

SB52/04 - Minutes for the 52nd Steering Board

Tuesday 12th July 2022 - 09:00 ET / 14:00 BST / 15:00 CET

Attendance

Laurence HARRISON (Radioplayer)
Bob HEADS (Frontier)
Rosie KENDRICK (RadioDNS)
Maximilian KNOP (Konsole Labs)
David LAYER (NAB) (Chair)
Nick PIGGOTT (RadioDNS Project Director)

Dave WALTERS (BBC)
Christian WINTER (AUDI)
Ben POOR (EBU) (Secretary)
Walter HUIJTEN (NPO)

Apologies

Badri MUNIPALLA (NPR)
Nacho Seirul-Lo SALAS (NXP)
John VERMEER (iHeart)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions from David Layer
2. Agenda approved
3. Meeting Chair remarks - David thanked everyone who was able to attend the NAB Show in Las Vegas - it was great to be back in person, and he hopes IBC builds on the momentum for in-person events. We now have 33 members, G & L is the most recent member to join. Already we need to think about new members regarding the steering board elections next year, particularly on the manufacturing side. It was the Twelfth Automotive Workshop last week and David said he is excited about hybrid radio using Carplay and enhancing the display with metadata.
David also thanked Nick and Rosie, saying the last couple of years have been difficult, hopefully getting better from now on.
4. Approved the minutes of the [51st Steering Board](#)
5. Action Points Review
 - 51/01 RK to diarise SI data accuracy review for October. - More info in PO report, and it is diarised for every 6 months from now on.
 - 51/02 task the data capture/listener login group to define use cases more than just ad replacement so the TG work out cost implications and then we need

to work out how we catalyse the commercial discussions. - asked the TG to be more specific, more in TG report

51/03 NP write article for Radioworld - maybe on push metadata, start now!

Talk about enhanced presence at NAB show - first in person SB meeting, enhanced displays - writing about AWXII and the rest of the list.

51/04 NP to create list: if we had more money, what would we spend it on? - item 9

51/05 ask GSMA what they do with roaming agreements and see what they do. - delayed until next meeting

51/06 Create communications exchange of who needs to talk to whom re metadata. - delayed until next meeting

51/07 All board to feedback on if this new avenue is to be pursued.

6. Technical Group Report ([SB52/2](#))

Updates to standards have been published. We did some communication around that time as well to make sure people are working from the new standards.

Ongoing work:

- Metadata push team is finished, final draft of standard in ETSI draft now for review and then will be sent in. This will formalise metadata push functionality.
- Analytics and tagging will be developed as one standard, moving forward at next TG meeting.
- TAB working group: RTBF are creating a prototype over the summer, waiting to hear back for confirmation on dates.
- No change for data capture - we could pair devices and listeners, once we make sure it works it might be faster to create How-to rather than another standard
- Hybrid radio standard: discovering RadioDNS info using other streaming formats and having defined capabilities in metadata push for broadcasters to push in firehose, we now need to define firehose as could be relevant to other applications.
- The meeting schedule changed due to summer holidays, and the next meeting is in Sept, but the TG has items to work on in between which will be handled by email.

7. Project Office Report ([SB52/3](#))

Update from Nick on budget: we are behind as we budgeted for 2 new members which we haven't yet got. Costs where we expected to be overall, the Android app cost a little more than expected, but not anticipating an overspend by the end of the year.

DL - encouraging to see we are using the funds that we have struggled to use for the past couple of years.

NP - agreed, although the numbers look like we are ahead of our budget, it should balance out by the end of the year.

LH - agreed that this is where we should be spending.

NP - planned to over spend by £32,000 which means we have £52000 still in reserve.

DW - do we need to increase spend in next 6 months?

NP - we don't as we are on target to spend £137000 this year and reduce our surplus.

RK updated on membership - all 33 members are paid up.

RK updated in events, past events at NAB and Radiodays. DL suggested future events

TU automotive and CES, but without a booth.

Update from RK on comms.

Software development: NP said the Android head unit worked really well in Europe and there were only a few workarounds for use at the 2022 NAB Show. Really happy with how it is working. A minor issue is lack of FM signal strength information, which hinders demonstrating automatic switching. After demoing we realised it would be

good to have a web-based version so people can see what their hybrid radio visuals would look like.

AB is looking at duplicating the look and feel of android app into web front end, so even though it wouldn't give you FM and DAB, you could see what it might look like. Discussion on how to make this work.

Data integrity check update from NP: this is the second pass of this review, so we have a comparison with the first pass. It was agreed it was a useful exercise.

BP - proportion or percentage of problematic entries or files might be more useful, and glad numbers going in the right direction.

LH - really useful indicator.

NP - percentage would be useful, now we have 2 reports we can improve methodology to see if there are functional or cosmetic issues with SI files.

DL - put a specific date on the report, otherwise it implies it is over the course of the month.

AP- to create report on data integrity as a percentage

Discussion on streams broadcasters provide

8. Renewal of Project Director engagement ([SB52/4](#))

Nick shared the document.

DL questioned 3%, NP responded that it is inflation. DL suggested that the SB review the document and approach David directly if there are any questions or concerns.

