

Abstract Title – Knowledge and Insight from Members of the CA / Browser Forum

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Abstract --

In 2005 a group of Certification Authorities and Browsers began meeting to discuss improvements to SSL Certificate issuance for high-profile web sites. The work grew into the CA / Browser Forum's (CAB Forum's) 2007 Extended Validation (EV) Guidelines. Today the CAB Forum is international in its reach with over 30 CA members located in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East along with browser developers Apple, Mozilla, Google, Microsoft, and Opera. We hold regular project status calls and face-to-face meetings, and we use mailing lists, etc., as we work to improve: Network and Certificate System Security, issuance requirements, ETSI/WebTrust audit criteria, application developer guidance, security/incident-response, and vulnerability patching. Our members participate in ETSI CA Day, OTA SSL initiatives ("Future of SSL"/ "Always on SSL,"), RSA Conferences ("Cracked SSL" / "Alternatives to CAs for a Secure Web"), Mozilla's Dev Security / CA Policy group, and the newly formed CA Security Council and IETF's Web PKI Ops WG.

As CAB Forum Chair, I submit this abstract indicating our interest in addressing the reliability of Internet security. We are practical implementers of PKI/SSL/TLS technology. Our CA members have first-hand experience issuing SSL/TLS and code signing certificates, while our Browser members have experience providing user agents that mediate trust information for end users. Over the last several years we too have discussed the technological and practical barriers that encompass nearly all of the proposed NIST workshop topics—network security, CA roles/requirements, transparency, reliable communication of key validity/invalidity information, and improved user interfaces, as well as information sharing in light of ever increasing malicious activity and the barriers to improvement presented by legacy devices. CAB Forum members attending the workshop will address the practical and real-world issues that we've dealt with over the last four or five years.

Sincerely yours,

Ben Wilson

CAB Forum Chair