

FOUNDATION FOR INTELLIGENT PHYSICAL AGENTS

Document title	Resolutions of the Baltimore, July 2000 Meeting		
Document number	f-out-00041	Document source	FIPA Board of Directors
Document status	Preliminary	Date of this status	2000/08/10
Change history			
2000/8/10	Initial draft		

Resolutions of the Board of Directors:

- To re-issue a modified contract to the secretariat, excluding any management or maintenance of the FIPA web site and mailing lists; but including financial administration and maintenance of the FIPA members list and additional support for FIPA's outreach program.
- To establish a new web site, to be hosted at a commercial web hosting service. The content of the web site would be managed by the FIPA membership via the WEBSITE task force.
- Following the recommendation of the FAB, to create three new technical committees: TC Architecture, TC Agreement Management, TC Gateways. In addition, to create the new working groups: Transport WG, AgentCities WG, Design and Product Manufacturing WG, Security WG, Image WG.
- To appoint the following as chairs of these TCs and WGs:
 - Francis McCabe as the chair of TC Architecture
 - Bernard Burg as the chair of TC Agreements Management
 - John Shepherdson as the chair of TC Gateways
 - Mark Greaves as the chair of TC C
 - Fabio Bellifemine as the chair of the Transport WG
 - Rob Hadingham as the chair of the Image Committee
 - Bernard Burg as the chair of the WebSite Task Force
 - Steven Willmott as the chair of the AgentCities WG
 - Nina Berry as the chair of the Product Design and Manufacturing WG
 - Francis McCabe as the chair of the JCP WG
 - Geoff Arnold as the chair of the Security WG
- To ask Tim Finin to explore the potential for holding a competition under the auspices of Autonomous Agents 2001 with a FIPA prize of an amount to be determined.
- To award Bernard Burg, Monique Calisti, Jonathan Dale, Mark Greaves, Heimo Laamanen, Kate Stout and Steve Willmott FIPA Certificates of Excellence for their outstanding contribution to the work and specifications of FIPA in the year 1999.
- To express their sincere appreciation to Tim Finin, Chrissy Quezado, Michelle Holmes, Sandy Jones and UMBC for their efforts in hosting our meeting in pleasant and effective surroundings.
- Looks forward to a vigorous and happy 19th meeting in Sydney Australia, 16-20 October, 2000.

Resolutions of the FIPA Architecture Board:

- The FAB approves the following work plans and their assignment to the following TCs and WGs:

Document	Title	Assigned to
f-wp-00001	TC C Maintenance	TC C
f-wp-00002	Gateways	TC Gateway
f-wp-00003	AgentCities	WG AgentCities
f-wp-00004	Agent Configuration Management	TC Agreements Management
f-wp-00005	IIOp-Based Message Transport System Work Plan	WG Transport
f-wp-00006	HTTP-Based Message Transport System Work Plan	WG Transport
f-wp-00007	Domains and Policy Work Plan	TC Architecture
f-wp-00008	Agreements Work Plan	TC Agreement Management
f-wp-00010	Agent Description Ontology Work Plan	

- FAB postpones to the next meeting proposal f-in-00011 "Querying DF and AMS Work Plan" because of lack of personnel.
- FAB postpones proposal f-in-00012 "Information Agent Work Plan" because not enough support from membership is shown. If support becomes available, it can be resubmitted.
- FAB requests TC Agreement Management to consider the inclusion in their plan of activity of f-wp-00010 "Agent Description Ontology Work Plan" and to refer back to FAB the result of this analysis.
- FAB approves the creation of a new document "Terms and Definitions" with a common set of definitions for all the FIPA specifications. Every specification is allowed to have its own specific set of terms and definitions as well, but they should not redefine what is in the "Terms and Definitions" document. FAB takes the responsibility for this new document and appoints Jonathan Dale as an editor for it. The document must be based on the current definitions in the FIPA specs.
- FAB requests the Product Design & Manufacturing WG to submit a work plan with the expected plan of work, milestones, scope and generated specifications.
- FAB promotes to Experimental status the following specifications. Where modifications are requested, editors are requested to send the final version ASAP and not later than 31 August 2000. These requests for modifications will be sent via e-mail by the FAB chairman on Monday.
 - FIPA00008 FIPA SL Content Language Specification
 - FIPA00014 Nomadic Application Support Specification (FIPA00062 Monitor Agent, FIPA00063 Control Agent, FIPA00065 Nomadic Application Support Ontology, FIPA00066 Nomadic Application Support Overview: recombine into one document with structure and form similar to the Agent Management Specifications)
 - FIPA00023 Agent Management Specification
 - FIPA00061 ACL Parameters Specification
 - FIPA00069 ACL Representation in Bit-Efficient Encoding Specification (with minor comments to incorporate, but no further review is necessary).

