WAG CHARTER

GROUP: **WIRELESS APPLICATION GROUP**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 6, 2002**

1. DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The Wireless Application Group [WAG] is a WAP Forum Specification Working Group and is responsible for the specification of application technologies in the Wireless Application Protocol [WAP].

The goal of WAG is to specify a range of application enablement features, e.g. "user agents", content formats, programming interfaces etc., that will enable the creation of data services on wireless hand held devices, including telephones, pagers and PDAs.

WAG's focus is on, while not limited to, the creation of a network-based application model with both strong architectural ties to, and leveraging the technology of, the World Wide Web.

WAG is specifically chartered with the development of the content formats and semantics of the WAP user agent (microbrowser), interfaces to other in-device applications, application-level services and facilities, and application-level programming interfaces.

WAG has chartered a number of sub-groups to be responsible for the generation of specifications covering specific areas of interest within WAG's area of responsibility. WAG currently has work in the following areas:

- User agent semantics - semantics and processes related to the user agent(s) as a whole, which are necessary to provide a coherent programming model. Example: URL schemes,
- Domain-specific data exchange formats - recommend and/or create domain-specific data exchange formats such as calendar and phonebook information,
- The microbrowser user agent including its processing model, behaviour and content formats targeted at WAP-class devices, including markup languages, e.g. WML, scripting languages, e.g. WMLScript and other content formats, e.g. WBMP,
- Billing – addressing a uniform means of providing billing information associated with WAP services,
- External Functionality Interface – providing the mechanisms to extend the application environment with additional software and hardware elements through a set of consistent APIs and discovery mechanisms,
- Internationalisation (i18N) – addressing internationalization issues in the WAP application environment,
- Location – addressing the requirements for location bases services,
- Persistence – providing the means to store, access and manage local information on a WAP devices persistent storage,
- Push - an application model and content formats for asynchronously delivered content,

- Multimedia Messaging – addressing the needs of delivering messaging based applications, e.g. email, to WAP devices,
- UAPROF - mechanism for specifying the characteristics of a user agent, allowing a network application to adapt its behaviour to the user agent peculiarities,
- Wide Area Network Synchronisation – providing the means of synchronizing information, e.g. PIM functions, between the WAP device and some back end service,

It is expected that a variety of other projects will be initiated as required.

2. SCOPE

The scope of WAG's work is the specification of application technologies in the WAP environment. This involves:

- Generation of new work areas:
    - o WAG will be a, but not the only, source of new ideas for extending the application environment.
- Creation of new specifications:
    - o Including the detailed architecture, definition of features and function, specification of interoperability criteria, ensuring smooth transitions and backwards compatibility with technology transition between major releases.
- Maintenance of specifications:
    - o Including the general updating and addition of new features, management of interoperability issues, problem reports from members and non-members, and ultimately managing the end-of-life.

WAG will use the procedures and processes of the WAP Forum to achieve its goals through the generation of new work areas, and the creation and maintenance of its specifications, i.e.:

- Any new activities being initiated in WAG will seek appropriate approval.
- A new approved activity will be assigned to a new sub group, assigned to an existing sub-group or worked on within WAG as a whole.
- WAG and its sub-groups will have charters to reflect their activities, these charters being regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with the processes of the WAP Forum.
    - o Sub-Groups will inherit the charter of WAG and will have specific responsibilities, scope and durations etc. stated in their charters, which will be approved by WAG.
    - o All WAG and sub-group charters will be submitted for further approval when required.
    - o WAG sub-groups will not have approval to determine a specification's readiness for promotion when such a decision is stated by the WAP processes to be the responsibility of WAG as a whole. However sub-groups may be chartered to act on WAG's behalf.

- Any subgroups in WAG may choose to cease when either:

    - o The specification work is complete, no enhancements are anticipated and alternative maintenance arrangements can be made, e.g. transfer to WAG or another sub-group,
    - o The specification work should cease as it is no longer required,

Sub-groups can cease also as a result of a WAP Forum Board of Directors decision.

- WAG, as a whole or through its sub-groups, will manage the promotion of specifications through the WAP Forum's document lifecycle process in accordance with the processes of the WAP Forum.
- WAG, as a whole or through its sub-groups, will manage the specifications through their life by providing specification maintenance, support of the interoperability process and problem reports.
- WAG will manage the end-of-life of specifications, any replacement specifications and the appropriate transitioning.

3. CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS

The criteria for success are simple:

- The timely delivery of quality specifications within the scope of approved activities,
- The maintenance of specifications released by WAG,
- The maintenance of specification end-of-life and transition issues.

