

Syndication Workgroup

Meeting Minutes March 3, 2008

Information

Date: March 3, 2008

Time: 1:00 - 5:00

Location: Building F, Yahoo! Campus, Sunnyvale, CA

Sponsor: Peter Chiu, Yahoo! Inc.

Meeting Type: In-person

Duration: 4 hours

Chair: Paul Stusiak

Minutes: Paul Stusiak

Next Meeting

Date: March 13, 2008

Time: 1:00 - 5:00

Location: NAR Conference Bridge, 800 727-7709 8359369#

Meeting Type: Teleconference

Roll Call

- Peter Chiu, Yahoo!
- Abe Murray, Google
- Alex Parr, Trulia
- Mark Scheel, eNeighborhoods
- Chris McKeever, CRT

- Olga Ermolin, MLSListings Inc.
- Josh Darnell, Heartland MLS
- Mark Wise, Threewide Corporation
- Will Moss, Threewide Corporation
- Maria Zhang, Zillow
- Jason Tan, Zillow
- Mark Holt, Bainbridge, Inc.
- Paul Stusiak, Falcon Technologies

Agenda

- Discuss the purpose of this workgroup
- Quick overview of RETS schemas and design principles
- Revision to Charter
- Prioritization of schema and transport
- Discuss names, data types and data quality for the syndication schema.
- New Business.
- Set Next Meeting Date.
- Adjourn

Minutes

Discuss the Purpose of the Workgroup

The group briefly discussed the purpose of the group. Consensus was quickly reached that the charter was close enough to appropriate - to define a clear interchange standard for publishing listing information to third parties outside the traditional information consumer. The consensus was also to move as quickly as possible to get a draft schema ready for publication. A timeframe of the end of the month of March was felt to be possible.

Quick Overview of RETS schema design principles

A short slide show was prepared, but the group talked through the points rather than view the slides. The points were summarized at the meeting and are included here as abstracted from

the presentation.

- Schema design uses common elements
- More complex concepts contain simpler elements
- Build a 'correct' model of the information
- Provide place holder container names to group ideas into logical blocks
- Provide extension points to permit MLS specific information to be represented inside the standard
- Provide in-line documentation to assist users to understand the meaning of the element
- Try to use widely used names to describe the information
- Where multiple names exist, pick one and provide the other names as synonyms
- Wherever possible, use a more restrictive definition
- Expect data quality to improve not decline

Revision to Charter

No revisions were offered to the existing charter and the group moved on to other topics.

Prioritization of Schema and Transport

The group briefly discussed the relative priority of the schema versus the transport. The group quickly reached consensus that having both a defined format for the information and a standardized way of delivering that information point-to-point would be nice. However, in the near term, the problem of different data formats is highest priority and using schema to solve this problem is paramount.

The discussion included concerns about the 'mom and pop' brokerage where there are no IT staff to assist in preparing the data format so that considering a format that can be manually entered using a text editor would be good.

The attendees were happy to discuss the technical possibility of receiving the full data feed for every record, but that does not resolve all the current input sources for the information.

Everyone agreed that the current interested parties would continue to support the old formats and the new standard format for some period of time.

Some rationale for a standard transport was made that it would be helpful to have a confirmation response to the submission to resolve some issues around timeliness and transport failure. The current consumers of this information thought that there was enough available feedback in their current processes for now. It was made clear that the response being sought was not needed to be a full handshaking, reliable transmission process, but it could be improved in the future to help the providers to know that their new listing was available to view. No action on this was taken and the idea was effectively tabled.

Discuss names, data types and data quality

The group discussed the schema fields that have been tentatively agreed upon. Three levels of need were defined, required, requested and nice to have. Required fields were defined to be those fields that must be filled in to be shown on a participating site.

The group was led in discussion by Jason Tan who presented the work that had already been done in the Google group and continued to edit the definitions.

** Action - Jason or Peter to provide access to the new members of this group to the Google group.

The group got through the list of required fields before ending the day. The required fields included a semi-parsed address field that had some discussion. Some of the discussion was on the need to geocode the submission and that even when the address was a partial that a map point was provided based on either the lat/long or the geocoded address.

Some of the names and types were modified to reflect some of the information from the RETS Schema WG.

Based on the progress, the group felt that it was possible to get agreement on the set of element names by the end of the month with two or three more meetings.

New Business

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

Set Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the conference bridge on the 13th. A second in-person meeting was requested and Peter was able to offer the Yahoo facility. The next in-person meeting will be held on Monday, March 17th, 2008 and will be 4 hours in length.

The agenda for the teleconference will be sent to the members of the workgroup. The agenda for the in-person meeting will be set immediately after the teleconference call and will be sent to the members of the group.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM PST