working group\]/charter/ch-\[working group document\]10-yyyymmdd.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/[working group]/charter/ch-[working group document]10-yyyymmdd.pdf)

Requirements (active) – [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/\[working group\]/wd/wd-\[working group document\]req10-yyyymmdd.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/[working group]/wd/wd-[working group document]req10-yyyymmdd.pdf)

Requirements (final) – [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/informational/req-\[working group document\]req10-yyyymmdd.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/informational/req-[working group document]req10-yyyymmdd.pdf)

Best Practices – [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/informational/bp-\[working group document\]10-yyyymmdd.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/informational/bp-[working group document]10-yyyymmdd.pdf)

Working Drafts – [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/\[working group\]/wd/wd-\[working group document\]10-yyyymmdd.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/[working group]/wd/wd-[working group document]10-yyyymmdd.pdf)

Candidate Standards – [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/candidates/cs-\[working group document\]10-yyyymmdd-510n.m.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/candidates/cs-[working group document]10-yyyymmdd-510n.m.pdf)

Standards – [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/standards/std-\[working group document\]10-yyyymmdd-510n.m.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/standards/std-[working group document]10-yyyymmdd-510n.m.pdf)

Errata - [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/errata/err-\[working group document\]10-yyyymmdd-510n.m.pdf](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/errata/err-[working group document]10-yyyymmdd-510n.m.pdf)

(Note: When creating errata, the date in the errata document name is the date of the errata not of the original document)

For current best practice on the formulation of these names see: <ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/informational/pwg-namespace-policy.txt>

Standards are not published in the Working Group path. PWG Standards are given a unique number and are published in one, flat, namespace, managed by the PWG Secretary, for ease of access, accuracy, and durability.

Supporting documents (see Section 5) are posted in the root Working Group path or a subdivision of that path as appropriate.

Filename prefixes for common supporting documents are:

White Paper and Technical Brief – tb

FAQ – faq

Last Call Review Comments – lcrc

Internal working versions of PWG documents should be available in an agreed upon, widely available word processing format, to provide for collaboration between document editors and contributors. For example, Microsoft WORD and HTML are common revisable formats in use, today.

When documents are posted to the PWG FTP site, a notice should also be posted to the Working Group mailing list. It is recommended that Working Groups provide a web site where information about their activities is provided. The Web site should provide links to current, relevant documents.

8. Approval

8.1 Last Call

Last Call represents a final opportunity for issues to be raised against a document. During this period all PWG members are encouraged to review the final working draft for both technical and editorial content and to provide comments to the Working Group. The Working Group Chair announces a Last Call on a document with rough consensus of the Working Group. Last Calls are posted to all members of the PWG via the PWG-ANNOUNCE mailing list. The Last Call period may vary, based upon the content, complexity, holidays, or other circumstances, but must be at least 16 full working days (minimum 22 calendar days). A working day is a normal business day and is considered to end at 10 PM USPST (Los Angeles, CA, USA). For any document transitioning to Candidate Standard or Standard, Last Call must either conclude at, or span a PWG Plenary meeting with an overview of the draft or standards document and a review of any current detailed issues and their resolutions. If less than 30 percent of the PWG membership have commented, participated, or communicated that they have no comments for a given document during Last Call, the Last Call period is automatically extended until that threshold is met. Within a reasonable period of time following closure of Last Call, all issues raised during Last Call must be either resolved or rejected as follows:

- Resolved - Document updated to reflect the resolution
- Rejected - No change required in the document

All issues and their resolution from the most recent Last Call must be published in the Formal Approval announcement.

8.2 Last Call Formal Review

Last Call results must be reviewed by the PWG Steering Committee to validate that the Last Call process has been conducted properly, prior to the start of Formal Approval.

8.3 Formal Approval

8.3.1 Formal Approval Process

Once all of the Last Call issues have been resolved or rejected, and the PWG Steering Committee has reviewed Last Call, the PWG Secretary must announce a vote for Formal Approval to transition the document to the next status level. Formal approval voting must be announced and conducted via the PWG-ANNOUNCE mailing list and the announcement must contain all issues and their resolution, which occurred during Last Call. The Formal Approval period must last at least 16 full working days (minimum 22 calendar days) and may be longer at the discretion of the Working Group Chair. A working day is a normal business day and is considered to end at 10 PM USPST (Los Angeles, CA, USA).

