
TERRI AGNEW: Welcome to the At-Large Technology Taskforce call held on Monday the 23rd of May, 2016 at 14:00 UTC. On the call today, we have Daniel Nanghaka, Rapid Sun, Oliver Crepin-Leblond, Harold Arcos, Gordon Chillcott, Satish Babu, Stuart Clark, Dev Anand Teelucksingh, and Kolubahzizi Howard.

I have received apologies from Sarah Kiden, Juan Manuel Rojas, Alfredo Calderon, and Ali Almeshal.

From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Corinna Ace, Butch Pfremmer, Ariel Liang, Nathalie Peregrine, and myself, Terri Agnew.

I would like to remind all participants to please state your name before speaking for transcription purposes. Thank you very much, and back over to you, Dev.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you very much, and welcome, everyone, to the At-Large Technology Taskforce call. We do have a packed agenda as usual, so let's get right to it.

We have an ICANN staff introduction of Mark Segall and Corinna Ace, who are on the call. Shall I call on either Mark or Corinna to take the floor?

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.

CORINNA ACE: Hi, Dev. This is Corinna. Thank you for the introduction. Glad to be here. This is my first At-Large Technology Taskforce call, so it is great to meet everyone here. I am going to be working closely with Dev, with our staff, with Mark and the IT on acting as a product manager on the LACRALO mailing list issues and finding a solution for their needs. I'm coming up to speed, and Mark has introduced us to Dev last week, so I'm glad to officially meet all of you on this call, and I look forward to working with you.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Welcome, Corinna, to this. We're looking forward to working with you on all of these technology issues facing the At-Large community. Thanks for that.

Mark, do you want to say a few words?

TERRI AGNEW: This is Terri. It looks like Mark just lost his connection.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: I thought he was in the AC room, but all right. When the LACRALO mailing list issues comes up, I'm sure he'll have the opportunity to speak again on that.

We also probably want to introduce another person when we talk about the LACRALO mailing list issues. I think Butch Pfremmer, who is also on the call, but we'll get to that when we come to the LACRALO mailing list issues.

Let's just go to the action items. I'll just bring this up. We do seemingly have quite a lot of action items. It's amazing how time flies. We do need to work closely with the other TTF co-chairs to close these down, but let's just walk through them very quickly.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh to add the screencast [inaudible] tracking update on wiki pages, not complete. It will be done this week.

Josh Baulch to report back on the issue regarding MP4 conversion. We can mark this as complete. In fact, I think Josh contacted us right after the last Technology Taskforce call and got enabled the conversion of recordings to MP4 within 24 hours after that call. That's marked as complete.

The TTF co-chairs to invite voluntary staff from other organizations to share their captioning experience. That hasn't been done as yet.

TTF co-chairs to review the Cross-Community Working Group principle of framework draft report and to decide on the next step. This also has not been done.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh to follow with IT staff with regard to the LACRALO mailing list [inaudible]. I guess you can mark this as complete. We had an introductory call with Corinna, as Corinna said, last week, just to go over what's going to be happening with the LACRALO mailing list. We will be reporting on that later on in the agenda, so that's complete.

I think this is a duplication of the other action item, which is review the Cross-Community Working Group principle of framework draft report, so we can probably remove that one.

Actually, that's the next one. TTF co-chairs to decide on which conferencing chat tools to test. [We're going to raise] this in the discussion on the ATLAS II recommendations. We'll tackle that on this call.

Myself and Ariel to revise the action item regarding IDF scale and zoom and link it to the correct ATLAS II recommendation. Ariel, we'll probably work on that item later today to see if we can just finish up that item.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh to work on the AI related to remote hub documentation and suggestions and invite persons such as Jason Hynds to contribute to remote hub documentation. That's incomplete. Again, I'm going to be looking to try to send that out later this week.

TTF co-chairs to work on a message for outreach for AC/SOs to join the taskforce. This is pending until the review of the Cross-Community Working Group principle of framework draft report. On the last call, it was expressed that we couldn't really do this outreach call because we needed to review what the principles were that were set in the principle of framework draft report. We needed to study that and make sure any outreach message or outreach call to other ACs and SOs will fall in line with those principles.

