ARIEL LIANG: …and [inaudible], maybe that should be Laura. Laura is introducing as, I'm doing this now. So Corinna, she's [inaudible] the product team, and then she's overseeing all of the development for the ARI related functions for the new website, and other remaining work for that launch website.

So Corinna meet Alan, and Alan meet Corinna. That's my few words.

CORINNA ACE: Thanks Ariel. Nice to meet you Alan.

ALAN GREENBERG: Hello.

ARIEL LIANG: And yeah, so back to you Nathalie.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Thanks Ariel. And thank you everyone to make the time to come on this call on such short notice. That's excellent. We want [inaudible] at the end of the call to have the latest updates by the web team, that [there is few?] developments, and it's good that we have them on today so we'll deal with the shared screens and see what new items have turned up on the website.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

The call discussion they wanted to have today was about the ALS database. And to see what could be done within the limits of the new website. So just before we start properly, I wanted to put up the slides quickly, so one could have access to the same details.

I know that At-Large staff and Alan are pretty aware of the current situation. I just wanted to make sure that Laura and Corinna are too. So the reason why we're getting very excited about the idea of a centralized database, is that our current situation is very, very confusing.

As you can see on the slide, we've only got five databases. So, we have the one that you probably know, which is the repository for application forms, the PDF forms. You can only transfer from the old At-Large website to the new one. And we have the Google Doc database, which is an ALS contact information database.

We have a tracking document used mainly by those in charge of the procedure, so Terri and myself, which maps all the different steps of the accreditation procedure timeline, and equally the data which these steps were completed. And we have another document, which notes the voting weight per ALS and per election, which is Ariel's responsibilities.

And it's on to staff managed databases, we have another one, which is the At-Large Wiki. So each ALS has individual Wiki pages, those I know you are aware of because we've linked to them to the ALS profiles on the new At-Large website. So these Wiki pages, the responsibility of the ALSs themselves. Unfortunately, we are not informed when these are

updated. And I think the ALSs themselves don't necessarily know that they are responsible for these pages.

A lot of issues, and obvious ones are [inaudible] databases, is that updating them is an administrative nightmare. There is also a lot of space for human error in that. Taking into the account the turnover, which happens a lot of finally and secondary compact within the ALSs themselves. That means we have a lot of people to track. These people also need to know that they need to contact us to update their information.

And equally, we have the staff turnover within the At-Large team. That means that if people leave, then the documents that they have stored on their laptops, disappears with them. So all that means that when we sort of realized a more simplified version of a database happening on the new At-Large website, we got very excited, and would like to imagine it would be possible to replicate the functions that we are currently finding on our outside databases in this one centralized database.

The idea being that, as you can see on the slide that we would avoid this huge information gap, that's down to many, many factors, we would be able to have one reliable source of information, and more importantly, we'd be able to extract and potentially report on that information. So, I tried to narrow it down, this is just done hastily. So the four squares at the end of this [inaudible], are of course, open to discussion and to debate, but from personal point of view, I can, what would be essential to be able to track would be to contact the information of the ALSs, checking the ALS set, and the different voting weights.

[Inaudible] that wasn't setting in stone situation [inaudible] now, and I see Alan has got his hand raised. Please go ahead Alan.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you very much. A couple of notes. First of all, you list four staff maintained databases, there are, in fact, at least five that I know of, because the current, the new website indeed has its own list of databases and information, which may have originated at one point with the Google Doc spreadsheet, but is now, has a life of its own.

If you compare things within the Google Docs document to the web, you'll see that there are differences. They were differences because perhaps the Google Docs wasn't clear, and we wanted clarity, you know, for instance, a city or something like that, or the spelling of the country.

The website also has the logo of the ALS, which is not does not show up in the Google Doc's database, so that was derived separately. I don't know what else, what other changes were made along the way, but as of today, it is a separate database. So there is that.

The second thing that's really important to understand is within these databases, at least several of the cases, at least two of the cases, and perhaps more, there are inconsistencies within the database itself. For instance, the Google Doc has multiple spreadsheets. It has a spreadsheet per RALO, and then a consolidated spreadsheet, they don't match in all cases.

