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UNTP Technical WG

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Nicholas Smith Phil Archer

Attachments [UNTP Technical WG](#) [Notes - UNTP Technical WG](#)

Summary

The meeting, attended by Bas van der Pol, Anna Nerwinska, Adrienna Zsakay, Harley Thomas, and Phil Archer, covered several technical and organizational updates for the UNP. The group reviewed and agreed to merge updates to the trust graphs page concerning linking various digital records, which Phil Archer noted aligns with W3C standardization of Verifiable Credentials (VCs) graphs, and they resolved to close several outdated issues, including those related to the identity resolver. A major discussion focused on a draft merge request regarding selective disclosure to accommodate different claim visibility needs (e.g., customers vs. regulators) in the Digital Product Passport (DPP), a requirement that adds complexity to the identity resolver but is necessary for access control.

Details

Notes Length: Standard

- **Introductions and Business Context** The meeting began with introductions, including Bas van der Pol, founder at Tapper, a digital passport solution provider focused on the UNP, and Anna Nerwinska, CTO of Tapper, who is responsible for the company's technological aspects. Adrienna Zsakay, from Circular Economy Asia, mentioned that they head up the UNP adoption, training, and guidance sub-working groups, with a focus on circular economy and traceability. Harley Thomas welcomed the new participants and noted that Tapper's busy schedule

indicates demand for digital product passports and the work discussed in the group.

- **Meeting Principles and Logistics** Harley Thomas reviewed the key principles for the meeting, emphasizing that it is recorded, transcripts and AI summaries are publicly available on the UNP site, and contributions are voluntary and result in IP ownership by the UN. They also stated that the meeting is not for promoting proprietary software or hardware, as the work focuses on open and interoperable solutions. The planned agenda included reviewing open merge requests and issues, and discussing a change concerning selective disclosure.
- **Review of Merge Requests and Trust Graphs** Harley Thomas mentioned remaking a merge request previously raised by Phil Archer to resolve conflicts and confirmed that everyone was comfortable with the changes, which Ash will merge upon returning from holiday. The group also discussed a large change to the trust graphs page, where Steve had refined the concept of linking various digital records and events in a graph database, with the goal of tidying up the page for easier reading. Phil Archer noted they need to review this text as it seems to align with the work of the W3C group, which plans to standardize connecting Verifiable Credentials (VCs) to create a graph.
- **Verifiable Credentials and Graph Standardization** Phil Archer highlighted that the text Steve wrote on trust graphs appears to address exactly what the W3C group plans to standardize, which involves extending the scope of a verifiable issuance draft to include the graph work. Phil Archer also questioned what the proposed text allows that cannot currently be done with a Verifiable Presentation, as Steve's intent is to connect things off in a graph rather than bundle everything together. Phil Archer also noted that the new W3C charter includes work on embedding VCs directly in 2D barcodes, using binary JSON (CBOR) for efficiency, which Harley Thomas found interesting for the UNP's data carriers.
- **Closure of Pending Issues** Harley Thomas sought consensus on closing several old and potentially outdated issues, including one regarding updating the identity resolver, which Phil Archer was comfortable closing. Another issue related to the identity resolver refactor to clearly differentiate between registry and self-issued identifiers was confirmed as complete. The group also agreed to close a minor issue concerning a typo fix, which originated from the supply chain working group.

- **Discussion on Selective Disclosure** Harley Thomas presented a draft merge request focused on selective disclosure to address a supply chain working group use case where participants are uncomfortable with conformity claims even being visible in a Digital Product Passport (DPP), necessitating different sets of claims for various stakeholders (e.g., customers, regulators). The proposed solution involves the identity resolver potentially querying with a specific access role and receiving a link to a variant of the DPP, or linking to a public DPP variant with indicators for other variants requiring specific access roles. Phil Archer pointed out that this approach adds complexity to the identity resolver, but acknowledged that some access control complexity is unavoidable. Harley Thomas clarified that the concept of an "access role" attribute in the identity resolver for links was pre-existing and that decentralized access control, including DID authentication, would handle the presentation of credentials like being a regulator to gain access to the required DPP variant.
- **Work on Open Issues and Adoption Group Responsibilities** Harley Thomas invited participants to review open issues, noting there are a substantial number. Adrienna Zsakay identified an issue related to updating "work in progress" labels and other website content, suggesting that this is part of the adoption working group's responsibilities, as they manage the website's communications and credibility. Harley Thomas agreed to assign such website-related issues to the adoption working group. Phil Archer agreed to be tagged in other issues that require their input.
- **Tapper's Digital Product Passport Solutions** Adrienna Zsakay asked Bas van der Pol again about Tapper's work, and they explained that Tapper is a digital product passport solution provider focused currently on textiles, electronics (working with Phillips and Sharp), and furniture. Bas van der Pol described Tapper as positioning themselves as the "Shopify of the DPP," with a trace solution, a brand cloud data solution, and a "passport builder". Bas van der Pol explained their company's passion for the UNP stemmed from realizing the limitations of backwards tracing required by regulations like ESPR and EUDR for their customers.
- **Circular Economy and the Application of AI** Adrienna Zsakay detailed their work with Circular Economy Asia, which includes developing secondary raw materials industry, skills training, and supply chains. They mentioned their involvement in Serpass 2, which led them to become active in UNP. Adrienna Zsakay also shared that they found interest in learning to code to maintain technical knowledge.

They expressed that their primary interest in AI is its application in the circular economy and resource management, rather than Large Language Models (LLMs), and plans to roll out "circular AI industrial" workshops this year.

- **The Impact of Large Language Models on Development** Harley Thomas pondered the future of developers given the current capabilities of LLMs, which can perform a large portion of development work. Phil Archer shared an example where using Gemini quickly created a tool that would have taken them three days to manually code in JSON. Bas van der Pol agreed, suggesting that software coding is changing, and the role of a successful developer may pivot towards reviewing code and understanding infrastructure, potentially replacing massive teams, while also noting the rapid and expensive proliferation of AI subscription services. Harley Thomas also expressed concern that newer developers might lack the foundational learning experience gained through struggling with code before the prevalence of LLMs.

Suggested next steps

- Phil Archer will look at the merge request for the trust graphs page to ensure it aligns with W3C standardization plans and review the draft selective disclosure merge request.
- Phil Archer will provide feedback on any of the open issues when Harley Thomas tags him in them.
- Adrienna Zsakay will handle the issue of updating work-in-progress labels as part of the adoption working group's work on the website.
- Bas van der Pol will set up Anna Nerwinska with an account for GitLab so she can get more involved.
- Phil Archer will spend time on the working group issues and thinking.
- The group will have a chat about the selective disclosure merge request next week.

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