

Open Standards for Emergency Interoperability

Specific, standardized messages are critical for coordinating emergency response—particularly when more than one profession or governmental jurisdiction is involved. OASIS open standards for emergency make it possible for information to be shared across local, state, tribal, national and non-governmental organizations and among the wide variety of emergency response and management services providers.

OASIS Standards include the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and the related suite of Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) specifications.

■ CAP (ITU X.1303)

CAP allows consistent warning messages to be disseminated simultaneously over many different systems, increasing warning effectiveness while simplifying the notification task.

CAP addresses the challenges posed by the diversity of independently developed warning systems. It serves as a universal adaptor for alert messages, defining one message format with features essential for the broad range of alert systems and sensor technologies.

The CAP 1.1 OASIS Standard is also published as International Telecommunications Union (ITU-T) Recommendation X.1303.

■ EDXL-RM

EDXL Resource Messaging describes a suite of standard messages for sharing data among information systems that coordinate requests for emergency equipment, supplies, and people.

EDXL-RM specifies a document format that allows the communication of information about resources, such as requests for obtaining resources, responses to these requests by potential suppliers, and information on the status and location of resources.

■ EDXL-HAVE

EDXL Hospital AVailability Exchange (HAVE) specifies an XML document format that allows a hospital's status, services, and resources (including bed capacity, emergency department status, and available service coverage) to be communicated.

HAVE allows emergency dispatchers and managers to make sound logistics decisions on where to route victims, based on accurate hospital bed availability, status, services, and capacity data.

Although some hospitals currently use proprietary technology to publish this kind of information, only those parties with the same systems can access their data.

Get involved

Organizations involved in the OASIS Emergency Management and Emergency Adoption Committees include:

- AtHoc
 - Desktop Alert
 - Environment Canada
 - California Office of Emergency Services
 - Canadian Association for Public Alerting/Notification (CAPAN)
 - Open Geospatial Consortium
 - Sandia National Labs
 - U.S. Dept of Defense
 - U.S. Dept of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - U.S. National Weather Service (NOAA)
 - Warning Systems Inc (WSI)
- and many others.

OASIS Emergency Committees remains open to new participation. For information on joining, contact dee.schur@oasis-open.org

Take your place in open standards at OASIS

As a member of OASIS, you gain the power to influence the emergency management standards that save lives and property, whether you represent a:

- user** seeking to ensure your requirements are met;
- government agency** wanting to minimize overlap of standards and reduce the risk in recommending new technology;
- software provider** driving industry cooperation through standards; or
- industry group** coordinating domain efforts with foundational work.

Benefits of membership:

- Participate in as many OASIS Committees as you choose including the Emergency Management and the Emergency Adoption Committees
- Initiate new Committees to address identified market needs
- Influence the direction of existing Committees by contributing technical work and articulating preferences
- Gain access to early drafts of new specifications
- Identify partners and develop joint solutions
- Liaise with related efforts at OASIS to address convergence and interoperability issues at the development stage
- Protect development efforts from single-vendor bias
- Expand visibility through participation in interoperability events
- Work alongside the industry's most influential experts
- Learn and adopt best practices
- Foster a greater variety of competitive solutions
- Lower the cost of implementation
- Contribute to work respected as the product of the OASIS open process

OASIS is an international consortium dedicated to advancing open standards for the information society. OASIS Standards are developed through an open process, one that provides for fairness, transparency, and full participation from the entire community.

Organization type / size	Annual Dues (USD)		
	<i>Foundational</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Contributor</i>
Company employing more than 500 people	50,000	16,000	8,000
Company employing 100-500 people	48,000	14,000	7,500
Company employing 10-99 people	46,000	12,000	6,600
Company employing fewer than 10 people	46,000	9,500	3,200
Academic Institution or Association	44,000	10,000	1,100
National government agency (<i>OECD member country</i>)	44,000	10,000	*
National government agency (<i>non-OECD member country</i>) or local government agency	44,000	10,000	1,100

* Contributor-level dues for national government agencies from OECD member countries are based on the number of employees and correspond to the dues categories for companies. Individual-level membership is also available for those unable to join through their employers.