

Social Web WG





Agenda

Start	End	Item
11:00	11:15	Intro, administrivia
11:15	12:00	Getting to First Public Working Draft (FPWD)
12:00	12:30	Conformance test suite

Getting to First Public Working Draft

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Goal: publish a revised “1.1” ActivityPub W3C REC

From [Process 6.3](#):

In summary, the main steps of the **W3C Recommendation Track** are:

1. Publication of the First Public Working Draft.
2. Publication of zero or more revised Working Drafts.
3. Publication of one or more Candidate Recommendations.
4. Publication as a W3C Recommendation.



Revising an existing spec

Reminder of correction classes (Process 6.2.3):

- Class 1: no change to text (stylesheet, broken link, etc)
- Class 2: no change to conformance (clarify non-normative text, typo fix, changes to normative text that “reasonable implementers” wouldn’t interpret as a change to conformance rules)
- Class 3: changes to conformance that aren’t new features (expand/contract a definition so more/fewer implementations conform)
- Class 4: new features



Revising an existing spec

For a spec revision with Class 1, 2, and 3 corrections, there are two ways to do this per [Process 6.3.10.2](#)!

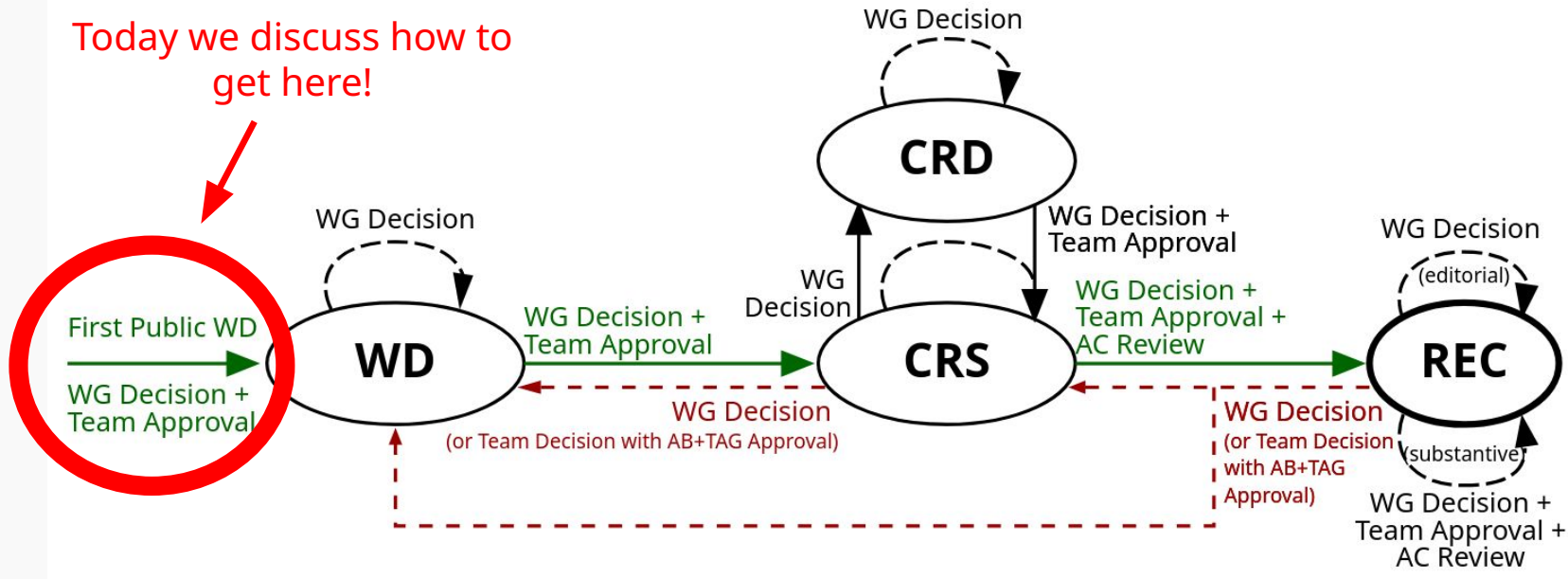
- Publish candidate amendments ([6.2.5](#)) and then eventually incorporate them into the final TR via the incorporation process ([6.3.10.4](#))
- Publish a whole Working Draft and then advance it like a normal spec

We chose the latter option because the former is quite fiddly and we have a LOT of accumulated Class 1-3 corrections!