I think that covers those action items. Any comments or questions?

Seeing none. Let's just move on to the next agenda item, which is the update on At-Large technology issues. The At-Large technology issues page. The wiki page is meant to track possible technology-related issues noted by the TTF and the At-Large community for [inaudible] with At-Large staff.

There's been several updates to this, so let's just quickly go through them. If you noted, I tried to put a status of the issue as either being resolved, not resolved, or in progress.

I guess let's work on what got updated this week. That is the ability to export Adobe Connect recordings from Flash. What has happened is that Josh, after the feedback on last week's call, enabled the feature in Adobe Connect to allow for the admins to save recordings in MP4 format. This means that the Adobe Connect recordings, which are normally just made available as FLV, which is a Flash video file and therefore not available on mobile devices because mobile devices don't have Flash, we can now export these videos to MP4 and make them accessible to mobile devices. It's also a much smaller file size compared to an FLV file.

This was done, and Ariel and Terri have been doing some testing on doing this conversion process. Ariel, perhaps you want to just say a few words on how that testing has... What was the result of the testing?

ARIEL LIANG:

Thanks, Dev. When we did the testing to convert the recording to MP4, it was not a difficult process. The only catch is we have to play the recording from the beginning to the end without minimizing the

window. That means that we have to have a computer always running to play the recording in order to save it as MP4. If we don't do that, the file cannot be saved properly. Once we save this, we can upload that to YouTube but then the issue is when we upload the MP4 to YouTube, the entire recording was duplicated. The length is double the length. It was the visual part, but then the audio part will only play for the original length. The duplicate part will have no audio. I think it's some kind of a bug or issue in YouTube. It's a known issue that I don't think has been resolved. So we need to try to figure out ways how to upload MP4s to YouTube more efficiently without running into that same issue again.

The next part of the testing is to simply save the video into the FLV file, and then try to upload that to YouTube and see how that goes. Right now, the Adobe Connect is having some bugs and we cannot save the recording. That's also a known issue, so once that's resolved, we will test that again. That's in progress. [inaudible].

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thanks, Ariel. I just pasted the link of the MP4 file in the chat, so persons can download it. The size of the file is 111 megabytes, so persons can download it. Again, it was very strange, as Ariel said, when we uploaded to YouTube. The video was duplicated twice, so the one-hour call became a two-hour call, and the audio was only heard on the first hour. It was a very strange encoding. The suggestion was perhaps YouTube could accept the FLV file better and do the conversion properly.

One of the challenges with the MP4 files is the files are smaller, but the challenge is that it not easily can be added to the wiki unless there was some sort of filing system for the MP4 recordings that ICANN could make on a separate server, and then we just link to those MP4 files. Hence the idea of let's take those recordings and put it on YouTube. At least on YouTube, we could easily link to it. YouTube is very accessible in terms of apps for all the major mobile devices, etc. It's obviously very accessible on desktops, as well.

Thanks, Ariel, for posting the link to the YouTube video that we uploaded and had to edit using the YouTube editor to just simply trim the video file.

That's a summary of where we are on this. At least there's some great progress, though, because the Adobe Connect recordings, I have to say, is very inaccessible. It's actually a big frustration because we have a lot of content, a lot of recordings of capacity building sessions, webinars. It's not really easily seen by the At-Large community, and it's harder to disseminate and share with social media. But I have to see it's good to see some progress on this. Any comments or questions?

Just noting a comment from Satish about good progress but still some ways to go. Indeed.

Moving on to the next technology issue, another update has been the LACRALO mailing list issues. Perhaps I should ask, really, Mark or Corinna, if Mark is now back on the call, to just summarize what has been happening since Marrakech on this. Mark or Corinna, would either of you want to take the floor?

MARK SEGALL:

Hi. Sorry, I was having audio issues early in the call here. Since Marrakech, we tried to make the LACRALO mailing list a formal IT service. What that means is that instead of it being this informal development effort that's gone on for the last several years, IT is now taking strides to be [inaudible] portfolio of services. [We] support and treat it as you would any other service.