The above items place upon WAG the responsibility for managing the work of its sub-groups.

4. DURATION

WAG is expected to exist while there are new features of functions to be specified in the application area of WAP and while the maintenance of WAG specification is required.

The life of a WAG sub-group may be more limited, e.g. for as long as it takes to complete the specification activity.

5. SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

WAG's schedule and deliverables will be those being undertaken by the group as a whole. Currently these are defined in the charter of the WAG sub-groups.

6. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

WAG and it subgroups require the following resources from the WAP Forum and members:

- WAP Forum staff assistance in arranging meetings – see section 10,
- WAP Forum provision on email and web site services for member access – see section 10,
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP) access for at least the chairman and secretary of WAG and each subgroup. WAG's FTP access will cover all sub-groups; the sub-groups will be limited to that sub-group. This provides the means for maintenance thereof if and when the sub-group ceases and/or WAG needs to apply maintenance to an existing set of sub-group pages.
- WAP Forum liaisoning services – see section 7.
- Members to permit representatives to donate their time and expertise to future the work of WAG's activities.

No guarantee of commitment level is required, e.g. percentage of working time. However, members are encouraged to permit their representatives to donate as much time as possible to bring new functions to market as quickly as possible and with the best quality possible.

7. OVERLAP WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

WAG has overlaps and desires to cooperate with a number of external organizations, a non-exhaustive listing being:

- WorldWide Web Consortium [W3C] – for its Internet content specifications and architectures,
- Internet Engineering Task Force [IETF] – for its Internet technologies where appropriate to WAP,
- ECMA TC39 – for its ECMAScript languages,
- ETSI, 3GPP, etc – for their work in enabling applications in mobile handsets, e.g. MExE, MMS etc.,

Individual WAG sub-groups will state the specific organization they expect to overlap and cooperate with.

Cooperation with external organizations will utilize any liaisoning vehicles open to WAP Forum working groups, e.g. cooperation agreements, non-disclosure agreements (one- or two-way) and Collaboration Zones.

8. CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER WAP ACTIVITIES

WAG will coordinate the work between:

- WAG and its sub-groups,
- WAG and its sub-groups and Architecture Group [Arch] on architectural issues affecting WAP as a whole. In particular the Architecture Consistency sub-group of [Arch] will be closely worked with on the review of WAG architectures being specified for new major features,
- WAG and its sub-groups and WSG for security related issues affecting both domains,
- WAG and its sub-groups and WPG for protocol related issues affecting both domains,
- WAG and the WAP Forum Board of Directors and the Specification Committee on the approval of activity proposals, charters, etc., and process related issues,
- WAP Forum Expert Groups and others to seek advice from their domain of expertise knowledge.

9. DEPENDENCIES ON WAP SPECIFICATIONS

The dependency on other specifications depends on the actual activity.

WAG as a whole will have dependencies on the specifications from WPG and WSG depending on activity. Additionally, WAG activities will have dependencies on other WAG specifications, whether exiting or work in progress. Dependencies on future specifications will be clearly communicated and release timed appropriately.

10. MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION

WAG expects the following meetings to be held:

- Opening and closing plenary meetings for WAG as a whole at each WAP Forum plenary meeting. The facilities and arrangements for these meetings will be made in conjunction with WAP Forum staff.
- Additional meetings for WAG as a whole at WAP Forum plenary meetings or otherwise as required to progress the work of WAG. The facilities and arrangements for these meetings may require help from the WAP Forum staff.
- Meetings of one or more sessions per sub-group of WAG in each WAP Forum plenary meeting. The facilities and arrangements for these meetings will be made in conjunction with WAP Forum staff.
- Additional meetings for WAG sub-groups at other times to progress work of the sub-group. This may require facilities and arrangements to be made through the WAP Forum, especially if the meetings are collocated with other Specification groups or sub-groups within WAP Forum.
- A conference call bridge number is required for WAG and its sub-groups for regular telephone based meetings to make progress on the work in hand. The chairs WAG and its sub-groups will be expected to keep logs of conference call bridge use.
- Email exploders with archiving will be required for WAG and each sub-group. The preferred email naming is the established WAP Forum format.
- A web page for WAG and each WAG subgroup, again hierarchically named, e.g. http://<WAPForum_struc>/wag, http://<WAPForum_struc>/wag/Activities/ActivityPUSH etc., where, <WAPForum_struc> is currently www1.wapforum.org/member/wg.

11. MEMBERSHIP

The activities of WAG are open to all representatives of member companies. Domain experts in Internet and mobile network communications and services are welcomed and actively desired for WAG as a whole and its sub-groups.