The PWG Secretary will administer the Formal Approval process with the assistance of the Working Group Chair and the ISTO.

8.3.1.1 Permissible Votes

Following are the 4 possible votes allowed by the PWG Formal Approval process.

- YES – MAY be accompanied by editorial comments
- ABSTAIN – comments WILL NOT be considered
- NO without Strong Opposition – MUST be accompanied by explanation of technical opposition
- NO with Strong Opposition – MUST be accompanied by explanation of technical opposition

8.3.1.2 Formal Approval

Formal Approval requires

- Votes by at least 25% of eligible members.

- YES votes by at least 66% of votes (not including abstentions) when there is no Strong Opposition
- YES votes by at least 80% of votes (not including abstentions) when there is Strong Opposition
- At least 50% of votes (including abstentions) to be YES.

A NO vote on a PWG standards-track document must be accompanied by the technical reasons for the NO vote, and a description of the changes that would be required to the document to turn the NO vote to a YES. When a Working Draft, Candidate Standard or other formal PWG document passes Last Call but does not achieve Formal Approval during the initial voting period, due to lack of quorum, voting is automatically extended by up to two 30 calendar day Formal Approval extension periods. This gives the Working Group Chair and PWG Steering Committee time to interact with PWG members who may require additional time or education regarding the proposed standard. A vote is not considered final until the end of the Formal Approval period (PWG Member Organizations may change their vote during the Formal Approval process).

If, for any reason, the attempt at Formal Approval fails, a Working Group has the following options:

- 1) Resolve the technical issues and repeat Last Call and Formal Approval
- 2) Revise their Charter and begin again with approval of the PWG Steering Committee
- 3) Abandon the document.

Formal approval is not granted until the PWG Steering Committee reviews the process used to achieve Last Call and Formal Approval insuring the PWG process was followed with fidelity.

After the Formal Approval process has completed, boiler plate revisions will be made to the document and the document will be published. All technical comments should be posted to the Working Group mailing list, addressed by the Working Group and the responses archived in the PWG FTP site.

8.3.2 Formal Approval Voting Rights

The following voting rights policy applies to all Formal Approval voting:

- A voter must be a representative of a PWG Member Organization in good standing.
- Each PWG Member Organization may cast only one vote.

8.4 Publishing Of Approved Document

The PWG Secretary, with assistance from the Working Group Chair, must edit documents that have passed Formal Approval to update the document number, format, and the final publication date. The PWG Secretary must then publish the document in the appropriate locations with the appropriate file names (see Section 7).

8.5 Working Group Decisions

8.5.1 Working Group Decision Process

There is no Formal Approval process that applies to Working Groups and voting is not necessary to validate Working Group decisions. If the Working Group does resort to voting the following must be met for the vote to be considered binding:

- 1) A simple majority of those casting votes (not including abstentions) on administrative and operational issues
- 2) At least 66% of those casting votes (not including abstentions) on technical issues.

It is the responsibility of the Working Group Chair to ensure that the results of a vote are fair and representative. If a member of the PWG has an issue, the Working Group Chair decision may be appealed to the PWG Steering Committee.

8.5.2 Working Group Voting Eligibility

The following voting rights policy applies to all voting done within the PWG Working Groups:

- A voter must be a representative of a PWG Member Organization in good standing.
- Each PWG Member Organization may cast only one vote.
- Eligibility is determined by an organization attending two of the previous four face-to-face meetings or conference calls. It is the responsibility of the Working Group Secretary to maintain the list of eligible voters.
- A Working Group Chair may declare that a sufficient quorum does not exist for voting purposes if at least 50% of potential voting members are not present during the vote.
- Voting is not a requirement for declaring rough consensus, unless specifically requested by a member with voting rights.

8.6 Approval at a PWG Plenary

8.6.1 PWG Plenary Approval Process

A simple majority of those casting votes (abstentions do not count) is required.

8.6.2 PWG Plenary Approval Voting Rights

The following voting rights policy applies to all voting done within the PWG plenary:

- A voter must be a representative of a PWG Member Organization.
- Each PWG Member Organization may cast only one vote.
- Plenary voting occurs at plenary sessions, so participation in the plenary is required for voting.
- Voting is not a requirement for declaring rough consensus, unless specifically requested by a member with voting rights.