We started assigning different resources to it. Corinna, obviously on the call here, is the product manager, so that you guys have a direct contact for any questions you may have related to the mailing list or even any technical issues that come up. She can be your point of contact. I'm obviously the delivery manager, so I'm responsible for making sure the resources come together and we commit on a timeline and we're able to stand to that timeline.

On the technical side, we're bringing resources together. A project manager, a developer, and QA so that we can really give it what it deserves for a software development life cycle. Right now, the only open item is trying to get a developer. It's a special developer. We're looking for somebody who has MIME experience. The programming language is just a programming language, but having someone who really knows all the [inaudible] intricacies as we know is critical for that.

That's pretty much where we stand. Corinna, did you want to add anything?

CORINNA ACE: Thanks, Mark and Dev. I don't think so. I think that that's pretty much the background. Since Marrakech, that's what has been happening. We're taking the approach of looking at this as an official service that we devote resources to. As Mark said, we're still in need of that developer resource with the MIME experience. Also, bugs and ongoing support, but we will be in contact. I'll be in direct contact with Dev reporting any updates we get as we go forward.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Great. Thanks, Corinna. Thanks, Mark. Just to say that I'm delighted that progress has been made on this issue. Getting this issue formally recognized by ICANN, it was probably the reason that we had raised concerns that ICANN was not taking this as critically as it could have been. Hence, we had filed a budget request for the FY17 budget. It looks like a lot of what we had been asking for in the budget, asking for dedicated resources, is now coming to bear. I look forward to ensuring that once the developer is hired, we can really start moving forward, tackling the remaining bugs, doing more testing, and implementing to replace the longstanding LACRALO mailing list translation tool because it really has been a very difficult, long problem. It has many problems even today.

Any comments or questions? I'm seeing no further comments or questions, let's take a look at any other technology issues. There are two issues that we haven't really looked at.

One was submitted by Satish, and it was talking about the dialogue quality for most conference calls are quite poor and practically

unintelligible for 60-70% of the time. The device used on my end is my mobile phone, which works okay for normal calls, but can something be done about this? Satish also noted that the Adobe Connect audio and the Adobe Connect room is much better in listen-only mode. It's somewhat noisy if I try to speak at peak hours.

I know originally Nathalie was supposed to schedule test calls with Adigo and Satish. Satish you can probably confirm. I don't think that has been done as yet. Are you able to speak, Satish? Or you can probably type this in.

Okay. Very well. The test has not happened. I know Nathalie has gotten very busy with GNS, so Ariel and Terri, perhaps we could work together to schedule a test call with Adigo and Satish, and we can update that as an action item?

Okay, great. Mind you, Satish, when you had opened your channel, it was quite noisy, a lot of static, but that's just hearing it from my end.

Anyway, let's try to see if we could schedule some test call you, with Adigo, and see how we can sort out that problem. Maybe we could document this for other persons.

One of the other things that we haven't really looked at – and this is an obligation I had posted – was regarding the remote participation in ICANN face-to-face meetings. What I noted was that since I had participated remotely in several of the ICANN face-to-face meetings, there are significant challenges. The Adobe Connect can only stream one audio channel, and typically it's the raw audio, meaning interpretation isn't heard. Persons wishing to speak have to dial Adigo,

but when they dial Adigo, they can only still hear the raw audio, so that means that the remote participants can't hear the interpretation.

While ICANN does set up separate audio streams that one could listen to without going into Adobe Connect, the streams are delayed often by 30 to 40 seconds. If they're trying to do it interactive, trying to speak on Adigo, trying to hear the interpretation through the different audio streams, it's going to be very hard to do. I just thought after doing this for two consecutive face-to-face meetings, I have to say somebody would have to be really, really, really motivated to try to just participate remotely at an ICANN face-to-face meeting.

What I'm speaking of is at the At-Large sessions. I'm not really talking so much about the remote hubs for public forums and welcome ceremony and so forth. I think that's handled quite well, given the amount of effort puts into remote hubs for the public forum, but it's the remote participation for the individual At-Large sessions that happens at the ICANN face-to-face meeting.

How do we suggest we approach or tackle this? Perhaps I could turn to staff to suggest, perhaps if they have any idea of how they want to test this, or how they want to try to resolve this in order to come up with a solution or workaround.