They may not match based on real trivial things of an extra space somewhere, or spelling difference in the ALS name, or they may not

match in really substantive ways, like completely different people are mentioned. And that's not unexpected because they've been maintained as separate pages. The old At-Large repository, the one that's referred to as the application for a repository is only a single list, but has inconsistences within itself.

So if you search for ALSs of a certain status, for instance, it will come up with a list. It displays the status, which you'll see some of those statuses don't match what you searched for, because the search is not being done on the field being displayed, but is clearly been done on a parallel field that is invisible, or at least invisible to someone from the outside world. So we have inconsistencies within the, even within the single databases.

And those kind of things have to be considered as we're going forward. There are other things that have to be tracked, for instance, in terms of the single database. The current At-Large, the current one on the old website that's been transferred, has a map. That implies to me there is longitude, latitude coordinates that are stored somewhere that have to be carried forward.

I don't know right now if there in the same database as the application forms, or there is another list of ALSs that has been maintained separately. So that's just understanding where we come from. We've talked a couple of times…

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Alan?

ALAN GREENBERG: Yes, may I finish? And then I'll let other people talk.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Of course, go ahead.

ALAN GREENBERG: We've talked a number of times about this being associated with the web. I fully accept that this is being driven because some of the needs have become more evident, because of the new website, but the problems we're talking about have existed long before the decision to create a new website, and I really want to thought of it as a database problem, and that database will be used to extract certain information to present on the web.

Now it may be extracted dynamically, live, it may be extracted by, you know, extracts being made on a daily, weekly, monthly basis, I don't much care. But I really want to think of this as a database issue to maintain our records on the ALSs, and not driven by the web. The web is an ancillary output of it, not the substance itself. And we also have to worry about, you know, the web certainly should not have access to some of the confidential information on this, because you know, we always have security breaches, and we don't want to be the one they mention next time.

And I'll shut-up now and let people talk.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Thank you Alan. This is Nathalie. Just to reply to one of your points. I know that Ariel and Laura have got their hands up for the comments on the others. Regarding the [inaudible] reliability of the current information we have in our databases, it goes without saying that there can be no, [inaudible] of information currently have without the prior catalog or listing work of that information. So we had a call with Ariel and Heidi to discuss this, and this is not a job for a staff person in two days.

It's a monumental job to go over all of the information, and to check it, with our existing ALS contacts. So we've managed to have a staff member, [inaudible] the name who you're familiar with Alan, who will be able to take on this task.

So we don't have a precise deadline for the end of it, it depends on his availability. We have got the agreement that he would be able to assist in cataloging the information. So that will of course be done before anything is moved over to us and to [inaudible] database.

And Ariel, you're next in the queue.

ARIEL LIANG: Thanks Nathalie. Alan, just a quick response to the map, the Google maps that you mentioned. We were able to extract the URL for the map and it's already migrated to the new website, so we have it in there. And of course, there are some coordination issue being maintained with the web admin to update the location of the ALSs. And I don't personally involving that work, so I'm not sure whether or not you want to talk about that.

But just to let you know, the map is still there.

ALAN GREENBERG: Just to be clear, I wasn't questioning whether the map was there or not. I didn't even know that the list was there, the searchable list was there, but it was pointed out to me it was there, although I'm not sure I know how to find it, but I'm told it was there. And I wasn't questioning the map, I was simply saying, if we're going to have a map as I think the belief was we should, then there is clearly a need for coordinates to be kept of where the ALSs, and that should be a component of the database not stored separately in a private list.

That's the only point I was making on that.

ARIEL LIANG: Got it.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Laura, your hand is raised. Over to you.

LAURA BENGFORD: Thank you Nathalie. I just wanted to add two points. First, I understand your point, Alan, on the Google map. The point is that those coordinates on the map, appear actually in a database, so it actually should be listed here as one of the databases.