9. Maintenance

Many PWG standards are extensible and provide the ability for additional keywords, enumerated values, semantic elements or objects to be added and registered. When approved, these have the same status as the standard to which the feature is being added. In addition, as implementation work proceeds and field experience is gathered, clarifications may be required to improve interoperability. This section addresses the process to be followed for:

- Clarifications of the standard or correction of errata.
- Registrations of new keywords, type-2 enums and values for existing elements.
- Registration or extension of a standard to include new operations, or semantic elements for existing groups or objects.
- Compatible extension of a standard to include new element groups or objects.

Major changes or additions to a standard are not considered maintenance, but require engagement of the PWG Standards Development Process.

9.1 Clarifications and Technical Errata

A clarification is a means of addressing ambiguity which has been discovered in an existing standards track document. As such, some clarifications may take the form of errata which are intended to fix errors in the syntax or semantics specified in the document. Proposals for clarification and errata shall follow the following process:

- 1) Each Working Group will appoint a Maintenance Editor for their PWG Standard.
- 2) Anyone can initiate a proposal for clarification or errata by starting an e-mail discussion on the appropriate Working Group mailing list or submitting a Technical Brief describing the request.
- 3) After there is general agreement on the mailing list for the proposal, the Working Group Chair or the proposer issues a Call for Objection (see below) on the pwg-announce mailing list with a description of the proposal that includes:
 - A description of the ambiguity being clarified or the error being corrected.
 - A detailed description of the proposed changes.
- 4) To make the status of clarifications and errata clear to PWG participants and others, the Working Group Chair will ensure that approved clarifications or errata are documented in the following Working Group directory:
<ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/errata>

9.2 Registration of Keywords and Values

Proposals for registrations of new keywords and values for existing elements shall follow the following process:

- 1) Each Working Group will appoint a Maintenance Editor for their PWG Standard.
- 2) Anyone can initiate a proposal by starting an e-mail discussion on the appropriate Working Group mailing list or submitting a Technical Brief describing the request.
- 3) After there is general agreement on the mailing list for the proposal, the Working Group Chair or the proposer issues a Call for Objection (see below) on the pwg-announce mailing list with a description of the proposal that includes:
 - A description of the requirement being met or the problem being solved.
 - A description of the proposed solution.
 - A detailed description of the changes to the standard or schemas which are proposed to be integrated into the standard at a future date.
- 4) To make the status of proposed registrations clear to PWG participants and others, the Working Group Chair will ensure that approved registrations are documented in the following Working Group directory:
[ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/\[working group\]/approved-addenda](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/[working group]/approved-addenda)

where [working group] is the project acronym. When the standard is revised and re-approved, any relevant registrations or extensions that were included in the revision will be removed from the addenda directory.

9.3 Registration of New Operations and Semantic Elements

Proposals for registration or extension of a standard to include new operations or semantic elements for existing groups shall adhere to the following process:

- 1) Anyone can initiate a proposal by submitting a Technical Brief to the appropriate Working Group describing the registration or extension. The Technical Brief should be able to function as a complete, standalone technical description of the proposed extension with formal references to the relevant standard.
- 2) After there is general agreement in the Working Group, the Working Group Chair will issue a Last Call for comments on the proposal. Upon successful Last Call completion, the Working Group Chair may issue a Call for Objection on the pwg-announce mailing list or continue with PWG Formal Approval for a Technical Brief.
- 3) To make the existence and status of the approved Technical Brief clear to PWG participants and others, the Working Group Chair will ensure that approved registrations are documented in the following Working Group directory: [ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg\[working group\]/approved-addenda](ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg[working group]/approved-addenda), where [working group] is the project acronym.

When the standard is revised and re-approved, any relevant registrations or extensions that were included in the revision will be removed from the addenda directory.

9.4 Compatible Extension of a Standard that Includes Major New Element Groups or Objects

Any extension to a PWG standard that includes the addition of major new element groups or objects will be treated as a revision of the standard and shall follow the Formal PWG Standards-track Process.

10. PWG Process Diagram

