



DEVELOPING A FEDERAL AI STANDARDS ENGAGEMENT PLAN (COMMUNITY ALIGNMENT)

Artificial Intelligence is moving beyond its infancy and the pace of its adoption and evolution is such that it is necessary to put in place general technical frameworks and taxonomies on which dialogue, policy development and information sharing can be based. AI is a hot topic and already something of a political hot potato on a global level. Standards in support of Artificial Intelligence are necessary, but it will take time to properly develop and put them in place. Due to the complexity and wide topical footprint of the subject, it is likely that the standard(s) will be multi-pronged and see release in a series of increments with early releases focusing on frameworks, taxonomy, relationships, as well as policy issues such as safety and ethical use.

The United States must put in place a cohesive plan to address AI development and standards requirements and the initial activities undertaken by NIST are movement in the right direction particularly as it serves to better solidify the relationships and issues within the core working community many of whom have already engaged in AI standards development early efforts via groups such as the INCITS SC 42 Working Group.

The process is only beginning, however, and in order to ensure the most transparency and seamless technical alignment, we should take note of similar development processes that have preceded this effort. As an example, the collaborative atmosphere within the biometrics community of interest since the 2011 ANSI/NIST-ITL Standard Update has been exceptional and should serve as a model for similar development, alignment and harmonization initiatives within the AI Standards development process and plan.

In short, in the period since 2011, there has been a close working relationship between NIST, INCITS M1 working group members, the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) and its Biometric Domain comprised of core public sector members of the Biometrics community of interest. Due to this proactive level of engagement and cooperation, it has been possible to continually update and align the ITL Biometrics Standard to the NIEM Biometrics Domain Data Model and primary stakeholder messaging



protocols (DoD EBTS, DoJ EBTS and DHS IXM) even though the Standard has been updated to include multiple new modalities and technical updates.

Cross-organizational collaboration and alignment is exceptionally important and can alleviate many potential issues, while also providing a more flexible and user friendly operating environment. This supports NIST's mission of Interagency Engagement and should serve as the cornerstone for continued discussion, development and alignment of the forthcoming AI standards, technical and policy frameworks. As part of the plan for Federal AI Engagement, NIST should include a map of the AI standards development universe noting specific opportunities for engagement and alignment in the standards development, refinement and update process. Additionally, the collaboration and alignment between NIST, NIEM and INCITS should be made formal with established liaison relationships where warranted.