W3C Spec Process

Philipp Hoschka<ph@w3.org>

W3C

From Idea To Standard

- Workshop

- Business Group

  - Business Group Report

  - Optional: Final Specification

- Working Group Formation

- Recommendation Track

  - Working Draft

  - Last Call

  - Candidate Recommendation

  - Proposed Recommendation

- Publication of Web Standard

- Document Maintenance

Business Group Report

- The label "Business Group Report" refers to any document produced by a Business Group.

- If report is a specification, some rules apply

- Edits necessary for current draft
  https://rawgithub.com/tripzero/automotive-bg/master/vehicle_spec.html

  - Drafts are governed by Community Contributor License Agreement (CLA). W3C provides a template for including copyright information – see http://www.w3.org/community/reports/reqs/

  - They must include the name of the group that published the deliverables and link to a public page about the group.

  - They must include boilerplate language required by W3C (e.g., notice that Contributions are made under the CLA and that certain conditions apply) – see http://www.w3.org/community/reports/reqs/

  - When published on the W3C site, they must not violate the W3C Privacy Policy (not sure how to check)

  - The content and style of the Specification must not cause confusion about its status, in particular with respect to W3C Technical Reports.

- Supported by respec

Spec publishing

- Described in FAQ
  http://www.w3.org/community/about/faq/

How do we publish a specification?

Chairs publish specifications following a small set of requirements. Thus, a group must have a Chair in order to publish. The requirements page provides information about styles, copyright, etc.

When the Chair is logged in, on the group's home page in the section on Reports (near the top) Chairs will find a link to a page to publish specifications Publishing here means recording its existence and announcing it to the community.

The page for publishing allows Chairs to publish new drafts or to advance existing drafts to "final" status. The following happens when the Chair publishes a specification:

- The specification is added to the list of specifications for the group and appears on both the group's home page and on the global Reports page.
- The system announces the publication on the group's blog. This announcement also appears on the Community and Business Group home page and is sent as an email to the group's public list.
- In the case of a final specification, the announcement invites people to make commitments under the Final Specification Agreement (FSA). For each final specification there is a page that lists commitments as well as group participants that have not yet made a commitment. On that commitments page there is a button for people to make a commitment under the FSA.

Examples

- Draft report: WebVTT
  http://dev.w3.org/html5/webvtt/e0a5a82bd5be3501e7649a949fcce4c7b83a427c.html

- Final Specification: Web Speech API
  https://dvcs.w3.org/hg/speech-api/raw-file/tip/speechapi.html

Towards Final Spec

- Two step process for BG specs

  - Participants first make CLA RF commitments over their *own* contributions

  - When a specification is stable, participants voluntarily make

    - A "final text commitment" over the group specification

    - An RF commitment for material that advances to the Recommendation Track. (There are additional details regarding exclusion in such cases.)

- Source: What are main similarities and differences between IPR policies of Working Groups and Community/Business Groups? http://www.w3.org/community/about/faq/

Final Specification

- The following rules apply to Final Specifications:
  - when they are published, W3C issues a call for participants to sign the [Final Specification Agreement](#).
  - they must be available in English.
  - they must be published on the W3C Web site.
  - Once a Final Specification has been published at a given URI, the Specification must not change.

Final specification Agreement

- http://www.w3.org/community/about/agreements/final/