

Mar 5, 2026

UNTP Technical WG

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[Phil Archer](#) ~~[Jo Spenceer](#)~~

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

Summary

Harley Thomas, Phil Archer, Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski, Adrienna Zsakay, and Christian Orłowski discussed several key issues, including Phil Archer's update on registering three link relation types (DPP, DCC, and Digital Facility Record) with Iana, and the critical need to clarify the UNP's "front of house" contact point for external queries, which Adrienna Zsakay committed to raising at the next communications meeting. Phil Archer also announced that the W3C Verifiable Credentials Working Group's new charter will formalize the Digital Product Passport and European Business Wallet vocabularies, and requested that Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski join this group as an invited expert. The group addressed several GitLab tickets, agreeing that the `registered ID` attribute in the product class must be optional, that industry-specific mandatory attributes should be handled via "profiles" published by relevant sector bodies, and discussing the redundancy of `evidence` and `conformity topic` in the `claim` class and the confusing granularity of item, batch, and model identifiers in the product class.

Details

- **Meeting Agenda and Priorities:** Harley Thomas outlined the agenda, prioritizing discussion of open issues labeled as "pending closed" and suggesting they would defer the two open merge requests until the end or potentially handle them asynchronously. Harley Thomas admitted to having limited bandwidth for

contributions. Phil Archer and Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski both indicated they had a few hot topics to bring up.

- **Iana Link Relation Registration:** Phil Archer provided an update on the effort to register three link relation types (DPP, DCC, and Digital Facility Record) with Iana. This process required providing a small section of specification text within the UNP's specification detailing the link relation registers, which Phil Archer committed to completing the following morning. Phil Archer intended to place this information within the identity resolver section of the spec.
- **Iana Registration Contact Information:** A discussion arose regarding the contact person needed for the Iana registration. Phil Archer initially worried that they needed a functional email contact, but later realized that the Iana registry only refers to the standard where the information is defined, resolving Phil Archer's immediate problem.
- **UNP Front of House Contact Point:** The discussion shifted to the general lack of clarity regarding the "front of house" contact point for the UNP when external parties have queries. Adrienna Zsakay acknowledged this was a critical question without an immediate answer, noting that those "in the know" usually default to Steve, but a clear pathway is missing for newcomers. Adrienna Zsakay committed to bringing this topic up at the next communications meeting, which will also discuss funding for the UNP's next steps.
- **Interim Contact Solution:** Harley Thomas proposed an interim solution for a UNP contact email using Gaggle, the existing mailing list service, to create a shared incoming address accessible to the steering group. Adrienna Zsakay noted a separate, recent issue where the mailing list sign-up link was broken, which Steve fixed, causing the subscriber numbers to increase. Adrienna Zsakay emphasized that the fundamental issue remains: clear communication about where to go to sign up, join working groups, or participate.
- **Long-Term Staffing and Funding for Adoption:** Adrienna Zsakay stressed that the UNP is not yet fully operational and lacks the necessary funding and infrastructure for the coming changes and eventual influx of questions. They suggested a paid position would eventually be required to manage the high volume of queries for the front person for adoption. Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski added that Nancy is working on a position for someone fully responsible for UNTP, but until that is established, the issue cannot be resolved.