ALAN GREENBERG: I suspect it is the same one as the one called the repository of applications forms, but I don't know since I don't have access to the nitty-gritty underneath it.

LAURA BENGFORD: Okay. I believe that a Google… Actually, who…? Actually, I'm not quite sure where that is, because it's not part of the website, to be honest. [CROSSTALK] The point is, if we put it on a list, we can figure out exactly where that database is. I think that's a standard Google Map technique, and it's in some kind of Google database, if I had to guess, but we can certainly confirm that.

ALAN GREENBERG: Actually Laura, I can confirm you're right, it's separate, because there were ALSs missing from the map that were in the list. You're right. It is separate. So it's…

LAURA BENGFORD: Yes. [CROSSTALK] And the whole point is looking at this from a, as Nathalie pointed out, into… The goal is to get it into a more centralized portion of the database, and I would imagine the second point is I just maybe would suggest is we start to think about solving the problem, which we'll see and talk about in a minute.

There is an intermediary step, because in fact, when we replace the old At-Large website, with moving it over to the new At-Large website, I believe three of these databases will go away and be combined into one. We haven't really talked about the voting a lot. I'm a little familiar

with that. I know Ariel is a lot more familiar with that. You know, that, you know, we can talk about adding, but what we're trying to build, and I wanted to just talk a little bit about the database that we are using.

If you think about the architecture underlying the website, there is really two pieces of it, Alan. And one is, you know, as you mentioned, kind of a presentation layer in the website, and you know, we're using rails, [inaudible] rails as a frontend, but the backend is actually a SQL database that is you know secure and, for most of the instances, most of the pages are just straight, you know, webpages and be rendered in HTML.

But the underlying database supports some of the more robust features, if you will, and ALS is one of them. So in fact, we are creating a database in SQL that serves all of this. And that was one of the main designing points that we spent the time early on with Nathalie in looking at the existing process that she was using, and trying to consolidate as much of that to get this built.

So we could have taken the approach of having a separate database for the applications, then you know, the incoming applications. Then the accredited ones, but we took an approach of taking the existing databases for the ALSs, and adding the additional fields to support the applications, because we did want to create that foundation where we could have a central database that we could add to.

At the end of the day, it's a database that we choose, you know, three years from now, to change our underlying platform or whatever, it is still a very relational database, and it can be added to or subtracted to,

or moved around just like any other database. And you know, we do have a security team and secured, encrypted information in that database, and we can get you some additional information on that, if you're interested.

So I think the way that Nathalie articulated the number of databases, we might have an intermediary step, or maybe three, five to seven databases goes to three, and then we need to look at the roadmap of how we get that down to one centralized. So maybe that's an approach we can consider as we try to move towards the goal of centralizing all of this.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Alan, your hand is raised.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. Just to be clear, I understand that one has to do these things in phases, and this is a complex problem. We have built, I'll use a nasty word, a [inaudible] of intermingled databases and lists and spreadsheets and stuff around. And the target has to be that there is only a single list, you know, a single line for every ALS, and enough fields to populate all of the other applications that we need to associate with ALSs.

I don't much care if it is really part of the web. I do care that we do have security, and you've told me that shouldn't be an issue, and I want to make sure that the day I or my successor asks for a report on ALSs with something that we never thought of, that it's not treated as a web

application, that someone has to go and design a webpage. I just want to be able to do a relational query on the database and get a report out.

And assuming that it has those characteristics, I'm not going try to do someone else's job and be a database designer, or a database architect. But it really has to be, you know, considered as not just the driver of the web, but the place where we keep all information associated with our ALSs. And in fact, we may end up having individual members, at some point, and whether it's the same database for them, that may or may not be appropriate, because it's probably far less information.

We want to keep our different information. We want to keep on individuals. But again, if it's not going to be the same one, then there would have to be another database, and in that case, there may be no web incarnations of it. You know, the information may never show up on the web, but it's information that we have to be able to keep tabs on.

And extract, if nothing else, we do online votes and we should be verifying online mailing lists and things like that against these databases, and right now, it's all manual. So.

