SB47/4 - Minutes for the 47th Steering Board Meeting

Tuesday 6th July 2021 - 09:00 EDT / 14:00 BST / 15:00 CEST

Attendance

Laurence HARRISON (Radioplayer)

Bob HEADS (Frontier)

Rosie KENDRICK (RadioDNS)

Maximilian KNOP (Konsole Labs)

David LAYER (NAB) (Chair)

Badri MUNIPALLA (NPR) (from 14:30 BST)

Nick PIGGOTT (RadioDNS Project Director)

Dave WALTERS (BBC)

Christian WINTER (AUDI)

Apologies

Walter HUIJTEN (NPO)

Ben POOR (EBU) (Secretary)

Nacho Seirul-Lo Salas (NXP)

John VERMEER (iHeart)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Agenda approved
3. Steering Board Chair remarks: DL commented on how well the Technical Group is working at the moment, and how it's great to see so many projects underway.
4. [Minutes of the 46th Steering Board Meeting](#) approved
5. Actions from previous meetings:

46/01 - NP/RK to organise meeting on 12th May to review and revise IPR changes meeting passed and now published – completed.

46/02 - NP/RK to work out how to regularly make sure the teams are complete, and how often - we have decided to do this every August as part of the membership renewal process – complete.

46/03 - identify top 50 global broadcasters and create a list of those we need to target - PO report

46/04 - NP create document for broadcasters on the different interdependencies and relationships of RadioDNS users - not finished but in process

6. Technology Group Report (SB47/02) – NP

Had a really active meeting last Tuesday - we schedule them to fall a week before the SB.

It was a short meeting with focus and this is the abridged version of the meeting report. Big picture: we have been learning from implementations in the fields and this is leading to updates in the standards.

a. Changes to the Service and Programme Information Standard including making voice reactive control more consistent and effective.

b. Changes to the Hybrid Radio Lookup Standard

   Just changing the guidance to provide clarification on implementation.

c. Lookup for NPR (USA) and CBC (Canada)

   Needs consistent agreement on how to handle the split for some PI codes between USA and Canada. There is currently a workaround, which we can formalise.

d. Push Metadata

   Moving this into a pre-standard prototype. A few members are happy to implement the current document so we can get some feedback on use. If this is OK by September then we can probably move forward with this standard change.

e. Analytics

   Prototyping is now possible but we haven't talked about how we might do this.

f. Broadcast Audio Replacement

   We would like to ask any members to join this working group, we currently have 3 members interested. Expectations and first approach are being prepared by Andy for presentation at the next TG meeting.

DW - stated he has seen the documentation for the standardisation of Push Metadata from Nick Humfrey.

LH - PI codes for Canada / USA - this is a practical problem, is the TG working on a solution?

NP - we have a work-around for Canada / USA and did come up with an idea for Austria / Slovakia / Italy but there are some problems

CW - we can usually get the missing country information for Austria / Slovakia / Italy from DAB

NP - We're leaving this open as an issue but not a priority as not causing problems "on the ground".

7. Project Office Report ([SB47/03](#)) - NP / RK

    a. Financial Report - NP ran through the current situation and projected spending.

    b. Membership Review

    We have our highest ever membership and it was suggested that we do a press release that we have an all-time high number of members, it was agreed to wait until September.

    AP - press release our membership high in September

    c. Events

    DW - suppliers seem to be keen to be getting out to IBC and NAB DL - encouraged us to attend CES and if meetings are scheduled, NAB could possibly assist in getting a meeting room.

    d. Communications

    update from RK on current social media status and also a link to document with all of the press we have had this year.

    e. Visual Design and Website Update

    Demonstrated some of the website and that the priority was to think about user journeys and visuals. Beta version in August which we will let the board see.

    f. Country Coverage Update

    Still work in progress.

    g. Sustainability report

    Kick started by the BBC as all their suppliers will need a sustainability report, this is almost finished and asked the board to read and let us know.

    h. Diversity report

    It was agreed we should draft a diversity report

    DW commented that it is a good, responsible and socially aware thing to do and that knowing where you want to be helps you target those people you want to be part of your organisation and industry.

