2021 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop
13-14 October via video call-in

The 2021 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop will be conducted as an online Webinar, 13-14 October, from 13:00 to 17:15 CEST (Geneva time) each day. Call-in instructions will be sent to all registered participants. Pertinent documents can be found at the Workshop website.

Everyone interested in emergency alerting is welcome: managers, technical staff, media, etc., including those in government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and commercial organizations. 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, 70% of the world's population lives in a country with at least one national CAP feed operating. Implementation of CAP by country is depicted in this online map (pictured below), and is further detailed in the CAP Implementation by Country status report.

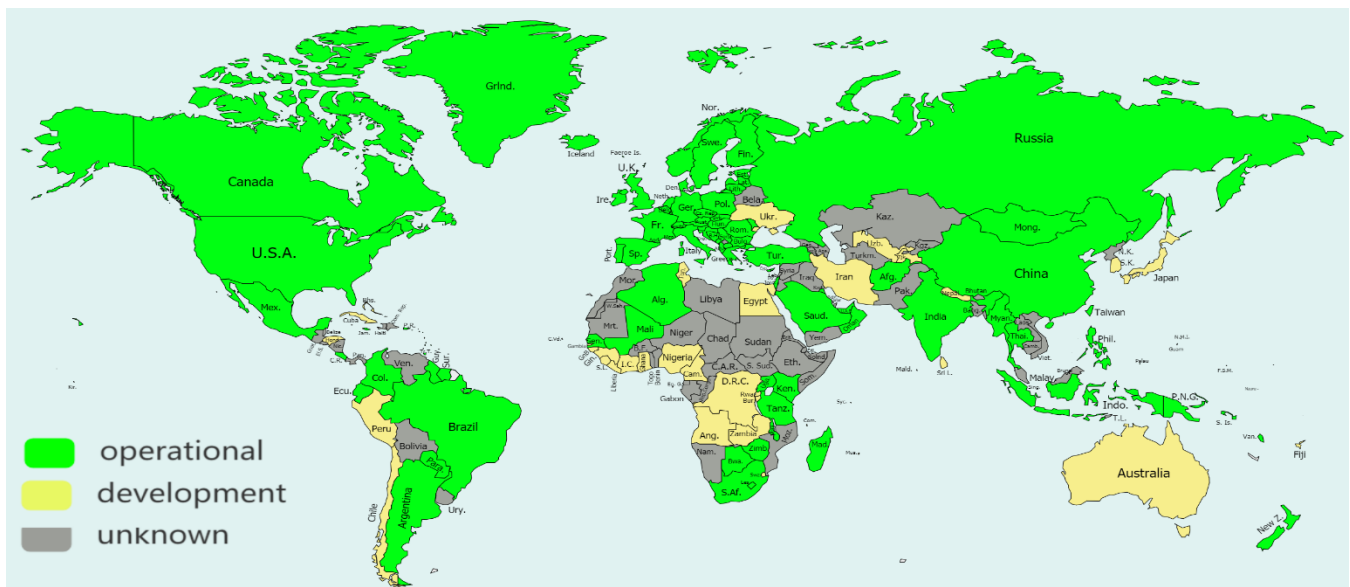At this 2021 Workshop, nineteen presentations by experts around the world will address a range of topics.

IFRC will present its IFRC Alert Hub initiative. IFRC Alert Hub aims to enable CAP to be leveraged for all manner of emergency preparedness and response activities, at scales from city to country and up to global. Consumers of IFRC Alert Hub will include Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, news organizations, telecommunication providers, international and national emergency managers, and disaster relief organizations, among others. A key objective is to improve the impact of early warning messages by strengthening the link with hazard-specific messages on what people can do to reduce risks, protect themselves and prepare for emergencies.

The Workshop will hear multiple presentations focusing on national systems. There will be an update on CAP as used by Environment and Climate Change Canada. An update by China will focus on its National Early Warning Release System. India's presentation of its Integrated Alert System, developed by C-DOT, will describe a CAP-based deployment on a vast scale. Participants will hear about CAP in Italy and the STRATEGY EU action. There will be a report on the implementation of CAP in Nepal. CAP in the U.S. Integrated Public Alert and Warning System will be the topic of a presentation, as well.

On the international level, the Workshop will hear about CAP promotion from the USAID perspective. The Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization will present emergency relief and information systems. The Hong Kong Observatory will describe a new update to WMO's Severe Weather Information Center. ITU Development Bureau will describe its 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. Also, the Pacific Disaster Center will talk about accelerating its DisasterAWARE Hazards Coverage via CAP. CAP implementation with Sahana Open Source software will be the topic of a presentation, as well.

WMO will present its various activities concerning CAP. This may include incorporation of CAP into WMO

operational
development
unknown

Technical Regulations. This inclusion would be helpful for countries making large CAP investments. WMO will discuss the Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS), which has WMO Alert Hub as its key component.

WMO Alert Hub was contributed to WMO by the United States. It is operated by Alert-Hub.Org CIC and runs on the Amazon Web Services cloud. This same cloud-based system also hosts the free CAP Editor tool for creating and publishing CAP alerts. CAP Editor is initialized for use by 350 of the world's alerting authorities, across 200 countries and 22 languages. Anyone can use this free tool as a "Guest", but actual publishing of alerts requires an authorized user who sets his/her own password. CAP Editor is now in use as an operational CAP publishing system by 20 alerting authorities. To arrange free group training on the CAP Editor tool, contact Eliot.J.Christian@gmail.com .

AccuWeather has been using CAP for more than 15 years, and will discuss its application of CAP worldwide.

The Everbridge presentation will explain how their products and services support global adoption of CAP.

Google will present an update on its support of CAP implementations, and its own CAP-based initiatives. For example, Google Crisis Response delivers relevant emergency alerts through everyday services like Google Search, Google Maps, and Android push notifications. If you are using Google Maps and any alerts are active in the area being viewed, the map may show Google SOS Alerts. If your smart phone has location turned on, you may receive a notification on your mobile device's home screen and you can tap the notification to see the full alert on Google Search.

OpenBroadcaster will deliver a presentation on CAP alerting with Community Radio and associated tech.

The Workshop will also see a presentation about various other examples of CAP implementations

The Call to Action on Emergency Alerting may be a topic of discussion. It has been endorsed by all Workshop co-sponsors, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU), among others. For example, Vint Cerf endorsed it with these words:

> In decades past, emergency warnings reached most people in harm's way through mass media such as over-the-air broadcast radio and television. Now, people spend more and more time online (chatting, streaming movies and sports, learning, shopping, gaming, etc.). Many will not get emergency messages designed for mass media. Yet, it is easy for Internet technologies to deliver CAP alerts to online users, and to life-saving online devices such as sirens, digital signage, bridge controls, bed shakers, etc.

Let's build out a future where CAP-enabled alerting becomes a humanitarian feature of all major cloud services and computer operating systems worldwide.

A CAP Training Webinar will be held on 15 October, 13:00-17:15 CEST. The CAP Training will cover: the basics of CAP and how it serves interoperability; getting and displaying CAP alerts from alerting authorities and aggregators; making and validating CAP; disseminating CAP via traditional methods and the Internet; a survey of some CAP implementations already operating, and, a hands-on walk-through of an actual CAP implementation. The CAP Training is open to all those, and only those, who register for the CAP Workshop, by e-mail to Eliot.J.Christian@gmail.com.

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 prior CAP Workshops are available at these links:
- 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 2021 CAP Implementation Workshop:

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IFRC	Jessica Ports Robbins
ITU	Vanessa Gray
OASIS	Elysa Jones
WMO	Cyrille Honoré

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