I know that Josh Baulch is probably very experienced with regards to the ICANN face-to-face meetings in terms of the audio setup. I believe he was one of the key persons that helped do the technology write-up for Marrakech, so let's just have an action item to correspond with Josh Baulch and perhaps with Mark, as well, just to see how we can look to

resolve these issues. Mark just said that he can follow up with Josh today on that.

I think those are the key other issues. The other two issues were resolved already regarding problems with Yahoo, persons with Yahoo e-mail addresses getting bumped from most messages from At-Large mailing lists. That's been resolved.

Any other comments? Any other technology issues that the TTF wishes to raise as a possible technology issue that you are facing in either your RALO or At-Large activities? Floor is open for any comments, questions, or observations.

Going once. Going twice. Okay. As I mentioned, please also, for the TTF members, do note any technology issues that persons mention on the RALO calls. Then we can bring it up on this wiki page and then try to come up with either solutions or workarounds that we can then raise with staff. As I say, it helps make using technology in your At-Large activities much easier and less stressful.

Seeing no further comments or questions, let's just go now quickly to the ATLAS II implementation. These are the various items assigned to the Technology Taskforce as per the ATLAS II recommendations. It's a long list, so let's go through each of them. Please also raise any issues or comments if you have any ideas or suggestions for these ATLAS II items.

Let's begin. Recommendation ten: Evolution of language must adopt further extension of live scribing for all meetings and extend the interpretation and translated processes and make translation available in a timely manner. We noted that a lot of progress has been made on

this. ICANN language services provides formal transcripts within five working days. There's also a captioning pilot ongoing right now that has been extended for FY17, and I believe the FY17 pilot will try to also do captioning in other languages other than English. That was done in FY16.

I think there has been some really great progress made on this recommendation ten. I'm almost tempted to think, "Well, should we mark this as complete given that we have made so much progress on this?"

Olivier, your hand is raised. Go ahead.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks, Dev. I was going to ask that question. The question you asked, and I don't have an answer because you asked the question, but I was supposed to ask the question.

I agree with you. It's been really great to see the captioning going on, and I note that we've now got another green light in the next budget for further captioning. I really think that this is going in such a way that we certainly can put this as being completed. Obviously, we'll never have enough calls that are captioned, but at least we've started the ball rolling, and that's in direct response to what was said during the ATLAS II. At some point, we need to say that's done. I would recommend that we say that this one, laying out what are the processes that are on the way right now, that this process is complete. Thank you.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thanks, Olivier. I think I will also agree with you. Also, I think language services has also made interpretation available on other RALO calls in terms of for LACRALO at least, we now have French and Portuguese, actually. We have English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French on our monthly RALO calls. I believe NARALO was planning to have French interpretation on their calls. I think language services is responsive to requests for interpretation and language translation and so forth. I think yes, let's mark this as complete.

Any comments or questions or observations?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: My hand's up again, just to add also Russian was also added, as well. In some places, we also have Chinese interpretation. I think the language services department has gone to amazing lengths since the ATLAS II. It was already improving during the summit by providing more and more languages. It's really surpassed itself now, and we are seeing this as being really a core part of the ICANN budget. I think whatever was being said and asked at the time, a lot of it has now been granted. Thank you.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thanks for that, Olivier. I wasn't aware of that. Even APRALO has interpretation and so forth. Indeed. The language services team do deserve congratulations, as Carlton says in the chat.

Recommendation ten. We've marked it as completed.

Recommendation 11: ICANN must implement a range of services to facilitate access according to various criteria and user need. We have

marked this as completed because it [actually] follows very closely with recommendation ten. Again, language services, providing interpretation. We're doing the captioning. We've also looked at ways that ICANN could actually use to subtitle the videos so that the videos are captioned properly and so forth. I think those things are completed.

I was just looking through the notes here. I think those are completed. Anybody want to raise any comments or questions on recommendation 11?

One thing I probably do need to double check was does ICANN subtitle its videos that it puts on the ICANN YouTube website and so forth? I don't know if, Mark, you have an answer for that because I'm not sure if that falls in your department or not.