LAURA BENGFORD: And just a quick point, I mean, it's a SQL database, so if you have access to our database, Alan, you could do SQL queries, but that in itself would open up a lot of security holes that we wouldn't want to do, and probably the more preferable way.

ALAN GREENBERG: For clarity, I wasn't asking for access myself. If I asked for a query to be done, hopefully somebody on our staff has the authority to do that.

LAURA BENGFORD: Exactly. And I was just going to say, I'm sure you're not asking for that, but the better way to do that is to build, you know, a frontend interface, but certainly, we have the capabilities, and we do that quite often to request to do SQL queries and do specific, you know, extracts. And in a lot of cases we just do an export to Excel and people you can just export the information, so long as it's public facing.

ALAN GREENBERG: That's fine as long as that Excel spreadsheet does not become a master in its own right and changed without the original one being changed, which is what the natural inclination would be to do.

LAURA BENGFORD: Exactly.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Ariel, this is Nathalie. While you're [inaudible], do you mind showing Alan the backend of the database, so he can see currently what information staff would have access to?

ARIEL LIANG: Yeah, thanks Nathalie. So, now I'm just going to take all of you to the backend. And clicking, and you can see this is the admin interface. We

have all of these sections in the website that's customizable by the admin. And then we have a section dedicated to the ALSs, and so far, we have these three parts that's related to the ALS database.

And the part that's the most important is the list where we put all of these existing accredited ALSs in those side [inaudible], based on the RALO organization. And if I click on individual one, then here you can see, these are all the fields that admin can put in, for this ALS, and their application number, and also their status. There is a dropdown, the admin can select based on the current status.

And also there is dates that admin can put in. It can include the submission date of the application itself, and also the accreditation dates. And then, the other fields you're seeing, they're actually corresponding to the actual ALS application forum. And these are the fields in the form, and so that's, these are all of the data that are extracted, and the admin can see them, but also can edit them as well.

And then the logic is more like one new ALS application is submitted through the website, these data would be automatically populated. So Nathalie would no longer need to manually format those applications and send it to web admin to post as a PDF. It would just all be in this database.

ALAN GREENBERG: I have a question. You were talking about the application and now you're talking about contacts. That information is different. I presume that if we're talking about the application, that's static once the ALS is

accepted, but the contacts may change. We're not talking about changing the contacts that were listed in the application, I assume.

I don't know, I'm asking.

ARIEL LIANG: Okay. So, physically now the contact part you see, these are asking application and we have that in this admin interface, and its editable by admin. So if the contact changed after a while, the admin can do that change here.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay. Go back up to the previous section on the application.

ARIEL LIANG: This part?

ALAN GREENBERG: You called that the application. That's not the title I saw on the screen. No, no.

ARIEL LIANG: This part.

ALAN GREENBERG: No, no, no. Where it says organization contact information.

ARIEL LIANG: Okay.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay. You may have gotten that from the application, but I presuming if the organization changes its name in a subtle way, or the president changes, or the Wiki address changes, you change those fields.

ARIEL LIANG: Yes.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay, that's not the application information. That's information that you may extract in the first case from the application, but it's not the application.

ARIEL LIANG: Okay, understood.

ALAN GREENBERG: I presume there will be fields which may either capture stuff from the application, or we simple be pointing to the application forum, or something like that, which is currently what one of the existing web databases does.

ARIEL LIANG: [Inaudible] extracted from the existing applications form. We didn't change the wording at all, it's just how it looks on the public facing side is how it looks here.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay, but what I'm asking, and I think you answered it, we may have it populated from the application form, but if, for instance, the organization email address changes a year later, we're changing that item D, is that not so?

ARIEL LIANG: Yes, that will change.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay. So the point of view of the database, that's not the applications. That's the current. It's populated initially from the applications, since that is where we get the information, but it becomes the live information for the ALS, not the application. So I think it's important not to call it the application, because that has another connotation.

ARIEL LIANG: Got it, got it. Understood. So a follow up question… Oh, okay, go ahead.

