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aipref working group

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Note Well

This is a reminder of IETF policies in effect on various topics such as patents or code of conduct. It is only meant to point you in the right direction. Exceptions may apply. The IETF's patent policy and the definition of an IETF "contribution" and "participation" are set forth in BCP 79; please read it carefully.

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- As a participant or attendee, you agree to work respectfully with other participants; please contact the ombudsteam (<https://www.ietf.org/contact/ombudsteam/>) if you have questions or concerns about this.

Definitive information is in the documents listed below and other IETF BCPs. For advice, please talk to WG chairs or ADs:

- [BCP 9](#) (Internet Standards Process)
- [BCP 25](#) (Working Group processes)
- [BCP 25](#) (Anti-Harassment Procedures)
- [BCP 54](#) (Code of Conduct)
- [BCP 78](#) (Copyright)
- [BCP 79](#) (Patents, Participation)
- <https://www.ietf.org/privacy-policy/> (Privacy Policy)

Note Really Well

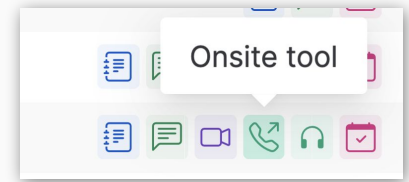
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- If you believe you have been harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, you are encouraged to raise your concern in confidence with one of the Ombudspersons.

This session is being recorded

IETF 122 Meeting Tips

In-person participants

- Make sure to sign into the session via Datatracker or the QR Code in this session.
- Use Meetecho (usually the "Meetecho lite") client to:
 - join the mic queue
 - participate in shows of hands
- *Keep audio and video off if not using the onsite version.*



Remote participants

- Make sure your audio and video are off unless you are chairing or presenting during a session.
- Use of a headset is strongly recommended.

Resources for IETF 122 Bangkok

- Agenda
<https://datatracker.ietf.org/meeting/agenda>
- Meetecho and other information:
<https://www.ietf.org/how/meetings/preparation>
- If you need technical assistance, see the Reporting Issues page:
<http://www.ietf.org/how/meetings/issues/>

Agenda

- Administrivia
 - Scribe selection / NOTE WELL
 - Agenda bashing
- Orientation
 - Charter overview (chairs)
 - Initial questions for the group (chairs/all)
- Candidate Drafts
 - Discussion of [candidates for adoption](#) (open mic)
- Interim Planning

Charter overview

Deliverables

- Vocabulary for expressing AI-related preferences
 - independent of how those preferences are associated with content.
- Means of attaching or associating those preferences with content in IETF-defined protocols and formats
 - including but not limited to using Well-Known URIs ([RFC 8615](#)) such as the Robots Exclusion Protocol ([RFC 9309](#)), and HTTP response header fields.
- A standard method for reconciling multiple expressions of preferences.

Out of scope

- Technical enforcement of preferences
- Application layer protocols for authenticating or authorizing clients and/or crawlers
- Establishment of registries of preferences relating to content
- Auditing and other transparency measures for AI training

Questions for discussion



Vocabulary Scope

- At the workshop, there was a strong sense in the room that the initial vocabulary should be relatively simple, so that there was less chance for confusion by adopters.
 - Since a well-designed vocabulary will be extensible in the future, this also seems prudent; it's difficult to un-deploy things on the Internet.
- While the exact vocabulary contents need to be discussed and agreed upon, **for now can we agree on this general principle?**

Attachment by Location

- It seems safe to assume that we will define an attachment mechanism by URL.
- One candidate for that mechanism is an extension to robots.txt.
 - While we'll evaluate proposals for attachment mechanisms on their individual merits, it would be helpful to surface any concrete deficiencies in reusing robots.txt soon.
- **To that end, if you're aware of technical or operational deficiencies in doing so, please start a thread.**

Opt-in and Opt-out

- Our charter does not specify whether we deliver an opt in or opt out mechanism.
- As chairs, we believe it is important for the group to recognise that ultimately we will not determine whether the legal regime will take one approach or another, and to recognise that there is already precedent for opt-out.
- It's been suggested that we design for both cases, which seems prudent, **so we suggest that the group formalise this goal.**
 - Please chime in **if you disagree and do not want to design for both cases.**

Other attachment mechanisms

- We're chartered to define attachment mechanisms not only by location, but also for embedded metadata in IETF-controlled protocols and formats.
 - What should they be? Candidates might include HTTP header fields, link relations (see RFC 8288), JSON formats, and other protocols.
 - **Coming to agreement on what we will cover soon would be helpful.**

Working with other organizations

- We are chartered to work with with organisations that control formats defined elsewhere.
 - A target list would be helpful
 - obvious candidates include HTML in the W3C, JPEG, MPEG, and I'm sure many more.
- In particular, if we need to create a new liaison relationship, it would be good to start establishing one soon
 - More info at <https://www.ietf.org/about/liaisons/>

Combining Preferences

- Our charter requires us to deliver a 'method for reconciling multiple expressions of preferences.'
- This might include location-based preferences, embedded preferences, preferences found in a separate repository (as is common for some industries in managing copyright), or preferences found elsewhere and correlated by some similarity measure.
- **This is likely to be one of the more complex deliverables we have, so we should start work on it soon.**
 - Worked examples are likely to be helpful to tease out the issues.

Licensing Schemes

- There seems to be interest in enabling licensing schemes whereby a preference that permits some usage is conditional on participation in that scheme (likely involving compensation).
 - While we need not support this to execute our charter, a future extension might enable this, **so it would be good to assure that our extensibility mechanisms enable it.**
- If there is interest in sketching out what how such a mechanism might work, those people are welcome to explore this area and present their learnings to the WG.

Matters for Policymakers

- By necessity, **our work is only part of the solution in this space**; policymakers are likely to deliver a legal framework that creates expectations and consequences for diverging from expressed preferences.
 - It may be helpful to them if we can communicate what our deliverables provide, and more importantly what they do not.
 - For example, technical enforcement of preferences is unlikely to happen using the mechanisms we define, although we could recharter in the future to deliver improvements (e.g., an audit format).

Matters for Policymakers (2)

- Documenting the limits of the mechanisms we provide -- as well as how they might interact with policy measures -- would be helpful in managing expectations and assuring that policy and technical work well together.






Candidate drafts

- List at <https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/aipref/documents/>

AI Preferences (aipref)

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Document 	Date 	Status 	IPR 	AD/Shepherd 
Related Internet-Drafts and RFCs (4 hits)				
draft-thomson-aipref-sup-00 Short Usage Preference Strings for Automated Processing	17 pages 2025-02-16	I-D Exists Candidate for WG Adoption		
draft-vaughan-aipref-vocab-00 Vocabulary for Expressing Content Preferences for AI Training	13 pages 2025-01-20	I-D Exists Candidate for WG Adoption		
draft-illyes-repext-02 Robots Exclusion Protocol Extension for URI Level Control	6 pages 2024-10-19	I-D Exists Candidate for WG Adoption		
draft-illyes-rep-purpose-00 Robots Exclusion Protocol User Agent Purpose Extension	4 pages 2024-10-18	I-D Exists Candidate for WG Adoption		

Brussels Interim meeting

- Interim meeting 8-10 April 2025 (Thanks Microsoft!)
 - Announcement at <https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/msg/ai-control/YC-pWxuFXcJ70W3tP5kvUf-ZERs/>
 - Remote participation will be available
- Agenda to be finalized based on today's discussions and follow up discussions on list

Thanks for coming!
Stay engaged on the mailing list