Ariel, go ahead.

ARIEL LIANG:

Thank you. I just have a quick comment about the transcription of the meetings. In fact, we can [ask] language services to provide [inaudible] and we actually did that before some of the meetings that we interviewed At-Large members in Singapore in ICANN 52, and those meetings provided transcription and subtitles. That was provided by language services, as well. It's just a simple request. It may take a little bit longer than the usual kind of request, but it can be done. That's my quick comment.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thanks, Ariel. I see Olivier has a hand raised. Go ahead.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks very much, Dev. I was just going to point out in the action items that on the 19th of October, it says, “At-Large staff to ask [inaudible] team regarding implementation of this recommendation.” I don’t see an answer on that, so perhaps that needs to be followed up.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: That’s why I was looking through it. Then I realized that the response was never received. Perhaps you could just note that action item for recommendation 11, just to close it off because it looks like, as Ariel says, it is happening. I guess we just need to have that response on file from At-Large staff, just so that we can confirm that this is indeed happening. The subtitling or captioning of ICANN videos that are posted on ICANN’s YouTube channel is being done as standard, or on request in other languages and so forth.

Olivier, is that another hand or another follow-up?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: That’s an old hand.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: All right. Let’s scroll down now to the next recommendation, which is recommendation 17. ICANN needs to be sensitive to the fact that social media are blocked in certain countries, and in conjunction with technical bodies, promote credible alternatives.

This is in progress. We have looked at various tools, one of them being FLAC, which is a group chat application. I'm sorry, Corinna, I saw your hand raised. My apologies. I didn't see it in the [inaudible]. Go ahead.

CORINNA ACE: Thank you, Dev. Just on the last topic on recommendation 11, as you know, I report to [Lauren]. I work with Chris, so I can follow up with our team on that item.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay, very well. Thanks for that, Corinna. Sorry for missing your hand earlier. Thanks again.

Going back to the recommendation 17, ICANN needs to be sensitive that social media is blocked and recommend credible alternatives. I think one answer would be to that ICANN implements its own chat service. Slack is one of them.

The reason why I would say Slack is because they are integrations that allow the things such as Twitter, for example, to be integrated with Slack. What happens is that whenever a post goes out on Twitter, the tweet comes into a Slack channel. I've used this for my ALS, and it works quite well. Really, I think that's a very easy workaround [inaudible] to an At-Large Slack group channel and get the tweet updates that way. That, to me, is the easiest way for persons to get social media updates.

Olivier, go ahead.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks so much, Dev. I was going to suggest that perhaps we should document this, how to do it, how to put an ICANN channel into Slack. That would be helpful. Then we can release this information.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay, thanks. Indeed. Actually, we probably should also make [permanent] our At-Large Slack group and actually install the Twitter updates and show how it works, and then provide a methodology to all At-Large members to get social media updates that way. Maybe you could make that an action item. I could work with Ariel on that to install the Twitter extension. I should say the Twitter integration with Slack, and document.

Any other comments on this recommendation 17?

Sorry. Go ahead, Ariel.

ARIEL LIANG: Thanks, Dev. [I'm] responding to other social media platforms that ICANN has been using, ICANN has WeChat and [Sina Weibo] and also a YouTube channel to reach people in China who cannot access Facebook, Twitter, and other mainstream social media channels. I think that partially satisfies this recommendation.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay. Please do note that. I assume there's some link somewhere that you could provide to those social media tools.

I think then once we have done this, I think we could [inaudible] mark that as complete once we've documented how we could use Slack to capture social media updates.

Any other comments or questions, observations on this recommendation?

All right. Let's move ahead now to recommendation 19. Recommendation 19 is eliminate barriers for participation and engagement with ICANN processes and practices.

Quite a wide-ranging recommendation when you think about it, but again, I think we have made progress on this. We're working on making recordings much more accessible by making them available in MP4 format, as we discussed earlier on the technology issues page. We have made progress in that regard.

Eliminate barriers to engagement. This probably is not so much a Technology Taskforce side of things, so I think that's more outreach and engagement issue regarding engagement. I'm trying to think of [inaudible] technology issues. We have now updated our At-Large website, which is huge leaps and bounds better than our old At-Large website. We have made progress in that regard, too.

