
SB49/06 – Minutes for 49th Steering Board Meeting

Monday 6th December 2021
10:30 EDT / 15:30 BST / 16:30 CEST

Attendance

Laurence HARRISON (Radioplayer)
Bob HEADS (Frontier)
Walter HUIJTEN (NPO)
Rosie KENDRICK (RadioDNS)
Maximilian KNOP (Konsole Labs)
David LAYER (NAB) (Chair)
Nick PIGGOTT (RadioDNS Project Director)
Ben POOR (EBU) (Secretary)
Nacho Seirul-Lo Salas (NXP)
Dave WALTERS (BBC)
Christian WINTER (AUDI)
John VERMEER (iHeart)

Apologies

Badri MUNIPALLA (NPR)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Agenda approved.
3. Meeting Chair remarks:
 - DL commented it is his 3rd year of being Chair, he likes the direction of the TG but one concern is hybrid radio platforms are being produced that don't rely on RadioDNS as much as they might and so we need to be aware of this and think of what can we do to make RadioDNS technology more relevant.
 - NP – This is a relevant observation. We do know that our tech is used, but not attributed. For example, Gracenote have just launched their hybrid radio platform and are using our standards (as far as we are aware) and so does DTS Autostage, but neither have mentioned RadioDNS. In the past we have been OK about this, but it would be good to make it clearer where people are incorporating our standards. It was useful that TuneIn say they are using our standards to keep their info up to date. The problem of attributing RadioDNS is recognised and the challenge is to work out how to get people proud to use our standards.
 - CW – you can buy DAB-Z for your car in Europe and it is a really good app, it is the

de facto standard Android DAB app for aftermarket car radios. With logos from RadioDNS and thousands of installations

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.zoulou.dab&hl=us&gl=US>

NSLS - companies want to use it as added value rather than saying they use RadioDNS?

NP - how do we get people excited about using RadioDNS without any contractual obligation?

MK - how do we communicate RadioDNS to platforms? Added to AOB.

4. Approved the Minutes of the [48th Steering Board Meeting](#)

5. Action Points Review:

48/01 - organise 50th Steering Board which will be in person, possibly at the EBU - still organising, just trying to make sure that Digital Radio Week is 16th Feb and trying to organise due to restrictions. - **in progress**

48/02 - Steering Board to add notes and comments to document [Roles in RadioDNS Hybrid Radio](#) ready for approval by next meeting in order to put them onto website. We felt like we were getting this question with reasonable frequency so put this guidance paper together.

This can be updated, but if the principles look right then it would be useful; to get it online. - **completed**

DW - suggested using an image that has already been used by RadioDNS.

48/03 - [Nicolas Bresou](#), Nick, Rosie to organise a seminar on 27th September and invite members. DW, JV, WH, NSLS, BP, LH and BH calendar invite to BAR group meeting on 27th September. - **completed**

48/04 - feedback on Inclusion statement from the board by the next meeting - **completed**

48/05 - SI Data Accuracy Review - it was agreed to run the check at least once and report back to the board. It was also agreed there should be no change in respect of informing outgoing service providers that they are no longer being used - see item 8

48/06 - contact organisations around the world to see if they would like to work together on getting RadioDNS information at a country level publicly available - **no progress, on hold until we complete country coverage**

48/07 - Add fee discussion to February Steering Board meeting agenda - **completed**

48/08 - send Doodle to Steering Board to come up with a time more convenient to all - **completed**.

6. Technical Group Report([SB49/02](#))

Intro from BP: in our last meeting we agreed on the final changes for the standards re phonemes, aliases and guidance.

Realtime metadata

The Slideshow spec is drafted and seems functional and now code prototyping will begin.

Analytics

NP - we have a prototype radio on HTML5 so members of the tech group can see what info it is sending to each broadcaster and see if the format and relationship is what is expected. There were discussions on different uses and scales.

Targeted Audio into Broadcast (formerly Broadcast Audio Replacement)

Group has been renamed and is moving into a paper prototyping phase. Everyone

understands generic functionality and we've had good feedback on being realistic about boundaries as to what can and can't be done. Moving into finding where and how much complexity there is, and a demo early next year.

LH - What is the expectation of timings for the demo?

NP - looking at the pipeline, we will begin work on a prototype in January, and it will take 6-8 weeks, depending how much we need to fake.

NLSL - which platform will you use.

NP - the last time we did it with generic RTL sticks

ALL - discussion about demand, commercial viability and rollout incentives.

DL - schedule an ESB to look at the topic? We only have an hour left.

AP - schedule meeting to discuss whether we should continue with the TAB

DL gave credit to NP and BP for the active work within the TG.

7. Project Office Report ([SB49/03](#))

A. Financial Review

Nick ran through the numbers.

DL - asked for clarification on how the project office money was spent.

