

Voting No on TGF at OASIS

The Transformational Government Framework (TGF) ballot closes this Wednesday, 25th of April 2013.

I am writing to urge you to vote against TGF as an OASIS standard.

Why?: TGF lacks meaningful conformance clauses.

For example, #3. MUST demonstrate [3] Engagement with Stakeholders;

Engagement with Stakeholders reads:

"There is no single, correct model for doing this successfully, but any conformant TGF program needs to make sure that it defines its own Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement Model which explicitly articulates all of these elements: map all stakeholders, coupled with the structures, processes and incentives needed to deliver full understanding and buy-in to the program, plus effective stakeholder action in support of it."

A "single correct model," or several correct models, is the essence of a conformance clause.

Or #11, "MUST have a [11] Customer Identity Management framework, which:"

#11 says in part:

It is not the purpose of the Transformational Government Framework to address the details of identity management but rather to give high-level guidance on the main issues that a conformant program should seek to address – based on a set of best practices which is emerging around the world and which we believe represents a way forward for transformational government, which is broadly applicable across a very wide range of governments.

How do you judge conformance without details?

OASIS rules require conformance clauses for all standards.

None of the TGF conformance clauses meet that requirement.

One reason urged for approval of the Transformational Government Framework (TGF):

"The TGF TC has worked hard on this document."

Yes, but hard work doesn't make a unicycle an automobile.

If the requirement is to have four wheels, however hard you work, one wheel is insufficient.

Why is conformance important?

Any number of OASIS standards, from [OASIS Universal Business Language \(UBL\)](#) to [OASIS eXtensible Access Control Markup Language \(XACML\)](#) have created ecosystems of interoperable systems.

By having meaningful conformance clauses.

The Transformational Government Framework (TGF) may be great suggestions but suggestions are not standards.

If you are proud of the standards you have or are writing at OASIS, let's make sure that all OASIS standards have meaningful conformance clauses.

Vote NO on the Transformational Government Framework (TGF) ballot.

Patrick Durusau

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patrick@durusau.net

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Another Word For It (blog): <http://tm.durusau.net>

Homepage: <http://www.durusau.net>

Twitter: patrickDurusau