

The Basis for Decision Making in The Open Group

THE *Open* GROUP

Mike Lambert

VP & CTO

Mobile +1 650 888 2469

GSM +44 7770 451167

m.lambert@opengroup.org

Apex Plaza
Forbury Road, Reading
Berkshire, RG1 1AX
United Kingdom

Tel +44 118 950 8311 x2230

Fax +44 20 7691 7868

www.opengroup.org

THE *Open* GROUP



Fundamentals

- ❑ The Open Group is **Open**
 - Interface Adoption Criteria define what it means to have an “open” specification

- ❑ The Open Group is a **Consensus** body
 - We operate with the support of the majority of our members
 - No single member/small group of members has the power of veto

- ❑ The Open Group operates under the provisions of the **US Co-operative Research Act**
 - Certain decisions must utilize approved technical procedures

Interface Adoption Criteria

- ❑ Define what it means to have an open specification
- ❑ All specifications published by The Open Group and referenced in certification programs using The Open Group trademarks **MUST** conform to the Interface Adoption Criteria

Interface Adoption Criteria

- Three categories
 - **Mandatory** – Must be satisfied
 - **Recommended** – i.e. Irrelevant
 - **Desirable** – i.e. Irrelevant!



Legal Criteria

- ❑ A permanent royalty free copyright license from the copyright holder of the material for The Open Group to use and publish (Not required if The Open Group has no plans to publish the standard).
- ❑ If the interfaces to be adopted are covered by patents, such patents must be licensed by their owners on a reasonable and non-discriminatory basis.
- ❑ An assurance that a person developing a product in accordance with the standard is immune from any liability to the contributor of the material in respect of the use by him or his customers of such material, other than through failure to properly license predisclosed patents.
- ❑ The terms to be such that The Open Group will not be inhibited in its efforts to secure acceptance by international standards bodies.



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

Stability Criteria

- ❑ The availability of a high quality specification upon which Open Group activities can be based



Implementation Criteria

- ❑ If the standard is taken from an existing product source licensable from a single vendor only, then implementations should be available to all companies on a non-discriminatory basis. This includes pricing and licensing conditions.
- ❑ Freedom for anyone to develop a practical product which either supports or utilizes the same interfaces, subject to the need to license any predisclosed patents
- ❑ The interfaces to be adopted must be specified sufficiently that a conformant product may be implemented (and usable) using only:
 - The standard itself
 - Products or services (e.g. protocols) that are publicly available or obtainable from multiple sources on a non-discriminatory basis
 - Formal standards from accredited standards development organizations
 - Other Open Group published or referenced standards
 - Other freely available information



Forum Operation

- ❑ There are no prescribed rules for the operation of a Forum
- ❑ The objective is to reach stable decisions
 - In general that means supported by a majority of members of the Forum
 - It also means not strongly opposed by a sufficient subset of the members to cause decisions to be revisited
- ❑ Decisions relating to approval of specifications **MUST** use the approved Company Review procedure
 - This is a useful tool for building consensus around other types of deliverable



Forum Operation

- ❑ Ways to achieve stable decisions
 - Adopt “super majority” voting for important decisions
 - 75% for approval
 - Adopt a quorum for important decisions
 - 50% of those eligible to vote
 - Keep a clear record of all decisions taken with rationale
 - Adopt “one company, one vote”
 - Stops any company stacking the voting



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

Technical Procedures

- ❑ Objectives
 - To record how complex tasks involving different groups may be executed in an effective and repeatable manner.
 - To ensure the quality of Open Group technical deliverables.
 - To ensure that The Open Group complies with legal constraints on the operation of consortia

Applicable Technical Procedures

- ❑ Developing and Approving Standards
 - The company review for measuring consensus

- ❑ Certification Programs

- ❑ Confidentiality

- ❑ Interface Adoption Criteria



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

The Company Review Process

- ❑ All major deliverables from a Forum are approved through a consensus process that The Open Group calls the **Company Review**
 - No single company can force something through against the wishes of others
 - No single company has a veto

