UNTP Technical WG

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Phil Archer

Attachments 📅 UNTP Technical WG   📄 Notes - UNTP Technical WG

Summary

Harley Thomas, Christian Orlowski, Adrienna Zsakay, nick smith, and Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski met to discuss updates to the UN Transparency Protocol (UNTP), including a proposal by Mr. Thomas to address post-sale data addition through the product's identity resolver by adding a new link set containing a digital traceability event (DTE), a solution Dr. Guth-Orlowski supported but suggested could be accomplished by issuing a credential to a product wallet. Participants agreed that the UNTP documentation needs to better explain the link set approach in the context of legislation like the ESPR and battery passports and that the UNTP could offer best practices on how product wallets support discoverability without being part of the specification. Mr. Smith and Mr. Thomas agreed to update documentation on post-sale data addition and variant-based disclosure, which Mr. Thomas introduced to provide different DPP versions, while Ms. Zsakay shared that the UNTP website will be separated into technical and non-technical sites.

Details

- **Introductions and Background** Harley Thomas and Christian Orlowski exchanged pleasantries, with Mr. Orlowski confirming he is based in Germany and is working with Suzanne to look closely at the Digital Product Passport (DPP) for copper, which is why he is attending the meeting. Mr. Orlowski, who has a background in business administration and informatics, further introduced themself, mentioning

they are 48 and originally from Austria. Adrienna Zsakay complimented Harley Thomas on a presentation they gave the previous day on the UN Transparency Protocol (UNTP), which Ms. Zsakay noted was well received by non-technical people at an OECD-hosted side session.

- **Meeting Format and Attendance** Harley Thomas noted that the meeting is scheduled for 45 minutes because all participants are volunteers, and presumed that everyone was familiar with the principles and each other, though Christian Orlowski and nick smith introduced themselves. Mr. Orlowski explained their involvement in the DPP for copper and the Critical Raw Materials Transparency Protocol. Nick Smith introduced themself as having a background in carbon and energy management, carbon accounting, and having led the supply chain working group for six months. Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski announced that they would have to leave after about 20 minutes.

- **Post-Sale Data Addition to Transparency Graph** Harley Thomas presented work tackling the problem of post-sale data addition, such as a repair event 9 years after a battery is manufactured and a DPP is issued. The group previously decided that updating the DPP itself would be too complex, so the proposed solution is to use the product's identity resolver to add a new link set containing the traceability event, leaving the original manufacturer-issued DPP unchanged. This solution involves providing evidence to the identity resolver operator that the party is authorized to add a digital traceability event (DTE).

- **Alternative Post-Sale Data Addition Method: Product Wallets** Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski supported the idea of adding verifiable information via linking but questioned the link set structure based on their work with Sarity on battery passports. They explained that Sarity issues a "state of health" credential to the battery's wallet, which is where the information is found, suggesting that if wallets are used, a link set is unnecessary. Ms. Guth-Orlowski stressed that it must be clear that third parties can issue state-of-health credentials to the battery's wallet, connecting it to the product passport, and shared a live example with Berlin public transport buses where the battery has its own wallet.

- **Integrating Wallets and Link Sets in UNTP Documentation** Nick Smith suggested that the UNTP documentation needs to explain how to append DTEs generally and should explain both the link set approach as a bare-bones principle and its context within dominant legislation like the ESPR and battery passports. Mr. Smith raised a question about the difference between a link set and a DID, noting that non-technical people would likely struggle to understand the relationship

between DPP, DFR, DTE, DID, and wallet without further explanation. Harley Thomas agreed and confirmed they would update the documentation on decentralized access control to cover read and write permissions, including authorization to add a link to the link set. Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski requested adding text to explain that post-sale data addition can also be done by issuing a credential to a product wallet, to which Mr. Thomas noted that wallets are currently outside the UNTP scope. Mr. Smith and Ms. Guth-Orlowski argued that remaining silent on wallets might cause confusion, and Mr. Thomas suggested that if wallets are a regulatory vehicle, UNTP could offer best practices on how they support discoverability without making it part of the UNTP specification.

- **Separation of Technical and Non-Technical Documentation** Adrienna Zsakay shared that the UNP website will be separated into two sites: one for technical documentation (the existing UNP site) and a separate UNCCE website for non-technical information, with content cross-linked to aid user understanding and support training and guidance.

- **Clarifying Domain Name Sovereignty in Identity Resolver** Harley Thomas addressed an issue raised by Phil regarding the identity resolver, explaining the need to clarify that the UNTP cannot guarantee the type of data returned when following a URL in a link set. The reader must be made aware that domain name sovereignty means the domain controller dictates the content at the URL, and the returned data must be verified by the user. Mr. Thomas resolved this by adding a warning about domain sovereignty in the pull request.

- **Addressing Variant-Based Disclosure** Harley Thomas discussed a recent change regarding variant-based disclosure, which aims to provide different versions of a DPP to different access groups, such as a public version versus a regulator version. Nick Smith viewed this as potential over-specification and suggested that manufacturers should have the option to make different DPPs to address different access groups without being required to post those variants, to avoid signaling to a customer that there are other versions they are not privy to. Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski noted that different variants of a DPP can lead to redundant data and shared Sarity's approach of having one DPP as a set of credentials, where access control determines which credential components are accessible.

- **Data Redundancy and Application Layer Management for DPP Variants** Harley Thomas highlighted the challenge of having different DPP variants due to W3C verifiable credential requirements. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Smith discussed whether

managing claims and multiple DPP versions should sit in the application layer to maintain control over the W3C verifiable credential, acknowledging that this application layer solution has not been documented technically in the UNTP specification. Mr. Smith agreed to review the variant documentation to ensure alignment and investigate the supply chain working group's view.

- **Next Steps and Remaining Issues** Harley Thomas quickly flagged other issues, including verifying linked data graphs to answer complex questions (such as whether meat from Australia is deforestation-free), and addressing privacy concerns about preventing UNTP credentials from being used to track people, possibly through the render method. Christian Orlowski asked about accessing the 0.7 version of the DPP logical graph, as the website currently links to the 0.6 version. Mr. Thomas offered to investigate the issue and ensure the correct version is accessible to everyone.

Suggested next steps

- ☐ Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski will share links and references regarding the wallet and its implementation with Harley Thomas.
- ☐ Harley Thomas will create a GitLab issue to track the conversation around the best practices for wallets to cover the gaps identified.
- ☐ Christian Orlowski will raise a ticket in GitHub to address the issue of the digital product passport website linking the logical graph from the 0.7 version to the 0.6 version, and to request access to the 0.7 version's documentation in Jargon.
- ☐ nick smith will look through the variant metadata and check if it meets the supply chain working group's needs.

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