CGM Open Foundation (member) meeting – 20151112

Attendees:

Ralf Berger
Benoit Bezaire
Jeffrey Coon
Stuart Galt
Lofton Henderson
Don Larson
David Manock (joined during the hour)
Dieter Weidenbrueck

Previous Minutes (Members):

CGMOF members meeting of 20151014

Purpose:

CGMOF members teleconference meeting. Synopsis of agenda: a.) Action Items follow-up; b.) collaboration with S1000D Graphics and Multi Media; c.) Graphics Community" (+SVG) beyond just CGM; d.) free Web-friendly viewer: e.) WebCGM 3.0.

Proceedings:

Action Items. Current status:

1. Stimulate more WebCGM 3.0 requirements discussion: Don continues to try to stir more dialog on LinkedIn.
2. Handle topics related to ISO and its CGM group: Lofton has finished the discussion about continuing ISO8632 status within ISO – unchanged, "reaffirmed" status leaves door open for future development. Topic of CGMOF/ISO-SC24 liaison is still open.
3. Follow up on dues owed: Don reports all previous dues invoices have been paid, invoice has been sent for the new Individual membership (David Manock).
4. Outreach (tbd) to S1000D: Stuart Galt seeks more clarification on the intent of this item – what is he being asked to do?

S1000D Collaboration topics. Some discussion around "Model Based Enterprise", and getting some CGM-relevant input. Next S1000D GMWG meeting is December 3rd. Question: could we attend? Stuart will check.

CGMOF as more of a "graphics community". Lot's of discussion of the pros and cons, and exploration of some details and scenarios:

- E.g., we could produce a strict profile of SVG, equivalent to the WebCGM 2.1 profile.
- Or we could produce best practices document for CGM->SVG conversion, per the model of using SVG as downstream display format. Not proposing SVG as the archival format.
- Alternative approach is CGMOF-supported free Web-friendly WebCGM viewer. Forget about SVG and its accompanying problems, such as the inconsistencies amongst SVG viewers.
- Some expressed the opinion that CGMOF should not get involved with SVG.
- Counter argument: if big online catalogs want to go to SVG, we can't prevent it but we can help them avoid preventable mistakes, i.e. share "lessons learned" during CGM's lifetime.
- Conclusion: to be continued, no consensus or strong group position yet.

CGMOF offer a free Web-friendly viewer.   Synopsis of [previous meeting's discussions](#): a plugin approach to CGM viewing won't work for modern browsers. There are already several examples. This is a problem for users who have signifcant assets committed to CGM. Converting CGM-to-SVG on the fly is a proposed strategy to preserve viewability, but it is not without problems (e.g., uniformity, fidelity, and completeness of SVG viewing support from various suppliers.) The JavaScript libraries of Larson comprise another promising approach.

Discussion continued about CGMOF making such a viewer widely available (free) and supported. There is already a good foundation for such a viewer. But the resource problem remains – people and money to acquire the rights, finish, support, and maintain it. CGMOF currently does not have those resources. Some members argued that this should by obtainable because, for example, large A&D entities are facing considerable expense and instability of assets if continued support and evolution of the existing WebCGM solutions goes away.

Topic to be continued.

WebCGM 3.0 requirements: Some inconclusive discussion about continuing to gather WebCGM 3.0 requirements.

New action items:

- Stuart investigate whether we can attend December S1000D GMWG meeting in some CGMOF capacity.
- Don & Dave compile list of CGM players (software vendors? users?), as basis for direct solicitation to contribute to CGMOF.

Next Meeting:

The next CGM Open Foundation members meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 0800 PT.