



# IPP Fax Project

## *Working Group Charter*

Revision	Date	Author	Notes
1	7/24/00	Paul Moore, Peerless Systems Networking	Initial version
2	9/15/00	Paul Moore, Peerless Systems Networking	Agreed at Chicago meeting

This document is the charter for the PWG's IPP Fax project. Note that it is not a requirements definition; rather it is a broad description of what the group is to achieve and deliver. A detailed requirements document will be produced later.

## **Charter Statement**

The working group is tasked with defining a protocol that enables the synchronous, negotiated exchange of image documents on a network. The exchange must be capable of being made secure.

Particular emphasis is placed on recreating the appropriate characteristics of PSTN faxing for use on the Internet and company intranets.

## **Explanation of terms**

### ***Synchronous***

In a synchronous exchange the fundamental model is that the sender is assured that the receiver has received the data. The sender is in direct communication with the receiver and can interrogate the receiver. Examples of such exchanges are fax, IPP, HTTP, etc.

This contrasts with the asynchronous, store-and-forward nature of email systems and the current Internet Fax standards.

### ***Negotiated***

The two parties in the exchange need to be able to reach an agreement about the parameters of the exchange. This should include things such as image size, resolution, color depth, etc.

### ***Image documents***

The data exchanged is in the form of images that will typically be generated by (but not limited to) scanners, copiers or cameras. The protocol must be capable of transmitting ordered sequences of associated pages or images.

### ***Secure***

The exchange must be capable of being made secure. This should include confidentiality of data whilst in transit, controlling the access to receivers and authentication of the sender and / or receiver, non-repudiation and spoof proofing.

### ***Fax characteristics***

The important features of fax that are to be focussed on include:-

- Public access – I.e. it is possible to configure a receiver so that anybody who knows its address can send to it.
- Simply understood and communicated addressing,

- Simplicity of the conceptual model and actual use from the user's viewpoint.

Some features are not desirable, in particular being constrained to the low image quality and transmission speed of current fax standards.

## **Deliverables**

- A specification (possibly more than one if deemed necessary) for the protocol.
- A set of 'baked-off' interoperable implementations of senders and receivers of the protocol

Other possible deliverables could include:

- A reference implementation of a sender and receiver
- An "Open Source" implementation of one or more components
- A conformance definition that could be used to build conformance test suite(s)
- A test suite.
- An Implementors guide

## **Guidelines**

IPP 1.1 will be used as the transport.

The protocol should re-use as much of the current de-jure and de-facto standards as possible.

It would be useful to bear in mind the possibility of carrying out the higher levels of the protocol using varying underlying technologies. For example wireless or Infrared as well as network protocols.

In addition to the normal PWG policy on intellectual property rights the group is tasked with only using cost-free technology if at all possible.

To facilitate rapid progress early prototyping is encouraged. Also the group is encouraged to focus on the 80% of functionality that is most useful, to not explore corner cases and to produce succinct specifications.

The group should not preclude the use of gateways, on-ramps, off-ramps and third parties in IPP Fax transactions.

## **Standard status**

The specifications will initially be produced as PWG standards.

We will pursue wider adoption by the ITU and / or the IETF when this seems appropriate. We will therefore constrain the standards to include only things that will be acceptable to those bodies.

We will also announce and distribute our documents to the IETF via mailing lists and Internet-Drafts as appropriate.

## **Timing & Milestones**

The initial charter of the WG shall run for 18 months from its agreement. These milestones are to be synchronized with the nearest appropriate PWG meeting.

Charter + 0: Agreed charter

Charter + 3 months: Agreed requirements (San Diego 12/00)

Charter + 8 months: Agreed Specification (Toronto 06/01)

Charter + 12 months: Bake-off (09/01)

Charter + 16 months: Revised specification & possible implementors guide. (01/02)

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