

Syndication

Meeting Minutes June 25, 2008

Information

Meeting Date: June 25, 2008

Meeting Time: 12:00 PM PDT

Next Meeting Date: July 9, 2008

Location: Teleconference Bridge 800-727-7709 passcode 8359369#

Sponsor: NAR

Meeting Type: Teleconference

Duration: 49 minutes

Chair: Paul Stusiak , Gina Accawi substitute for this occasion

Minutes: Gina Accawi

Role Call

- Gina Accawi, Falcon Technologies
- Peter Chiu, Yahoo! Inc.
- Adnan Fida, Point2 Technologies
- James, Point2 Technologies
- Tony Manhollan, RealestatePoint.com
- Rick, Realtor
- Alex Parr, Trulia
- James Ridley, FBS
- Alexander Wingeier, CLR Search

Agenda

- Discussion on any concerns or successes with implementation of the existing Syndication schema
- New Business
- Set Next Meeting Date

- Adjourn

Minutes

Adopt previous meeting minutes

No discussion was held around the minutes of the previous meeting.

Agenda Item 1

Adnan and James with Point2 had some concerns with the existing schema. They posted these concerns as 16 items regarding the draft schema to the syndication forum. The group was asked if anyone had a chance to review these items and whether there was any feedback. Alex with CLRSearch indicated that he had only reviewed a few of the items. Nobody else in the group indicated that they had reviewed them in advance of the meeting, therefore each of the points they brought were discussed briefly with the group, some had actionable items and some did not. The following are the points brought forward during the teleconference.

Item Sub-topic 1

The current address only requires a City. This is due to the fact that the address is a shared type with the rest of RETS. Any change to make further fields required would impact there. The thought was that province, state, and zip code should be required as well.

Item Sub-topic 2

A separate address and location seems odd. This is just done to logically separate the information into groupings related to the physical location as opposed to a mailing address, or information for locating the property.

Item Sub-topic 3

It was asserted that the schema does not provide for tracking of URL or images. Communication of statistical information is considered vital for the realtor in some cases. It was desired that a way be provided of including a tracking image so the provider can see who is viewing this data. Other tracking information discussed was whether the item was successfully received, or reporting of errors in the case of problems.

Point2 has a schema they wished to share with the group containing some of this information. In addition, Peter with Yahoo! had a schema as well as Alex with CLRSearch.

It was noted that this is moving into the enveloping or messaging and this would be the sort of next phase in the Syndication workgroup charter above what is considered for the listing itself. The Listing itself was really the first goal and concern.

** Action – Gina Accawi July 2, 2008 Post schemas submitted by Point2, Yahoo! and CLR Search to the Syndication workgroup page on rets.org. These are the schema used for exception handling, error codes, as well as reporting information.

Item Sub-topic 4

No last update date. This should be present on a per listing basis. It is important to know which listing is the most accurate, at least with respect to timing. This could theoretically be used for a delta type processing. A last modified timestamp. This was previously was discussed but, not implemented.

** Action – Gina Accawi July 2, 2008 Add a modification timestamp to the listing.

Item Sub-topic 5

Rental and listing price are a single type. Rental may require a frequency.

Item Sub-topic 6

There is currently no post sale data. Would like this to be considered for the future.

Item Sub-topic 7

No space for condo fees.

** Action – Gina Accawi July 2, 2008 Locate or add an AdditionalFee and Comments to the schema.

Item Sub-topic 8

There was originally concern with there being only one image size, but this issue was dropped. It was agreed that the current way is fine.

Item Sub-topic 9

Currently only one MLS is allowed per listing. Would like to allow multiples. This would mean also having more than one MLS Number.

The main concern was to help with duplicate listings. It was agreed that there should be some additional thought into how best to prevent duplicate listings, and how to deal with them once they occur.

Item Sub-topic 10

State or province should be required. But, since the address is shared with RETS, this should go to the Schema workgroup.

** Action – Gina Accawi August 6, 2008 Discuss making more fields in the address type zip code and state especially required with the schema workgroup.

Item Sub-topic 11

Listing status is optional?

The assumption is that the listing is active.

** Action – Gina Accawi August 6, 2008 Add documentation that the values of active is assumed when not present.

Item Sub-topic 12

Open houses need a time zone? The time zone for the open house is the time zone from the listing or the property itself.

Item Sub-topic 13

Neighborhoods cannot be nested.

Item Sub-topic 14

Bedrooms and Bathrooms are required fields. Lots and land do not have these, therefore the fields should not be required.

The group consensus is that the fields should be required, due to the dominance of the residential listing. However, the value of 0 for the bedrooms and bathrooms should be used for lots and land.

** Action – Gina Accawi August 6, 2008 Add documentation that the values of 0 should be passed for lots and land in the bathrooms and bedrooms count fields.

Any further discussion for any of these items may continue in the syndication forum on the rets.org site.

Agenda Item 2

A Frequently Asked Questions list was of interest to the group and worth putting some time in between now and the next in person meeting.

Agenda Item 3

The next order of business will be to discuss the transport mechanism in more detail at the next meeting. Discussion could start with Atom. Current model is mostly pull, there was interest in expressed in having a standardized web service API.

Transport certainly plays into the error reporting currently under discussion. It was asked if the group wanted to be participating in the RETS meeting in August. Some in the group will be attending.

New Business

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

Set Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on the teleconference bridge: telephone 800 727 7709 meeting id: 8359369# on July 9, at 2 PM Central.

The agenda will be to review the submitted and posted schema for the reporting and exception tracking information. Please see the Syndication workgroup developer page at <http://rets.org/cms/developer/syndication> for the posted schema documents for review.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PDT.