AP - review Project Director engagement contract doc and get back to DL

9. 2023 Membership Fee Discussion ([SB52/5](#))

NP ran through doc, summarising current position. This is a first look at what we would do if we had more money and how we might bill for more money.

DL - 50% increase option, 100 or 120 would be too much. See who quits and then adjust target spend. More members paying higher fee will get us to this point.

BH - there should be a scale on size or revenue of the company, as this would be a big deal for organisations like Frontier

MK - agree, see importance - maybe we could ask everyone and then make the decision?

LH - 50 percent option is an easier sell. Asking members isn't always the right thing to do as you don't always get the answer you want. Sense is this is the right thing to do, unless there is alternative precedent.

DL - if we do outreach to members it should be informal, I could reach out to a few US members to gauge reaction. Then we could make a decision as the SB

MK - maybe record a video to talk about why we need the money and what it will be spent on?

BP - worthwhile explaining why it is being proposed. Now is the moment not to shrink but to expand. If there are any concerns or strong exceptions members should speak to the Steering Board.

DL - release video when we are implementing policy.

NP - tiered membership idea, we could take a simple measure and say this is how we are going to do it. WorldDAB set employee and turnover threshold - there is a standard fee, but this is discounted if organisations fit certain criteria.

Discussion on what the tiers and criteria might be with the idea there would be a broadly stated policy and then the Steering Board reviews the members. BH was concerned this might detract new joiners. NP replied that when we started we had an ambition of 100 members, but now there aren't as many discrete radio companies because of consolidation, so potential headcount of broadcasting members is much less. No matter how low the rate is, there just aren't as many new members to join.

CW - would prefer one fee and tell the story about where we are going; developing more re Android Automotive and that we have a plan for the next few years.

Important for radio and radio in the car and to be available in more cars.

Discussion on discounts for new members or existing members.

NP - will email a proposal of what has been discussed and then form member comms from that in Sept.

10. Implications of broadcasters removing open access to streams

Came up in AWXII - seeing more broadcasters wanting to restrict access to their internet streams. Some broadcasters acting unilaterally and not giving much notice or comms what they are doing, so things start disappearing. Bauer has started to pull out their streams and didn't communicate as widely as they could have done. We suspect this is a trend rather than a blip and want thoughts from the board on what they have seen or are aware of what people are doing regarding access to streams. BH - from an aggregation perspective, we have been talking to Bauer for months about this, and their direction of travel is going to require some login mechanism. German broadcasters are doing similar things.

WH - confirmed broadcasters are moving towards limiting access but it is technically complicated.

LH - suspect it is more of a trend.

NP - RadioDNS are stepping up our role as it is often a misunderstanding and manufacturers are finding streams disappearing. This is not the intention of broadcasters to disconnect entirely but they don't necessarily have an understanding of implications. We need to communicate with manufacturers to say they shouldn't assume the worst, this might be more of a mistake and we can help work out what needs to be done.

WH - very important to communicate, people are looking at doing this.

NP - we could provide the help to make sure this happens in the right way, achieving what the broadcasters want without inconveniencing the manufacturers.

DL - how has this change manifested itself?

NP - changed all URLs so they stopped working and then pulled them from the public SI file.

NP - Look at RadioDNS helping more with communications between manufacturers and broadcasters to make and react to these kinds of changes.

11. Removing Obstacles to Implementation

NP asked: How does RadioDNS play a role in facilitating the conversions that lead to agreements. Found out how GSMA did this for mobile phones.

DL - if we offer clientID technology, is somebody going to say this doesn't work

NP - not heard objections and is a standard way

CW - The reason why RadioDNS started in the first place would be gone if manufacturers had to talk directly to radio stations. Standards are there for things to work automatically without anyone in between. If you put in extra hurdles for Hybrid radio then they wouldn't do it in the first place so it doesn't solve the problem.

NP - what can we do to make it as easy as possible.

WH - how do we remove these obstacles to client ID?

NP - once established it shouldn't need maintenance.

CW - additional questions once this is developed.

NP - Part of the role of RadioDNS is for everyone to find an agreeable mid-ground to make this happen. Can't demand analytics and lister log in right now. The choice is a simple arrangement so you know who is using the streams, other information is too hard.

BH - feel like this might just be a temporary solution. More analytics is being required.

NP - Client ID will exist as securing access to metadata, functionality stays the same but the criteria might change.

BH - but the criteria will be more than just we won't do pre-roll ads

NP - might not be more than that at the moment.

It was agreed this should be the main topic at the next Board meeting.

12. Action Points:

**51/05 ask GSMA what they do with roaming agreements and see what they do. -
delayed until next meeting**

**51/06 Create communications exchange of who needs to talk to whom re metadata. -
delayed until next meeting**

52/01 - NP to create report on data integrity as a percentage

**52/02 - All to review Project Director engagement contract doc and get back to DL
with any comments**

**52/03 - NP will email a proposal of Membership fee renewal amount that was
discussed and then form member comms from that in Sept.**

**52/04 - NP to look at RadioDNS helping more with communications between
manufacturers and broadcasters to make and react to changes such as removing
open access to streams.**

13. Any Other Business

14. Next Meeting Dates

Suggested dates:

Tuesday 13th September 2022

Tuesday 6th December 2022

(all meetings scheduled for US morning, European afternoon)