I see a hand from Heidi. Heidi, please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Hi, Dev. Thank you. Hi, everyone. I just wanted to add that there are other issues that we've made progress on this recommendation. That includes the captioning. That includes additional interpretation, as you

mentioned earlier. It includes the ongoing work, which we think will speed up now on the mailing list for LACRALO, which is the English-Spanish list and potentially future ones. I think there's significant progress on this one. Thank you.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Indeed. Yes, the ongoing captioning, language services, providing interpretation on RALO calls, and the LACRALO mailing list, progress being made on that, as well. I think those technology barriers are, in terms of captioning and LACRALO mailing list, indeed progress has been made on that. Any other thoughts, comments, observations?

Seeing none, I think we can now then move on to the next. Let's move on to the next recommendation, and that's recommendation 26. This is the current policy management processes within ICANN are insufficient, and ICANN needs to implement a policy management process system available for use across the ACs and SOs that has knowledge management, improve effectiveness of [inaudible] communities, policy development metrics, improve policy-specific activities across community-wide, facilitate multilingual engagement, provide policy development history as an aid for newcomers. A very simple recommendation.

I think we've made some progress. I've identified one tool that perhaps could be used. This is a tool called eXo Platform. I'll have to find that link for that tool. Essentially, eXo Platform is a collaboration platform tool which is open source, or at least built on open source technologies. I

posted a link there. I think there's also a two-minute video, which I can then post, as well. I'll just share that link.

If you watch that two-minute video, it does seem to have a lot of things. It allows for profiles. It allows for channels for people of a particular interest to be grouped together. The profile list, I imagine people could identify what interest they are and therefore could be searched. So I think it's actually something that I think would quite work well to investigate further.

Olivier, I see your hand raised. Go ahead.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks so much, Dev. I agree with you on the eXo Platform. That definitely needs to be investigated further. On the wiki page itself, it's under input from Technology Taskforce, it does mention the new At-Large website redesign, but it links to a temporary link, which was when the mockup of the website was up. Maybe we could change this bullet point by just saying that the new At-Large website redesign is out there on atlarge.icann.org.

This recommendation, I think, is not finished yet. As you said, it's very simple, but we have the ability to make it [longer]. The policy management process system, definitely investigate eXo Platform. What we could do as well – and I know I have committed to this, but I am far from reaching that point yet – is to put together a blueprint of what we would want out of a platform like this. The blueprint being a bit of a mockup design of what features we would like to see in systems such as

that one. We have the basic lines, enhanced knowledge management. We have the goals. We don't have the details.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thanks. In theory, the wiki perhaps could be used for knowledge management, but the problem is the wiki can be quite challenging for anyone unfamiliar with the wiki to find the information they're looking for, to put it mildly.

I think Carlton is also alluding to it. Just to read what Carlton said in the chat was that on the call for the Subsequent Procedures Working Group, what is needed is a competent librarian to do the curating. There was a call on the Subsequent Procedures Working Group [called] output for all communities on the new GTLD process.

Perhaps staff can give an update on this. I do recall that there was plans to have some sort of librarian being hired or being put on board to actually look at how the wiki is being organized in terms of document management and so forth. Has that been done? I don't know if anyone from staff can answer that question.

ARIEL LIANG: I have a quick comment. Maybe Corinna can add to it. We do know there's a librarian just came on board with ICANN close to Marrakech. I think there will be a task looking through issues like this. Also, I think there's some collaboration between the librarian with the Butch team. So Corinna or Butch, do you have anything to add to this?

BUTCH PFREMMER: Hi, Ariel. I don't. We've so far only been working with the librarian on a taxonomy and search strategy for future sites or sites that are going to be updated.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: All right. Thanks for that, Mark and Ariel. Perhaps it could also be noted as some progress towards it that ICANN has hired a librarian that is going to be looking at these processes, who to look to optimizing them. I think that should be noted.