ALAN GREENBERG: Yeah, I was going to say, so essentially what you're showing me is a web application, as it were, which is the interface to edit the database. In

addition to that, presumably, if one wanted to, one could interface to it directly from a SQL application or something like that. But this is the convenient way we have of editing and displaying specific information from the database.

Laura, is that an accurate statement?

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah, I think there is a couple of ways of doing this. And just to kind of, the question that we're talking about is, you know, the application is going to have, you know, the original application data. And do we want to just update that? Or do we want to keep that original application data and store in separate fields the current and the latest? Or do we really need to keep like a full audit trail, any kind of field changes which might be a little bit overkill? What we're trying to…

ALAN GREENBERG: Certainly the original application, we're keeping the actual form, which may be printed, which of course, may be, I don't even know if it's an electronic form these days, or do we sometimes have images. And I'm not sure I care. So, I don't think we need to preserve in the database, the contents of the original application, if the original application is viewable.

So I just don't, I can't, maybe I'm missing something, but I can't see the times when we would need that information in the database as database fields. Whether we track changes or not, and is their audit

trail, I hope that for any of your databases, you have audit trails of when changes are made. Maybe…

LAURA BENGFORD: Well, you do have the capability to put changes at the database level, but there is a high overhead associated with that. So we have a tradeoff in doing that, but it is possible. There is certainly an accounting application that would do something like that.

ALAN GREENBERG: Do you log who makes the last…? When a field is last change by who?

LAURA BENGFORD: Yes. Absolutely.

ALAN GREENBERG: So we don't want Ariel replaced, but we know yesterday at 3:00 she changed it.

LAURA BENGFORD: Correct.

ALAN GREENBERG: That's kept on a field by field basis?

LAURA BENGFORD: Not on a field by field basis. More of a [inaudible] level.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay, so we know something changed in this ALS yesterday and who changed it.

LAURA BENGFORD: Right.

ALAN GREENBERG: It's an interesting discussion, whether we need to track those or not and have an audit trail. I have a personal opinion, but clearly, it's something we can turn on and off if we wanted to. So I don't think it's something that we need to discuss in detail today.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah, okay. And I think you mentioned earlier, and my earlier question was, I mean, we could theoretically take a snapshot of the data, and PDF it, or put it somewhere in case someone wanted to go back and look at the original application. I suppose that could be interesting…

ALAN GREENBERG: The original application, we are preserving. And there is currently a web query that allows you to look at that application, I think.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yes, what we're trying to accomplish here is putting it more in a database form. But…

ALAN GREENBERG: But I presume what is in the database is appointed to the PDF, or appointed to the, well I assume it's in PDF format.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah, we can take any blob of data and PDF it. We can take the HTML page and…

ALAN GREENBERG: But we have that today. Can we go to the old query? [CROSSTAKE] The application status one that was ported from the…

ARIEL LIANG: This one?

ALAN GREENBERG: That one. If you click on one of those links, that brings up the PDF of the application. So we already have that today. It's probably in a different [CROSSTALK]… I presume the pointer is in a different database than the one we just looked at, but presumably we're smart enough to fix that.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah. What the PDF does not give you is, as Ariel was showing on the screen, that each of these fields, you know, A, B, C, D, are individual

fields in the database, and that's a good thing because we can do those queries that we want, and that you're asking for Alan. Right now, that's not possible because it's in a PDF form, so if we design it in a database, we can query on it whoever we want, and also output it in a format like this so you can look at it this way, or you could look at it…

ALAN GREENBERG: If you're looking for a huge amount of work to do, that's certainly something that you can do. I can't imagine, and maybe the staff folks online will tell me I'm wrong, I can't imagine when we're going to want to do a database query like that on the original applications as opposed to the current values. I can't think of one.

So why would we want to have an extra 40 or 50 fields in the database, for fields that are static, accessible in this document, and we're not likely to ever want to do a query on them? But maybe somebody knows a reason I'm not thinking of.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: This is Nathalie. That was one of my next points, I think we need to, if we look at, you know, what information we need to report on, we'll never do a search by doing other, the numbers of your Board on your ALS currently involved in Internet governance activities. I doubt that that will ever be the case, simply because what contains the application form, will presumably be updates in the next 12 months.