- **W3C Charter Addition:** Phil Archer, wearing their W3C hat, announced that the Verifiable Credentials Working Group has a new charter that is expected to be approved and in force soon. This new charter includes additions for the Digital Product Passport and European Business Wallet vocabularies, formalizing the work already happening in SURPASS and WEBUILD. Phil Archer confirmed this is intended to formalize the UNP's work in a W3C namespace to create easily referenceable URIs.
- **W3C Working Group Participation:** Phil Archer indicated that this W3C standardization route is great news but noted it is a tentative deliverable requiring significant work, including finding editors and evidence of usage. Phil Archer requested that Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski join the working group as an invited expert, and committed to sending them the necessary information to join. Phil Archer also noted that a face-to-face meeting for this group is planned for the first week of June in Brussels.
- **Proposed Closure of Issues:** Phil Archer proposed a process for closing issues labeled as "proposed closed," suggesting an email be sent to the group stating that the tickets will be closed in two weeks unless objections are raised. Harley Thomas accepted this suggestion and committed to moving away from relying on Slack for this process.
- **GitLab Labeling Permissions Issue:** Christian Orłowski and Phil Archer reported that they could not add labels to GitLab tickets, which Harley Thomas noted would cause them to miss the tickets since they filter by labels. Harley Thomas advised reaching out to Ashley Harwood on Slack regarding GitLab account rights and confirmed they would also follow up on the issue of being unable to add labels or tag Phil Archer in comments.
- **Mandatory Status of Registered ID in Product Class (Issue 616):** Christian Orłowski and Dr. Susanne Guth-Orłowski discussed GitLab ticket 616 concerning the mandatory status of the `registered ID` attribute in the product class. Dr. Susanne Guth-Orłowski explained that the DPP registry ID is issued *after* the DPP is created and ready, making it chronologically impossible to include it as a mandatory field during creation. Phil Archer affirmed that since the registered ID is a "very European specific thing" and UNP is global, the field must be optional.
- **Redundancy of Evidence and Conformity Topic in Claim Class (Issues 617 and 612):** Christian Orłowski raised concerns about the redundancy of the `evidence` attribute in the `claim` class (Issue 617) because every claim has a criterion, and

every criterion already has an evidence. Christian Orłowski also noted a similar issue with the `claim` class having a link to the `conformity topic` (Issue 612), as this is also redundant if the criterion already links to it. Christian Orłowski committed to sending a screenshot of the current data model for review, acknowledging that the data model had recently changed.

- **Handling Mandatory Attributes in Industry Extensions (Issue 610):** Christian Orłowski presented a discussion point raised by Steve regarding how to handle attributes that are optional in the UNP core but need to be mandatory for a specific industry extension, such as battery weight. Phil Archer suggested this sounds like a "profile" which could be technically defined using a machine-readable expression like a SHACL file or JSON schema, which the relevant sector body (like the Global Battery Alliance) should publish, rather than UNECE.
- **Adding Location/Address to the Party Class:** Dr. Susanne Guth-Orłowski and Christian Orłowski discussed the need to add location or address information to the UNP `Party` class. This is crucial for use cases like the battery passport, where a party (such as a spare parts provider) needs to be contacted, but is not considered a facility. Phil Archer suggested it should be a property of the party, possibly a `contact point` rather than a formal postal address, to accommodate virtual organizations with only an email or phone number.
- **Using Existing Semantic Vocabulary for Address:** Dr. Susanne Guth-Orłowski inquired about reusing existing semantic vocabulary for addressing, specifically mentioning schema.org or vCard. Phil Archer agreed that schema.org or vCard would be the obvious choice, suggesting that if the UNP `Party` is related to `schema.org/Organization`, the necessary properties like address and contact point would be included.
- **Granularity of Item, Batch, and Model Identifiers:** Dr. Susanne Guth-Orłowski raised a concern about the latest model having `model number`, `batch number`, and `item number` attributes within the product class, which they feel will be confusing and conflicting if the product identifier is already on the item level. Phil Archer explained that this suggests an implied hierarchy where an item is an instance of a batch, which is a subclass of a product, and questioned if a single class could cover all three levels. Dr. Susanne Guth-Orłowski suggested a more general property like `related ID` to allow for different sector vocabularies, as this is currently seen as a conflict coming from the ESPR use case.

Suggested next steps

- Harley Thomas will send an email to the group stating that all issues labeled as 'proposed closed' will be closed in two weeks unless someone says otherwise.
- Phil Archer will provide a section in the UNP's spec detailing the three link relation registers for Ayanna and create a PR for review, placing the text in the identity resolver section.
- Adrienna Zsakay will bring up the question of the UNP go-to contact point at the next communications meeting and put it on the agenda.
- Phil Archer will send Dr. Susanne Guth-Orlowski the information on how to join the W3C very fellow credentials working group as an invited expert.
- Harley Thomas will message Ashley Harwood to inquire why Christian Orłowski and other members cannot add labels to tickets in GitLab.
- Christian Orłowski will add a picture to issue 617 showing the data model, claim, and evidence attribute.

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