My question is, regarding the eXo Platform – I guess I'll have to throw this all to Mark. How can we have this installed to test? As I understand it, and [inaudible] review the site itself, it's an open source platform, but it would require resources to install it. Is it possible to make a request formally to see, let's test? Can you please create a temporary server, whatever, a temporary account, purchase for one month, rental or whatever to begin testing this or to have a first look at it? How do you think that could work?

MARK SEGALL: Let me check with our operations team to see if there's any kind of precedent for this. I have to make sure I'm following any kind of process that they may have. I'll take that item and I can follow up directly with you, Dev, if that works.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Yes, thanks. I imagine there must be some sort of trial version that persons can install. They have different hosting plans and so on. Yes, let's indeed follow up because I think we would like to see some... Just to try out this tool and see how it works. Once we make that available, then we can really go into it, start testing it and kick the tires and so forth on it.

Any other comments on recommendation 26?

Let's move ahead on to the recommendation, which is recommendation 29. The ALAC should implement an automated system for tracking topics of interest currently being discussed among the various RALOs and accessible by everyone.

Some progress, but not as much progress as I would like. We worked on a template on Confluence for the Secretariat Report, the idea being that by having a customized, standard form of RALO reporting, those topics or bullet points can be written by the RALO's secretariats or chairs, and we can then syndicate that information much more easily.

[inaudible] received comments, and the screencast was posted on the wiki on this. That's been done, but I don't think I've gotten any feedback as to is that what RALO's secretariats want, or should there be changes and so forth.

The template on Confluence, basically it uses the features of Confluence to create a page template. They fill out the form and then the wiki page is created with the data that is inputted from the form. That's in essence what is done. I can't share it publicly because I've done it in

Myspace. Obviously, we would need admin access to make it more widely available.

I think the At-Large website redesign, the idea is also in place to try to capture the RALO updates and so forth. Ariel, is there anything to mention in terms of the new section of the At-Large website?

ARIEL LIANG:

I think we reviewed this in the Social Media Working Group call, and there is certain visibility for curating public comment on certain topics. Now we have pages that automatically pull these public comments into one place. Also, the page has a news update on this particular topic for people who are interested to follow. I think, as Olivier commented in the previous social media call, it's not sufficient yet, but I think this should still be in progress.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH:

All right. Indeed. Let's see. Any other comments or questions on this, then?

Let's go right down to recommendation 31. ICANN and ALAC should investigate the use of simple tools and methods to facilitate participation in public comments and the use of crowdsourcing.

We have noted several tools that probably do need to be tested. I know LiquidFeedback was one of them. We haven't had a chance to put that to the test. It's also an open source tool and therefore requires resources to have a server set up and so forth.

I have also noted in theory Slack could also be used for it because what could happen is that if it's a particular policy issue, a public comment on IDNs, the persons that are subscribed to the IDN channel could therefore take part in it. I think that's more of a chat discussion. I don't know if that's enough.

Any thoughts or comments on this?

We have tested Loomio. We found it not really helpful. The Loomio tool allowed for people to give input on particular policies and for people to vote on it and so forth, but it didn't really offer anything much than what was already available on the Confluence wiki, where people post comments and upvote comments in the Confluence wiki.

Jimmy?

JIMMY SCHULZ: Hi. Can you hear me?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Yes, we can hear you very well. Go ahead.

JIMMY SCHULZ: Perfect. For discussing tools like LiquidFeedback or Adhocracy or other tools, I just found a new tool which I really like – sorry, I'll give you the link right here – which is [Kealo.com]. It's very nice organized. It's better than Trello and all the other things I've seen. Especially in a discussion with various arguments, one of the best tools to see how the discussion

goes on and later on, for even people joining a discussion later on, to see how arguments were pro and con. It's very nice. I really like that and I use that quite a lot right now. It's not open source, but as far as I recognize, it might be free of use for organizations like ICANN, and especially At-Large.

You, Dev, might have a look at it. I can organize that you get the account. It's still early stage. I talked to the CEO of the company. I think it's still very early stage, but it's really worth a look at.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay. Thanks, Jimmy. I'm grateful for the suggestion. I hope it's been noted. [inaudible] been noted. I would say, Jimmy, let's see if it's possible to then look and see how this can be tested because I see it's like a closed beta right now. Maybe what could happen on the next call, maybe you could just share your screen and just show us what it looks like. Do you think that could be possible on the next call?

