

Messaging

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The **vision** of The Open Group Messaging Forum is to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of email for inter-personal communication and as a backbone for e-commerce.

Work Areas

In pursuit of the vision, the Messaging Forum has active work in three areas:

Secure Messaging

The demand for increased security of email is growing rapidly, to protect commercially sensitive information and to meet legal requirements for privacy. The Messaging Forum is working on the deployment of different mechanisms to protect email depending on the degree of protection required.

Providing practical and interoperable ways for strong desktop-to-desktop encryption is the major focus of current activities within the Messaging Forum.

Managing Spam

Unsolicited email – Spam – has become a major impediment to the effectiveness of email. The Messaging Forum has produced a Manager's Guide to Coping with Spam and is supporting the introduction of mechanism for authenticating the sender of emails.

Instant Messaging

Instant Messaging is currently enjoying explosive growth and is being introduced into business environments outside of the control of existing corporate policies. The Messaging Forum is working in partnership with EEMA to address Instant Messaging and is initiating two specific work items:

- Federated Instant Messaging
- Federated Free/Busy

The Role

The Open Group Messaging Forum, a leading association for e-business and messaging industries, brings together customers, suppliers, and consultants to increase effectiveness of electronic messaging and provide interoperable solutions for business leaders through education, fulfilling customer-driven requirements, promotion and endorsement of standards-based solutions, and influencing public policy.

Achievements

- Privacy Toolkit
- Message Retention Toolkit
- Telecommuting Toolkit
- Outstanding e-business Infrastructure Requirements
- Secure Messaging Challenge Report
- Secure Messaging Toolkit
- Managing Spam – A Call to Action
- Instant Messaging Problem Statement
- Manager's Guide to Coping with Spam
- S/MIME Gateway Profile
- S/MIME Gateway Certification Program

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S/MIME Gateway Certification

This certification program, introduced in summer 2004, guarantees interoperability of products that encrypt email at the domain gateway. Products from four vendors are currently certified; Version 2 of the program is under development.

Forward Plans

Certificate Policy Assurance

Creation and auditing of Certificate Policies is currently delaying the deployment of PKI-based encryption of email. This program seeks to reduce a NxN problem to Nx2 or Nx3 through the establishment of a small number of broadly accepted standard Certificate Policies and an independent auditing program.

Secure Messaging Practitioner Certification

The lack of access to suitably skilled external resources is currently delaying the deployment of secure messaging systems. What is required is a mechanism to help companies wanting to deploy secure messaging to locate suitable external consultants and to be confident that they have the necessary skills and knowledge.

This program seeks to build on the model established by The Open Group Architecture Forum for TOGAF certified practitioners and IT Architect Certification.

Federated Instant Messaging

The growth of Instant Messaging brings benefit to enterprises who embrace it, but lack of interoperability reduces its effectiveness and introduces unnecessary management complexity. This proposal seeks to integrate existing IM services, using existing account and credentials for external IM users.

Federated Free/Busy

Scheduling meetings, particularly where participants are geographically dispersed, is a time-consuming process involving multiple rounds of negotiation to establish an acceptable date/time. Heavyweight calendaring and scheduling initiatives have been underway for a decade and have yet to address this requirement. The proposal seeks to establish a simple protocol to establish the free/busy status of people.

About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and Open Source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service. Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.

For More Information

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