

Age-Based Restrictions on Content Access

IAB / W3C Workshop

IBOPEN, November 2025

The Internet Architecture Board, Technical Architecture Group, and W3C are convening a workshop to examine the technical and architectural implications of different approaches to implementing age-based restrictions on access to online content.

This workshop seeks to perform a thorough examination of the technical and architectural choices that are involved in solutions for age-based restrictions on access to content. We do not expect to identify a single candidate solution, even if that might be an ideal outcome. The goal is to build a shared understanding of the properties of various proposed approaches.

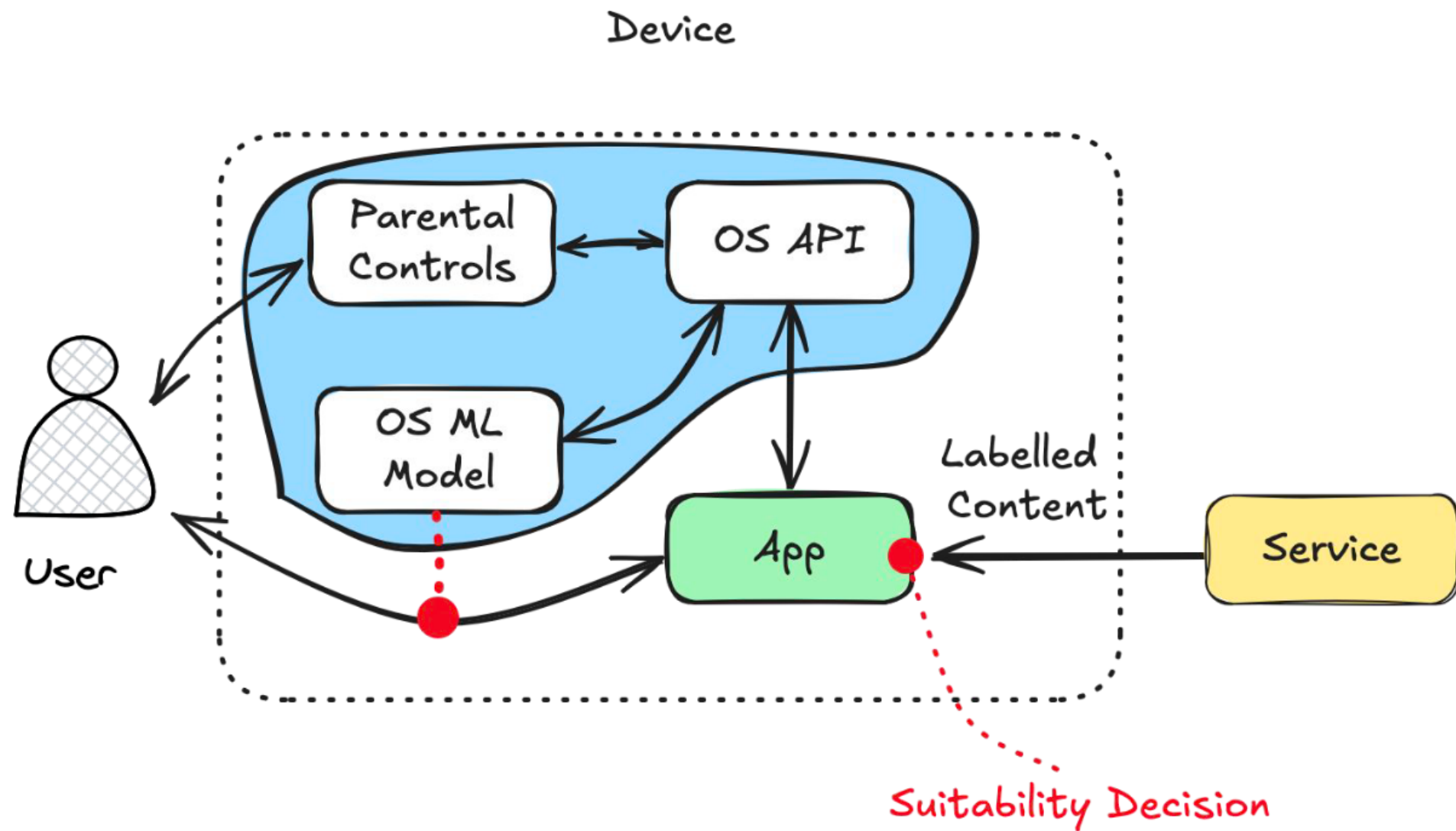
<https://datatracker.ietf.org/group/agews/about/>

Agenda

- Introduction / Framing
- Guiding Principles
 - Architectural
 - Human Rights
- Potential Impacts
- Where Enforcement Happens
- Available Techniques
 - Age Verification: Server-Side Solutions (eg Government Identity, ZKP)
 - Age Estimation (eg biometrics, data analysis)
 - Age Inference
 - In-network
 - On-device
- Discussion

- 2.5 days
- 36 Attendees (3 remote)
- 9 presentations
- Chatham House Rule (modified)

Challenge: Shared Responsibilities



Coordinating enforcement across multiple components is challenging

Some Takeaways

- Collaboration across technical, policy, stakeholder is important and not happening effectively
- Safety requires more than just a technical solution
- Identifying roles is important
- A common vocabulary is necessary
- More than one approach is likely required
- Pinning liability on one party is not helpful
- Mapping the risks of specific architectures is useful

Next Steps

- Report is being produced
- IAB and/or W3C (TAG) may consider additional work (e.g., statements)
- Some discussion of specific technical work already (see eg DISPATCH)
- Coordination function still uncertain

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/group/agews/about/>