JIMMY SCHULZ: Yes. What I can do is because I know one of the programmers quite well, that I organize him to show us the whole thing, if you want to.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: I think that would be a good idea. I think that would be even better. Great.

JIMMY SCHULZ: I'll ask him.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay, great. Then we can do a [doodle]. If you have to have a special purpose call, we can do that. Excellent.

JIMMY SCHULZ: Fantastic.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Any comments regarding tools like LiquidFeedback and so forth? I know, Jimmy, you had some comments regarding that tool.

JIMMY SCHULZ: I know LiquidFeedback quite well, and I've tested LiquidFeedback and Adhocracy, which is a fork of the whole thing. I like them. They're very, very powerful, but I think that using them is still quite complicated. That's one of the problems. You have to really read through the documents. It's extremely powerful and a lot of features, even more features than you will ever use. That's the problem. That's why I'm quite frustrated.

We've been using Adhocracy. We've been testing it for one year. Which one are we going to choose? LiquidFeedback or Adhocracy, which is just a fork of LiquidFeedback. We decided to take Adhocracy, but then implemented it for another year and used it for around about two years within the Deutscher Bundestag, the German Parliament. We had

around 3,600 registered users, but less than 100 were using it actively because it is quite complicated to use and even to administer, so we had to hire a company with a lot of people working on it to get it to work like we wanted it.

Might be not as bad as it used to be two or three years ago, but I still think that it's still quite sophisticated to use, both of them. Give it a try. It depends on what we want to do. If we want to have discussions which are transparent and come to an end with a compromise or a majority vote, I would suggest that let's give [Kealo] maybe a chance, which is much more, in my experience, easier to use than the tools we've been discussing before.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thanks [inaudible] as well. I have not really had a direct experience with using LiquidFeedback or Adhocracy, which I have to admit, I don't even hear about them. I just only found the site and I posted the link there in the chat so it could also be captured. Let's look at – what's the tool again? [Kealo]? Let's take a first step and take a look at that and have a first call on that.

I guess I'm trying to see how we can make progress on this recommendation because it was specifically those tools that were mentioned. Perhaps what I can do is I can also see if there is any resources on YouTube and so forth. Maybe there's videos of LiquidFeedback in action. I could really study that. Maybe by looking at that, we can perhaps not have to go through the trials of testing, which can be quite a challenge.

A good question from Carlton, “Is [Kealo] multilingual?” Jimmy will find out. That’s obviously a very good question to find out if we have this call with the developer.

We are going to the top of the hour here, so let’s see. Was there any other recommendations – let’s scroll down – after 31? 39, a very quick one. ICANN should encourage open data best practices that foster reuse of the information by any third party.

This has been put on hold pending an external process. I know that [inaudible] gave an update sometime last year on this. ICANN is indeed looking at adopting open data best practices. I don't know if anyone from staff, perhaps Heidi, can do a quick update on this. Anyone from staff can do a quick update on this, or not really? Seeing no hands raised, we can just leave that on hold, at least on this.

Quickly, any other business? Any other comments, questions, observations, concerns? Anything that the TTF should be doing? Going once. Seeing no hands raised, one thing I do want to ask. I will try to send out a mail later on this week. Regarding the testing of conferencing solutions, I know there’s some interest. We do have a preliminary report started, but I need help to really help finish that off. I’m really looking for members of the TTF to help me with that, and also to perhaps take the lead in testing some of these other conferencing solutions: creating the test accounts, perhaps inviting a small subgroup to the call. You could take screenshots and then write up a report on the wiki. That’s something I really would like to do. Like I said, I’m just swamped. I need somebody else from the TTF to help take the lead on that.

Seeing no other further comments or questions, I would like to thank everyone for the call. Very informative. Thanks to everyone, and this call is now adjourned. Thank you and see you all online. Have a wonderful day.

TERRI AGNEW:

Thank you. Once again, the meeting has been adjourned. Thank you very much for joining. Please remember to disconnect all remaining lines, and have a lovely rest of your day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]