

# CA/Browser Forum

## Status and future activities

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# What is the CA/Browser Forum?

- Global “Standards Organization” but not an incorporated entity
- Competing Organizations get together to agree on mutual policies/practices for the provisioning/issuance/governance of Publicly-Trusted SSL/TLS, Code Signing,.... Certificates
- Produces “Guidelines” which are incorporated into:
  - WebTrust for CAs Standards by WebTrust Task Force
  - ETSI Standards by ESI
  - ... other Standards/national policies
- Guidelines are licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0](#)

# CA/Browser Forum Participants

- Members
  - Certificate Issuers (Certification Authorities == Trust Service Providers)
  - Certificate Consumers
- Associate Members
  - ACAB'c (Association of Accredited ETSI Auditors)
  - CPA Canada and WebTrust Task Force
  - European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)
  - US Federal PKI
- Interested Parties (personal and legal entities)
- ALL PARTICIPANTS SIGN AN IPR AGREEMENT

# Current Governance

- CA/B Forum Plenary → <https://cabforum.org/>
  - [Server Certificate Working Group](#)
    - [Validation Subcommittee](#)
    - [Network Security Subcommittee](#)
  - [Code Signing Certificate Working Group](#)
    - No Subcommittees yet
- Each WG has some level of independence (via charter)
- Pending Creation of S/MIME Working Group
- More Working Groups can be created depending on Industry interest

# Who oversees the TSPs?

- The CA/B Forum **IS NOT** a regulatory or supervisory body
- Certificate Consumers (“Application Software Suppliers”, “the Browsers”) effectively "**supervise**" the Trust Service Providers for SSL/TLS or Code Signing Trust Services via their “**Root Programs**”
- In addition to “Root Programs”, QWACs are regulated in EU
  - Each Member State has a “Supervisory Body” to monitor adherence to eIDAS
- Transparency
  - Certificate Transparency for SSL/TLS Certificates
  - Public reporting (anonymous or not), by TSPs, Relying Parties, Researchers

# Expectations to comply with Guidelines

- CA/B Forum Maintenance Guidelines are voted and become effective usually 30 days after initial vote
- WebTrust and ETSI take more time to update their respective standards
- Certificate Consumers expect Certificate Issuers to **comply to the latest Guidelines when they become effective!**

# Latest News in Server Certificate WG

- Update Domain Validation Methods
  - SC14: Updated phone validation methods (16 Mar 2019)
  - SC15: Remove Validation Method Number 9 (16 Mar 2019)
  - SC7: Update IP Address Validation Methods (16 Mar 2019)
  - SC19: Phone Contact with DNS CAA Phone Contact (9 Sep 2019)
- Other topics
  - SC16: Other Subject attributes (16 Apr 2019)
  - SC17: Alternative registration numbers for EV certificates (21 June 2019)
  - SC22: Reduce lifetime of Certificates (Failed)
- Ballots being discussed
  - SC20: System Configuration Management
  - SC21: Log Integrity Controls
  - Incorporation of LEIs in EV Certificates

# Latest News in Code Signing WG

- “Guidelines for the Issuance and Management of Publicly-Trusted Code Signing Certificate” v1.2
- List of improvements already in place for ballots
- Expecting input from Antivirus/Malware detection industry
- Expecting Oracle to participate as a Certificate Consumer
- Time-stamping requirements related to Code Signing
  - Probably spin up a new WG to deal with Time-stamping requirements



# Discussions around S/MIME Certificate WG

- Open discussion about the scope of the charter (whether to include identity issues in the charter or not)
- First efforts will be to create requirements/practices for validating e-mail addresses to be included in digital certificates
- Binding identities to e-mail addresses is a second goal
- General consensus that the first guideline should not include identity validation requirements

# Other resources

- Meeting minutes (including F2F) <https://cabforum.org/category/minutes/>
- Mailing-list archives
  - CABF Plenary public list <https://cabforum.org/pipermail/public/>
  - Server Certificate WG public list <https://cabforum.org/pipermail/servercert-wg/>
    - Validation Subcommittee public list <https://cabforum.org/pipermail/validation/>
    - NetSec Subcommittee public list <https://cabforum.org/pipermail/netsec/>
  - Code Signing Certificate WG public list <https://cabforum.org/pipermail/cscwg-public/>
- How to join the CA/B Forum
  - <https://cabforum.org/information-for-potential-members/>

# Thank you

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