2022 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop and Training
19-21 September in Amsterdam

The 2022 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop and Training will be in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The Workshop is 19-20 September at the KIT Royal Tropical Institute, and the Training is 21 September at De Duif. The co-hosts for both events are Everbridge and Alert-Hub.Org CIC. Click here to register. For those who cannot particpate in person, Webinar call-in instructions will be sent to everyone registered. Documents pertaining to the Workshop and Training are posted to the Workshop website.

Everyone interested in emergency alerting is welcome: managers, technical staff, media, etc., including government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and commercial firms. There is no charge to participate.

This Workshop is co-sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the OASIS standards organization and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

CAP Implementation Workshops focus on emergency alerting as enabled by the CAP standard, ITU-T Recommendation X.1303. At the Workshops, implementers of CAP and other associated organizations discuss common issues and how best to leverage the expanding adoption of CAP.

Today, 76% of the world’s population lives in a country with at least one national CAP feed operational. CAP implementation by country is shown in this zoomable map and in the static map below.

At this 2022 Workshop, 22 presentations by experts around the world will address the following topics.

The Workshop will hear presentations focusing on CAP implementation in six different nations. The featured nations this year are: Barbados, Benin, Dominica, Italy, Mali, and Rwanda. Half of these are Least Developed Countries, which are of special interest because CAP uptake lags in developing countries. This gap in uptake inspired the Call to Action on Emergency Alerting, endorsed by the Workshop hosts and co-sponsors plus the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU).

WMO will discuss its Action Plan, to be proposed at COP 27, “to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years”. This responds to the UN Secretary-General request on 23 March 2022. This global initiative is expected to build on the worldwide CAP infrastructure, including the WMO Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS).

The Workshop will hear a presentation about CAP in the context of the WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP). Covering 80+ developing countries, SWFP strengthens the capacity of WMO Members to deliver improved forecasts and warnings.

In a similar vein, there will be a presentation concerning the use of CAP for issuing “Impact-Based Warnings”. Such warnings focus on what the weather will do in addition to what the weather will be. CAP and Impact-Based Forecasting are complementary, as was emphasized in an article in the recent WMO Bulletin entitled “Communicating for Greater Impact”.

The Workshop will hear a presentation by the Public Meteorological Service Center on the topic of Meteorological Warnings and Service in China.

A presentation will discuss CAP in the context of the European Union Seveso Directive, concerned with accidents involving dangerous substances in industry.

There will be a presentation on Multi Hazards Risk Communication in Nepal.
Google Crisis Response will present a Crisis Response White Paper. It promotes gathering input from affected communities when designing crisis response products, identifies best practices when sharing alerts to communities, and provides insights on crisis response product design based on user experience research.

Meteoblue will present about how it leverages the CAP standard, which includes a kind of CAP Alert Hub.

AccuWeather will also present about its experience using CAP, with which AccuWeather has a long history.

New technologies will be featured. For example, a presentation will be given about the proposed development of a CAP-based Public Warning Chatbot.

The Workshop will also hear about the European prototype project for a new service whereby alerting authorities send alerts through the Galileo constellation of navigation satellites. Mobile phones could then receive the emergency alerts even if other aspects of the mobile network are out of service.

The TPEG2 Emergency Alerts and Warnings (EAW) standard, developed by Travelers Information Services Association (tisa.org), enables CAP alerts offered by CAP Alert Hubs to go directly to in-vehicle navigation systems, such as Garmin, Tom-Tom, and those offered by car manufacturers worldwide. These CAP alerts inform drivers so they can re-route to avoid danger. This is a mature technology, embedded in millions of devices worldwide.

The Workshop will hear about CAP promotion from the ITU Development Bureau, in its various Emergency Telecommunications roles. This includes ITU guidance calling on each nation to address CAP implementation as part of its National Emergency Telecommunications Plan (NETP).

There will be an update on work of the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee.

The CAP Training Day will be 21 September, 09:00-17:00 CEST. The opening two sessions will cover the basics of CAP, a quick survey of operational CAP implementations, and, hands-on creation of a CAP alert.

As part of the Training Day, Alert-Hub.Org will present how to transform a near-real-time CAP Alert Hub feed into a dynamic GIS Feature Layer. Such a service greatly facilitates analysis and supports important functions such as geofencing.

Another extended session during the CAP Training Day will get into some depth concerning various aspects pertinent to CAP Over Mobile Networks. This will discuss trade-offs between location-based Short Message Service (SMS) and Cell Broadcast. To make Cell Broadcast less expensive, it might be feasible to implement a Cell Broadcast Center as a cloud service.

OpenBroadcaster will conduct a practical instruction session concerning CAP alerting via Community Radio.

This presentation will also talk about automated translation of CAP messages to indigenous languages.

Participants in the CAP Training Day will also get an overview of Common Policies and Practices across major CAP Alert Hubs.

Google will deliver an extended presentation about what the company looks for as best practices when it onboards new CAP alert feeds to its platforms.

IFRC will preview the design of its new CAP Editor freeware, now under development.

The CAP Training is open to participants in the CAP Workshop, by e-mail to Eliot.J.Christian@gmail.com. All registered participants will also get Webinar call-in instructions for the Training.

CAP Implementation Workshops are technical meetings conducted in English without interpretation. These meetings do not set policy; they are intended solely for information sharing among experts. Accordingly, participants represent themselves and need not be formally associated with organizations. Registration is necessary to receive the required password for the video conference. Participants from any WMO Member agency should note guidance in the Workshop announcement Letter from WMO Secretariat.

Materials from the 14 prior CAP Workshops are available at these links:

- 2021 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2020 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2019 Mexico City, Mexico
- 2018 Hong Kong, China
- 2017 Rome, Italy
- 2016 Bangkok, Thailand
- 2015 Rome, Italy
- 2014 Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 2013 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2012 Montréal, Canada
- 2011 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2009 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2008 Geneva, Switzerland
- 2006 Geneva, Switzerland

Program Committee of the 2022 CAP Implementation Workshop:

Chair: Eliot Christian
IAEM: Beth Armstrong
IFRC: Jessica Ports Robbins
ITU: Vanessa Gray
OASIS: Elysa Jones
WMO: Cyrille Honoré
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