Where we are in the process

- Currently Editor's Draft, <https://w3c.github.io/activitypub/>
 - "no official standing whatsoever" ([Process 6.3.1](#))

Today we discuss how to
get here!





...what's a Working Draft?

A Working Draft:

- “is suitable for gathering wide review”
- “[does] not necessarily represent a consensus of the Working Group”
 - Though it does require a WG Decision and W3C Team approval!
- “has patent implications as defined in the W3C Patent Policy”
- “first Working Draft of a technical report is called the First Public Working Draft (FPWD)”

([Process 6.3.1](#))

...getting to FPWD is the easiest part of the Recommendation Track. It get harder from here.



First Public Working Draft

So what's needed? According to [6.3.5](#) and [6.3.3](#), the Working Group...

- "MUST record the group's decision to request advancement."
- "MUST obtain Team verification"
- "MUST publicly document all new features (class 4 changes) to the technical report since the previous publication."
- "MUST publicly document if other substantive changes (class 3 changes) have been made, and should document the details of such changes."
- "MUST publicly document if editorial changes have been made, and may document the details of such changes."
- "MUST formally address all issues raised about the document since the previous maturity stage."
- "MUST provide public documentation of any Formal Objections."



First Public Working Draft

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First Public Working Draft

In plain language (and apparently no particular order!)

- We need to make a WG Decision to request advancement to FWPD
- The W3C Team has to approve it
- We need to document the Class 3 changes (like the additional inbox delivery change) in detail
 - Chair opinion: this should be an explainer-shaped thing referencing relevant diffs
- We need to document editorial changes.
 - Chair opinion: there are so many of these changes, I think we can do an explanatory thing at the high level, point out some of the bigger ones, and refer to the diff and ALSO the closed issues on Github for completeness.
- Make sure any internal objections (not Formal Objections) have been addressed



One more thing...

Our WG Charter states the following:

“For all specifications, this Working Group will seek horizontal review for accessibility, internationalization, privacy, and security with the relevant Working and Interest Groups, and with the TAG. Invitation for review must be issued during each major standards-track document transition, including FPWD.”

Chair interpretation: we need to notify groups that we want horizontal review immediately after we make a group decision to request advancement to FPWD. (We will also need to do this two other times: when moving from WD to CR, and from CR to REC.)



Plan to get there (Chair opinion)

1. Since we need to publicly document Class 1, 2, and 3 changes anyway, we do this *first*. This will enable us to get easier WG Decision consensus and show the Team what it is they are approving
2. Make our WG Decision
3. Inform the Team and request approval
4. Request horizontal review (with Team assistance)
5. Do the work of horizontal review (how much time?)
6. Incorporate HR results and repeat if changes are requested

1 will take some time. 2, 3, 4 can happen nearly simultaneously. 5 we need to figure out a good time period. If we can stay specific about what's a Class 1+2 change vs a Class 3 change, we can minimize work for horizontal reviewers.



Questions?

After FPWD... test suite time

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Our charter requires a test suite

There are no strict W3C-level requirements for a test suite. Many groups maintain one, and our group charter requires one:

“In order to update the Recommendation, **each substantive change** is expected to have at least two independent implementations of every feature defined in the specification, **where interoperability can be verified by passing open test suites**, and two or more implementations interoperating with each other.” (emphasis added by Chair)

While not defined in the charter, a “substantive change” in W3C Process is a Class 3 or Class 4 change. The “1.1” spec has no Class 4 changes, and only a small number of Class 3 changes.

Chair interpretation: **minimum viable test suite** tests our Class 3 changes. However, it would be silly to publish only that. For strategic/adoption reasons, and for v2.0 reasons, ActivityPub needs a full test suite.



Open questions

- **Who** builds the test suite?
- **How** do we fund the work?
 - Funding a test suite for the 1.0/1.1 “diff” might not even be necessary since it’s a small set of changes
 - Funding a full test suite for 1.1 would be an ideal scenario
 - We are going to need a full test suite for eventual 2.0 work because the “diff” will be closer to 100% coverage
- **What’s** the timeline? Per charter we need a suite before transition to REC

Chair opinion: as has been shown in many other areas of the Web (ex, Web Platform Tests), sustained test suite maintenance is critical for sustained viability of any spec, ActivityPub included.



Discussion time