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# UNTP Technical WG

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## Summary

Harley Thomas and Phil Archer discussed QR code efficiency for issue 300, concluding that compression is detrimental to making the code smaller and recommending the use of character set encoding optimization or URL shorteners for smaller codes, while acknowledging the trade-off of losing offline capability. Harley Thomas summarized the trade-off regarding identifier visibility in the data carrier, and Phil Archer and Adrienna Zsakay acknowledged the increasing relevance of digital wallets in European contexts while maintaining the protocol's wallet-agnostic nature. Phil Archer confirmed that GS1 and UNP are compatible and committed to reviving the IANA registration request for the "DPP" link relation type, recommending the full URI for immediate use, while Adrienna Zsakay emphasized the need for clarity regarding varying international regulations on digital information retention and product decommissioning.

## Details

- **Discussion on QR Code Efficiency and Compression:** Harley Thomas brought up an issue (issue 300) regarding whether to introduce compression for a full QR code when space is limited. Phil Archer advised against introducing compression, suggesting that using capital case would make the QR code smaller because QR codes encode digits most efficiently. Phil Archer demonstrated that changing a GS1 digital link URI to uppercase only reduced the

QR code size from 29x29 modules to 25x25 modules, resulting in a smaller physical minimum size. The consensus was that compression is a bad idea because it undermines the objective of making the QR code smaller, and they should use the character set encoding mechanism of QR codes for optimization.

- **Compression Trade-offs and Offline Use Cases:** Harley Thomas questioned whether a resolver with a short ID could be used to redirect to a longer URL, thereby reducing the QR code size. Phil Archer explained that using URL shorteners, such as Bitly, is acceptable if the aim is purely to get the link set and an app is not required to act on the identifier locally. However, using a shortener, or compression, means losing the ability for an app to read and extract the identifier directly from the data carrier without making an API call, which is crucial for offline-first use cases, such as those related to GS1 application identifiers.
- **Power Outage Interruption:** The meeting was briefly interrupted when Phil Archer experienced a power cut, which caused their connection to freeze and their lights to go off. Phil Archer quickly transitioned to a phone connection and then smoothly back to their laptop when power was restored.
- **Recommendation on QR Code Size and Identifier Visibility:** Harley Thomas summarized a proposed merge request tip: they could use a redirect route for a smaller QR code but must be aware of the trade-off, specifically the loss of offline-first use cases that require application identifiers to be available in the QR code. Phil Archer agreed, suggesting the tip should be phrased generally to state that if the identifier needs to be available without an API call, it must be directly in the data carrier.
- **Compatibility between GS1 and UNP:** Adrienna Zsakay asked for clarification on whether GS1 and UNP compete. Phil Archer confirmed that the two systems are compatible, and using the GS1 system would make a product conformant with UNP, although the GS1 system is not the only path to UNP conformance.
- **Link Relation Type Management and IANA Registration:** Harley Thomas raised an issue (issue 270) concerning link type management, noting that the current UNP:DPP uses a short form rather than a URI. Phil Archer indicated they have previously tried to register "DPP" as a link relation type with IANA but did not receive a response, and they would revive efforts to register it. Registering "DPP" with IANA would mean the term is understood globally to mean Digital Product Passport, encompassing multiple interpretations, not just the UNP-defined DPP.

- **Immediate Recommendation for Link Relation Type:** For immediate best practice, Phil Archer recommended using the full URI for the UNP DPP link relation type, acknowledging that while longer, it provides specificity that UNP is defining the DPP. Phil Archer committed to scheduling time, no later than Monday, to follow up on the IANA registration request for the DPP link relation type.
- **Digital Wallets and UNP Credential Exchange:** Harley Thomas initiated a discussion on the role of digital wallets in the UNP. The consensus tends toward the UNP's current credential exchange mechanism being intentionally wallet-agnostic, meaning a digital wallet should not be mandated or precluded. Phil Archer and Adrienna Zsakay acknowledged that digital wallets, such as the EU Business Wallet, are becoming increasingly relevant in European regulatory contexts, but the protocol should remain flexible for global use cases.
- **Identifier Persistence and Dead Links:** The final topic concerned a potential issue where the service endpoint in a DID document (DID doc) becomes deprecated. Phil Archer highlighted that identifying persistence is a major long-term issue, noting that even the EU has mandated a central registry as a backup mechanism should brand owners go bankrupt. Phil Archer indicated that this issue ties into a previous discussion on dead link resources and may be too specific to a single technology choice (such as blockchain).
- **Regulatory Aspect of Identifier Archival:** The discussion concluded by focusing on the long-term archival of identifiers, suggesting that the standard should instruct publishers of the DPP to consider regulations dictating how long the DPP must be available after a product's end-of-life. Adrienna Zsakay noted that EU countries currently have varying regulations on how long digital information must be held, and this remains a problematic area needing more clarity, especially for decommissioning products. Harley Thomas committed to integrating these points into the relevant guidance material and closing the issue that was too focused on a specific technology.

## Suggested next steps

- Phil Archer will put some time in his calendar no later than Monday to revive efforts to register the DPP link type with IANA.

- Adrienna Zsakay will look through the ESPR to check the regulations regarding how long a DPP must remain active after a product's decommissioning.
- Harley Thomas will look at the issue about identifier persistence and tie it back to the general problem of long-term identifier persistence and archival and close the discussion on blockchain.

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