NP - decided to put 50% more resource time into PO for 6 months, which allowed us to do rebranding of the website, country coverage info, manage Andy Buckingham tech projects. This is a further option for 2022 if we are still constrained.

B. Membership:

Update - we are still awaiting some membership payments for 2022, Bonneville have applied to join, once they have we will be up to 32 members.

C. Events:

Update on previous and upcoming events.

MK suggested they will be working with a client and we might be able to use them to show the journey from broadcast to end user.

AP - Project office to look into this offer

D. Communications:

Update from Rosie

E. Software development

Andy Buckingham has been working on the paper prototype for the metadata push and Analytics standard.

Good conversations with MK about writing a RadioDNS demo on an Android head unit that has DAB and FM functionality. The code will be available for people to use, and be available in our github, so that people can build their own demos.

NLSL - when will this be read?

NP - hopefully by April, for NAB, not fully agreed timeline. People will be able to take the app, look at code and work out which bits they want to copy and what they want to take inspiration from. If we keep it up to date when we standardise something new the code base will reflect the functionality.

F. Equality, diversion and inclusion statement

This is now on our website.

G. Top 50 global broadcasters to target

Still in progress

8. SI Data Accuracy Review ([SB49/04](#))

We agreed to run a one time look at data in the RadioDNS system, looking at problems that might exist - i.e. wrong or duplicated information.

We did 2 sweeps and acted like a receiver to see what information was returned.

Sweep 1 - 23rd Sept. We were surprised by the numbers we got. Found the number of bearers we were expecting but noticed anomalies with a handful of service

providers. We spoke to one service provider about the issue, who updated their files.

Sweep 2 - 26th October. Still a small number of unavailable services, but generally high availability.

ALL - Discussion on undertaking this process periodically.

DW - Good for data quality and integrity of service. How long did it take?

NP - now Andy Buckingham has written the script, to capture and analyse the data takes about half a day.

LH - Really interesting to see this. Only good outcomes, so we will be able to take a common sense approach. Should it be done once a year, maybe twice and the issues should get less and less.

NP - good to have a process so that broadcasters write an automated response to us when something is changed. With broadcasters/services providers who do this, there were no problems.

If the board is happy for us to do this ad hoc and informally, then we would be happy with this, but didn't want to create a new process that wouldn't scale very well.

BP - reassuring that the top 3 could be contacted and it gets sorted out. Maybe every 6 months would be useful.

WH - agree and has great educational value. Good to remind people they need to check their data. Once or twice a year.

CW - feedback on broken data usually came from customers, angry at the end of the chain.

AP - diarise to complete again in April and report back, also keep working with people who have sub-optimal processes.

AP - direct people to the code we have in GitHub that helps check what is being provided is correct

DL - whilst we have some surplus cash we could double down and we are only as good as our data so we should definitely spend more time and money on this.

CW - very important in the chain of trust to get our data right

DW - is this a marketing element - the trust?

NP - we do say it is authentic, but maybe we should more explicitly say trustworthy.

9. Proposed 2022 Budget ([SB49/05](#))

Nick ran through the proposed budget for next year.

DL - suggested adding data improvement project into the budget, building on the work done in 2021.

DL - helpful to see a surplus at 6 month mark to be able to review our target.

AP - NP to add in 6 month target

DL - no fee increase, mainly because we have so much surplus.

BH - I think we should find ways of spending the money

DL - but that isn't happening, so we need to recognise that there are other things we might be able to do.

NP - we have been cautious for the last couple of years but we didn't want to commit too much because it over-depleted. Just need to work out what is a prudent surplus, but the intention this year is to spend on technology as events are just as uncertain. Target 70,000 surplus halfway through the year.

11. Any Other Business

- a. Explore how we make the use of RadioDNS visible

NP - we don't want to push RadioDNS to the front, we are a background organisation. Any thoughts on how we could be in the background but still present enough to show our value.

DW - pay for a campaign on social media? Why do we feel the need to do it. For me it is the opportunity for standards to create a level playing field. Is this under threat, and therefore a reasonable thing to do.

LH - broadly agree. Project office, speak to a few of the actors and see if they are happy with involvement and usage.

10. Action point review:

48/06 - contact organisations around the world to see if they would like to work together on getting RadioDNS information at a country level publicly available - on hold until we complete country coverage

49/01 - schedule meeting to discuss whether we should continue with the TAB

49/01 - Project office to look into the offer from Konsole Labs to work with a client that can show using RadioDNS

49/02 - SI data accuracy review: diarise to complete again in April and report back, also keep working with people who have sub-optimal processes.

49/03 - direct to the code we have in GitHub that helps check what is being provided is correct

49/04 - NP to add in 6 month target to budget

11. Next Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 8th February at 6am EST/ 11am UTC/12pm CET/10pm AEDT - **we will confirm this as soon as we can.**
- General Assembly on 8th February at 9am EST / 2pm UTC / 3pm CET
- Note - these dates are now 22nd and 23rd February (not 8th February).