So we would only be doing research meeting reports on, I feel, a quarter if that of the information contained in the application form. Regarding

what Alan says about the PDF formats of the application form, that is, and I think I raise that to Corinna in an email, which I sent just before the call, that we still need to be able to circulate these applications. We still have some procedures in which we have to make sure we can distribute the application form on our mailing list, etc.

So whatever we decide to do with the database, regardless of that, the application form will still need to be able to be extracted as an attachment. So we are going to want to leave those two separate.

ALAN GREENBERG: And besides, we're never going to have the database fields for all types of information that someone may include in their application. You know, you can always have others, but Nathalie, tell me, what fields in the original applications are we ever going to want to do queries on?

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: I think clearly the contacts information, definitely. And then… Go on.

ALAN GREENBERG: Why would we care that, you know, to look at the one we have on screen, that we ever had Mrs. Fatma El Corey [inaudible] as a name of the contact on an original application?

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Well, we might, in case… Well, we will… We need to be able to compare the contacts… I mean, the only time I think we did need to do

this was for the summit in terms of travel funding for primary and secondary contacts. And the contact database we were using, we had quite a few adjustments to make in terms of, you know, if one primary contact was also the primary contact in other ALS, then he would be leaving his position to a colleague, in order to benefit from the travel funding.

ALAN GREENBERG: That's why we want to be able to look, extract the current contact information. Why do we care who the name was on the application nine years ago?

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Okay, no, you're right. We don't. But I think in terms of, and that's probably where I'm ignorant, so I'm guessing this in terms of working from one source of information extract what we have in the database, and we sent [inaudible] in the application form.

ALAN GREENBERG: I mean, right now, the Google Doc file has contacts in it. They may still be the same contact as in the application form, they may not. And conceivably, if as occasionally happens, we may lose contact with all of the contacts, all of the emails bounce. In which case, we might have to go back to the application form and read it, and try to find some way we can contact a human being, but I'm not sure that field has to be in a database.

But I really don't care, as I said, it seems like a huge amount of work to extract these 200 applications when the information is either going to rarely be used, or never be used. But I really don't want to debate that right now. I'm willing to, you know, go ahead…

I just don't see why we need the information on the original application, four years later, if the contacts have been changed and they're not relevant.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah, I think what I'm hearing, and I would also support a recommendation that we keep the database with the current, but Nathalie, as you pointed out, even if the forms coming in through the database, we have that feature that you talked to Corinna about where it does PDF it and takes a snapshot in the, you know, edge case where you do need to go back and look at it.

You can go back and look at it, but mostly your queries are going to be on the current, it just seems a little bit cleaner that way.

ALAN GREENBERG: If someone could come up with queries of why, of what we're going to query in the original database when it's no longer the current information, in the original application when it's no longer the current application, I'm happy to have all of that information there. I just can't imagine one of them, but if someone else can, then we have a need.

I think we're all in agreement, or at least enough that we don't have to keep on talking.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Exactly. Laura, hearing this, do you think, you know, I have no idea how much time any of these changes take on the website. And I know you've currently got all the applications [inaudible] in ALS sections. You know, how much of a push is going to be to take our discussion here and change the application or the ALS profile.

ALAN GREENBERG: Let me ask that in a different way. I think there is two things, number one, we have to add a whole bunch of fields which aren't there right now, and they need to be populated. And presumably, there is a way that we can populate them by a mass import, without having to type them all in by hand, one by one. That's number one. Number two, I think there probably needs to be another view of this tool that allows…

For instance, Nathalie has, when she is processing the application, as it is going through the various steps, she will be periodically be saying it's past step three and it's now on step four, and I'm entering the date for it. There probably needs to be a view of the database, which allows her to look at all of the fields that are of interest to her in a single page, instead of having to scroll down a long, long list and find the fields that she's updating.