- ❑ Meets all necessary anti-trust legislation

- ❑ Acceptable to de-jure standards bodies



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

The Company Review

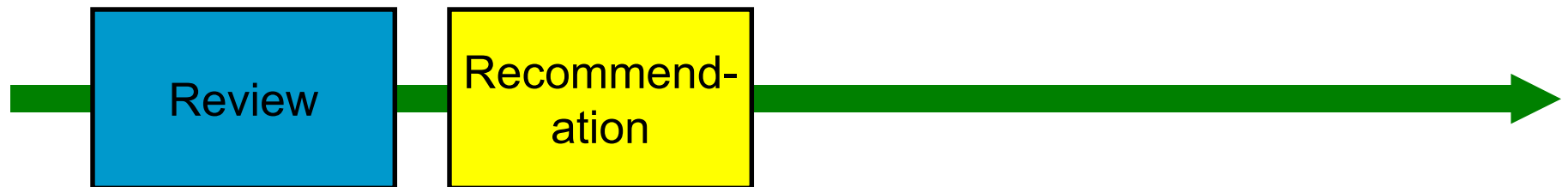


- ❑ Review Group
 - Total membership of The Open Group
 - Other relevant groups/experts
- ❑ “Yes if” review
 - Specific change proposals needed
 - Conducted by eMail
 - Typically review period is between 2 and 4 weeks



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

The Company Review

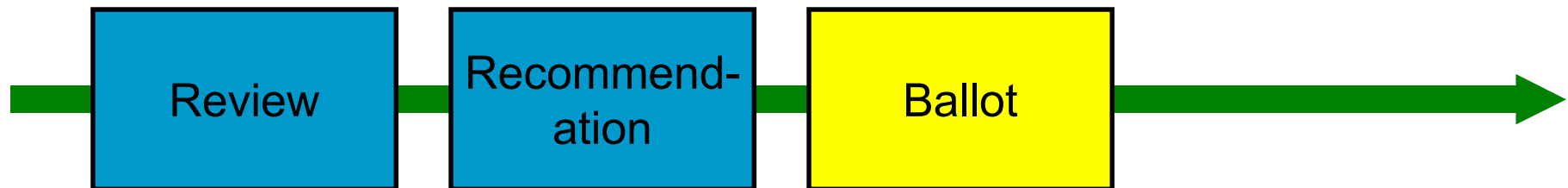


- Each specification has a sponsor
 - The Forum
 - An external party
- Sponsor reviews all Change Requests and recommends disposition



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

The Company Review

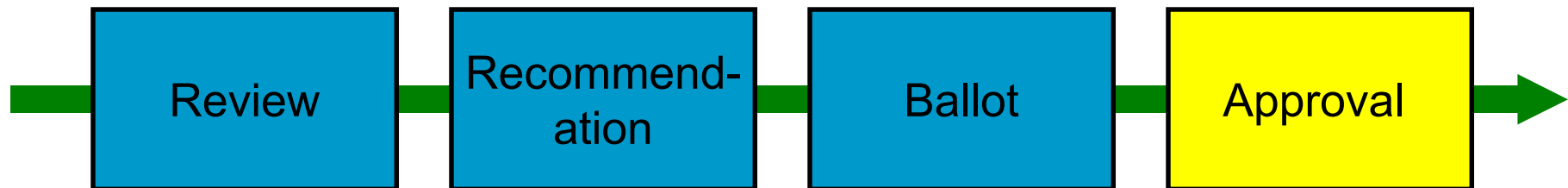


- Members of the Forum vote on recommended resolution of Change Proposals
 - 75% either way is decisive
 - Meeting or telecon to resolve residual issues
- If volume of changes is high, short recirculation review is permitted



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

The Company Review



- Formal Approval by the Board of Directors
 - Only grounds for rejection is failure to adhere to correct procedures (anti-trust issue)