    LH - agreed - worth having a look at some kind of policy. At Radioplayer when invited to take part in panel discussions we only do so if there is some diversity on the panel, but you need to be prepared not to take part.

    AP - create draft diversity report/policy

i. Automotive Receiver Functionality Research

This research and report is looking at what is happening right now. RadioDNS is coming up as a recognised technology, there is still the problem to overcome where there is a focus on quantity not quality with logos and so maybe we need to focus on our database is 99% right, not we have 55K logos.

BH - is the data so far documented?

NP - working group meeting this Thursday when we will be presenting, but did present initially in June.

DL - how do the database companies connect with the auto manufacturers - can we do the same thing? Any value in this?

NP - we are talking to the same people. Some manufacturers just want to buy a package and see it as an easy solution. We are trying to ask OEMs to support us. DW - going to CES might be a priority - the North Hall OEMs. Is there a marketing exercise or positioning we could take that we are 100% accurate? Could we engage someone like Rajar (UK audience measuring service) to potentially exert some legal strength on manufacturers?

Discussion about timing and keeping up the pressure so when contracts are up the OEMs might be looking for a different collusion. Also if the logo providers used RadioDNS to source the logos, that would mean their content was correct at that time.

j. Software development

We have a backlog - Andy is going to be more available from August and has committed to doing 2 days a week until the end of the year.

Plus projects such as we would like a tabletop demo (prototype for users) and also for trade shows.

DL - great list but concerned we will run out of time if we don't get someone else additionally involved. We need to spend the money, i.e. the tabletop demo might be a good thing to pull out and give to someone else who we can bring up to speed and use as well as Andy.

An additional project could be developing a database similar to the one created for the US of active RadioDNS implementations, which is very useful. NP - Nick Humfrey of the BBC has radiodns.uk which has similar functionality which uses Ofcom and he has open sourced the code. We can look at that and see if there are data sources available to support similar sites in other countries.

However, for example, Is there a single national database in Germany?

CW - No, in Germany it is very difficult.

DL - It is useful in the US to help establish whether stations are participating and otherwise help them check their status.

DW - middle step researching where data is easily useable

AP - find countries where we might be able to find data to develop a RadioDNS participant database similar to the one maintained by NAB in the US.

8. Any Other Business:

   a. Laurence Harrison, Radioplayer

   Radioplayer has been doing a review of the data they are providing through RadioDNS. And want to raise:

   - Broadcasters switching service providers to use RadioDNS, either 3rd party or do it themselves. We can see that some of the data they are providing is inaccurate. What can we do to help this?
   - There is a lack of understanding at a broadcaster level of RadioDNS and more education is needed.

   Recommendation would be this is an opportunity for RadioDNS to do an audit of where the data is now, that would give us a good snapshot and we can see who isn't updating.

   Or a simple one-pager in terms of providing to broadcasters about processes and what the expectation is on a service provider of how they should be looking to update SI files - best practice or even certification.

   NP - we could systemise comparing what is in the DNS records with the SI files and if there is a divergence we could generate an email.

   LH - maybe put it on the next meeting as an agenda item and look at some options?

AP - make this an agenda item for the next meeting with some more options

   b. DL - have a meeting with fmlists.org and will let the board know how it goes.

9. Action Point review:

46/03 - identify top 50 global broadcasters and create a list of those we need to target - PO report

46/04 - NP create document for broadcasters on the different interdependencies and relationships of RadioDNS users - not finished but in process

47/01 - press release our membership high in September (RK)

47/02 - RK/NP create draft diversity report/policy

47/03 - find countries where we might be able to find data to develop a RadioDNS participant database similar to the one maintained by NAB in the US.

47/04 - make data review and proposed solutions an agenda item for the next meeting

10. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2021/2022:
    - Tuesday 14th September at 9am EDT / 2pmBST / 3pm CEST
    - Monday 6th December at 9am EST / 2pm UTC / 3pm CET
    - Tuesday 8th February at 6am EST/ 11am UTC/12pm CET/10pm AEDT

    - General Assembly on 8th February at 9am EST / 2pm UTC / 3pm CET

11. Adjournment