



Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

Public Comment Invited for New Standard

The U.S. and international communities face critical, immediate choices on how to provide effective public warning and inter-agency alerting. The time to reach consensus on a standard is now.

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) offers a solution. CAP is an open, non-proprietary standard for the exchange of emergency alerts and public warnings over data networks and computer-controlled warning systems. Developed by members of OASIS, the global standards consortium, CAP is now available in draft form for public comment.

CAP has been designed to:

- **allow a consistent warning message to be communicated simultaneously over different systems**
- **increase warning effectiveness**
- **ease the workload for warning officials**
- **help detect patterns in local warnings that might indicate an undetected hazard or hostile act**
- **provide a template for effective warning messages based on best practices**

Bringing Together Government and Industry

CAP uses the XML data language for Web services, while remaining fully compatible with existing public warning systems. The draft specification is based on work contributed to OASIS by The Partnership for Public Warning, Blue292, Boeing, E Team, IBM, MTG Management Consultants, National Center for Crisis and Continuity Coordination (NC4), Oracle, Wells Fargo, and other OASIS members participate in the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee.

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World Conference on Disaster Management

The CAP draft will be presented to the global emergency management community during a workshop at the 13th World Conference on Disaster Management in Toronto, Ontario. The presenter will be Art Botterell, chairman of the OASIS subcommittee responsible for drafting the CAP specification, and convener of the Common Alerting Protocol Working Group, a consortium of more than 130 public safety and technology professionals worldwide that developed and tested prototypes of the CAP standard.

Review the CAP standard at:

<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/emergency>