

NANC Call Authentication Trust Anchor (CATA) Working Group (WG) (2)

PROGRESS REPORT

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Co-Chairs:

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WG CHARGE

The North American Numbering Council’s (“NANC”) Call Authentication Trust Anchor Working Group, was directed on February 27, 2020, to “issue best practices that providers of voice service may use as part of the implementation of effective call authentication frameworks... to take steps to ensure the calling party is accurately identified.” A final report is due to the NANC DFO and WCB on September 25, 2020. These recommendations should address at least the following questions:

1. Which aspects of a subscriber’s identity should or must a provider collect to enable it to accurately verify the identity of a caller?
2. What guidelines or standards should providers use when assigning the three attestation levels— A (or “full” attestation), B (“partial”), and C (“gateway”)—of the SHAKEN/STIR framework?
3. How should best practices vary depending on the type of subscriber, such as between large enterprises, individuals, and small businesses?
4. When should providers consider using third-party vetting services, and how should they make the best use of them?
5. Should there be unique industry-wide best practices for knowing the identity of subscribers located abroad? If so, what best practices could we recommend regarding identification of such subscribers?
6. Are there any other best practices voice providers can implement “to take steps to ensure the calling party is accurately identified”?

LOGISTICS

- The CATA WG held a kick-off meeting on Friday, March 13, 2020.
- The working group has met four times: March 13, March 20, April 10, and April 24.
- As a result of resources being strained due to critical activities related to COVID-19, the WG revised its weekly meeting schedule and has a standing cadence of bi-weekly meetings on the second and fourth Fridays each month from 1:00-3:00PM (ET).
- The CATA WG has developed a work plan with milestones to help manage progress.
- During each meeting:
 - Contributions are presented
 - Questions/Answer/Discussions
 - Action items are assigned

PROGRESS

- The working group has formed a subgroup to further explore and provide comments on specific FCC questions:
 - A subgroup met on and discussed question one, related to the aspects of “know your customer”. The full working group has asked this subgroup to continue work on question one and added question three, related to best practices based on the type of subscriber, to the existing subgroup.
 - Individuals have also volunteered to work on question four, third party vetting services, and question two, standards around assigning the attestation levels. The working group agreed that completing comments for number one, related to “know your customer”, are a prerequisite before working on question five, “know your customer” for subscribers located abroad.
- Multiple contributions related to the best practices have been received by the WG.
- A technical writer and an editor have volunteered to prepare the report, with contributions serving as substantive input to the report.
- The WG continues to work toward the August 14 goal of delivering a report to the full NANC and the subsequent September 25 final report deadline.

MEMBERSHIP

- AT&T
- ATIS
- Bandwidth
- CenturyLink
- Charter Communications, Inc
- Comcast
- Cox Communications
- FCC
- Google
- iconectiv
- INCOMPAS
- Montana PSC
- NTCA
- Peerless Network, Inc.
- SIP Forum
- Smithville Communications
- Somos
- Sprint
- TransNexus, Inc.
- USTelecom
- Telnyx, LLC
- West Telecom Services, LLC

CONTACT INFORMATION

Guest subject matter experts may present at working group meetings but cannot vote or participate in deliberations. Once their presentations are complete, they would be asked to drop from the working group call. Please contact either of the Co-Chairs if you would like to recommend a presentation by a guest subject matter expert.

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