That is simply a time saver for her, and less likely to cause errors if she only sees the fields that she has identified as being relevant to that particular task. And Nathalie is the one who, in general, handles that kind of thing on a regular basis. Similarly, we need a mechanism for when the waiting changes for LACRALO, that does weighted votes,

those have to be calculated through either an algorithm or something or other, and either automatically calculated, which would be preferable, or have a way to easily import them. And again, clicking on 45 ALSs, you know, going to the list of ALSs, clicking on the edit, finding the right field, changing the number, is clearly not the way to do that.

So I think we have to look at it from a task point of view, and make sure that if we're using an integrated database that is integrated with a web frontend, to edit it that we make sure that the various staff members the tools we need to do their job effectively, and not, I'll use the generalized term, tool.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah, a good example of that, if you go back one screen Ariel, is… And we're kind of putting Nathalie on the spot here, because this just came off the press this morning. So, we haven't actually shown Nathalie all of this, but on this screen here, like a good example is I would imagine Nathalie could benefit from adding a column here for status, so she could easily sort and query the ones that are, you know, kind of in progress, so that means action on them, you know, so those are the refinements [CROSSTALK] we need to work through.

ALAN GREENBERG: That certainly is part of it, and that would make that part easy, but then the… She may need an edit button, that presents a different list then the generalized one that shows all of the possible elements, all of the possible columns in that row.

Again, I'm not trying to do her job, but I've played this game for a few decades, and typically that kind of thing, if you don't do it, you end up causing problems at the end.

LAURA BENGFORD: Exactly. [CROSSTALK]

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: …sorry, just quickly. Regarding the different steps of the [inaudible]… I just sent an email around to the ALS taskforce, ask people's input on that, and I haven't received any strong objections, so I'll just give it to the end of the week. I sent the reminder today, and otherwise there will be, yes, exactly. What is shown on the screen there is perfect for me, [inaudible] will not to be shown on the public facing page, needs to be fewer, a lot fewer elements there.

I'll get back to you via email, once I have confirmation that we were to go to a taskforce.

ALAN GREENBERG: I've got another call starting in four minutes, so I will have to get off this very shortly. [CROSSTALK]

ARIEL LIANG: Just one quickly, I wanted to show you we actually developed a page that shows the ALS applications, and it's very much similar to the existing ALS page for the new website, but the addition is that we can

showcase the status and data related to the status, and other data point that the community agree, or you know, something that is allowed or committed to a display related to that ALS.

Also another thing that the developers are working on is that for each ALS application, their individual page will also be created, but we don't know whether it's just going to be a simple PDF, or it's going to be a HTML, we will think about that. [CROSSTALK]

ALAN GREENBERG: We're going to have to think about whether we want to display, rejected applications for instance, whether we want to display applications, or the disaccredited ALSs. That's not a technical decision, that's a policy decision.

ARIEL LIANG: Yes, that's absolutely correct.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay. I've got to go folks, thanks. I'm feeling a little bit more comfortable than I was before. I think we still have a lot of work to do, but it looks like we're going in a good direction, as long as everyone understands that when we finish this, whenever that will be, in our lifetimes hopefully, we will have one single repository of information and so we want have three different ALSs when there is only one, because we spelt the names differently or whatever.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Alan, this is Heidi. Just before we leave, and I know you need to, can we just talk about next steps? And that seems to be where Laura and her team needs to come and do some thinking and then come back to us. Do you want another call in a week or so?

ALAN GREENBERG: I don't know if I need another call. I would like to see some of the information that we have here. For instance, I would like to see once a pass is done in adding information, you know, trying to recognize what other information we need to be presented with a list of what the columns are.

I just like to feel comfortable that we are covering it all and that we're not missing something. And we've had this discussion so many times before, where it, I think some of the points were missed that I have a higher level of comfort in seeing that kind of thing.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay. So Laura, how long do you think you would need to be able to show Alan what he is requesting?

LAURA BENGFORD: I think one good next step would be coming up with that intermediary, looking at all of the databases, making sure that the current list is there, and then once we release this, which we're targeting in June, you know, how many databases would be left? And then what else do we need to look at to get that end vision of the consolidated databases?

So I think we need to work with Nathalie on that a little bit further, and give her a little bit more time to look at what this interface is.

ALAN GREENBERG: And [inaudible] the list of databases, and the fields that we have for all of them, with the understanding that the target is eventually merging them all into a single one. I have access to so little of this information, that I'm sort of a blind man feeling in the dark, trying to guess what's behind some of these things, and I have no real information on them, and that would make my life easier, to really understand what is behind them all in terms of what kind of data are we keeping today. [CROSSTALK]

HEIDI ULLRICH: Laura, are we able to do that?

ALAN GREENBERG: I'm going to have to drop off, but I look forward to continuing this. Bye-bye.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay, bye, thanks Alan. Laura, are we able to do that or are there some confidentiality issues?

LAURA BENGFORD: Well, just to clarify what Alan is looking for, I think he's looking to relay some of his concerns that we have a centralized database strategy. That was what I got out of it. Is that what you're thinking as well Heidi?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah, I mean, I would… Would it be…? Yes, yes it was. And you know, he wants to get to one, and I totally agree that we probably need to take that in a step by step approach. I totally think that we need to also go back and start cataloging the ALSs, because if we have garbage there, we're just going to replicate the garbage, so we don't want to do that.

So I'd like to, you know, maybe we can start that project on our side.

Is making sure that we have all the, you know… I don't know if that's going to… Do we just…? Does that mean we are going to form another database with the corrected information? Or do we just update what we have? I don't know. That's something Nathalie and Ariel… Go ahead.

LAURA BENGFORD: I didn't really hear anything that is so different then what we are already building. You know, I think what I was hearing, and actually Nathalie, your slide was very good, that listed those databases. Like I heard there is probably some others that we missed on that list, and we can update that, and then maybe put an intermediary step of what's going to happen when we release this functionality, and then how many databases are we down to?

And then what would we need to do to get that down to one database? Maybe that's not achievable, but I don't know. We'd have to look at that and see what makes sense.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay, so for the next steps, do you want to go and send him what you're already working on? I have [inaudible] and he said is to look at the various, you know, intermediary steps, and how many databases do we want to do? And then other request from Alan was to see all of the current databases.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah, I think I can probably work with Nathalie and Ariel and take a shot and have them vet what we think will be at by June with launching this, and then having them help us, Corinna and I, understand the other databases that we haven't really hit as part of this project here in order to address that.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay. So do you want to just keep in touch…? Do you want to just keep in touch with Ariel and Nathalie on this?

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah, I think so. I think we could like, I mean, I don't know. I don't want to speak for Nathalie and Ariel, but I think that we could work with them, we could very quickly update that database list and take a first

stab at that intermediary and see if that makes sense to all of us, and then circulate that out to Alan. Would that work?

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: In some of those [inaudible] because she's a lot more involved in the website work than I am, but in terms of what, I really like the way that and with working with Corinna. There is no formality. If you have a question or a query, then it's a 10 minute Skype call and dealing with the [inaudible] and I get AIs to do from there, [inaudible] to do in a timely manner.

The effort from our side is that we are just thanking you guys profusely [inaudible] helping and providing you with the information. So I'm very, very happy to be available to you guys to do that.

LAURA BENGFORD: Okay. Yeah, I haven't heard anything today that indicates that we're changing our path. In fact, it's validating it.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay, well that's good news. From our side, basically we had seen a twostep approach. One is that we were going to first catalog our ALSs, and secondly we were going to work with you to do this. So, I'd like to… And I've reached out to the resources that we'll be needing, to do the cataloging, and that's all set to start pretty shortly.

Would you think that we should go ahead and do that at the same time? This can be a parallel process.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yeah. I think so. But I have to actually leave. I'm five minutes late for my other meeting, but I think that sounds good.

VARIOUS PEOPLE: Thank you. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]