- FIPA00070 ACL Message Representation in String Specification (with minor comments to incorporate, but no further review is necessary).
 - FIPA00075 Agent Message Transport Protocol for IIOP Specification
- FAB informs the membership of the delayed review of the following specifications. FAB will complete this review by mid August.
 - FIPA00064 Wireless Message Transport Protocol Specification
 - FIPA00067 Agent Message Transport Service Specification
 - FIPA00071 ACL Message Representation in XML Specification
 - FIPA00073 Agent Message Transport Envelope Representation in String Specification
 - FIPA00076 Agent Message Transport Protocol for WAP Specification
- FAB approves the status change to Obsolete of all the library specifications. These documents will be replaced with appropriate tables and structure on the FIPA web site. TCs are invited, **where necessary**, to resubmit these documents in form of inclusion criteria in the libraries.
 - FIPA00007 FIPA Content Languages Specification
 - FIPA00025 Interaction Protocol Library Specification
 - FIPA00037 Communicative Act Library Specification
 - FIPA00068 ACL Message Representation Library Specification
 - FIPA00072 Agent Message Transport Envelope Representation Library Specification
 - FIPA00074 Agent Message Transport Protocol Library Specification
- FAB approves the status change to Obsolete of the following specifications
 - FIPA00077 Agent Message Transport Profile Alpha Specification
 - FIPA00078 Agent Message Transport Profile Beta Specification
- FAB approves its review of the Interaction Protocols (documents from no. 25 to 36). A document has been given to TC C with the set of recommendations. Further review is necessary by FAB for promotion to experimental.
- FAB warns TCs about the deadline of the following Preliminary specifications, which are now 6 months old. FAB requests an update of the status of these specifications by mid August from the respective TC chairs:
 - FIPA00001 FIPA Abstract Architecture Specification
- In London the FIPA97 Application specifications were promoted directly to Experimental in their original form however, FAB recognizes that due to changes in FIPA2000 there is the potential for some inconsistencies with the new specifications. FAB therefore invites members to check the documents and submit new versions of them to members@fipa.org

Resolutions of TC Architecture:

- Remove the FIPA-entity as a mandatory element of the Abstract Architecture
- Add operational semantics to service
- Issue a revised specification (PC00001B) in the near future
- Intend to hold on issuing an experimental specification until at least one concrete architecture has been derived from the Abstract Architecture.
- Hold an interim meeting to be co-located with OMG at Burlingame in Sep 12/13
- Thanks to Geoff Arnold, Laura Bacari, Stefan Covaci, David Evans, Elizabeth Fong, Rob Hadingham, Martha Kahn, David Levine, Francis McCabe, Jim Odell, Mike Stockman and Walt Truszkowski for their support and contributions to the work of TC architecture

Resolutions of TC C:

- TC C has reviewed the preliminary Message Elements specification, and recommends it be promoted to Experimental status. The following changes have been made:
 - The name of the language-encoding element was changed to encoding, for consistency with the other element names.
 - The name of the document was changed to Message Structure.
 - The Frame/Ontology table structure was clarified.
 - Minor editorial changes were made surrounding the control of conversation elements.
- TC C has reviewed the Content Language Library, and recommends that all component documents of the library be promoted to Experimental status. The following changes have been made to the FIPA-SL specification:
 - The ACLCommunicativeAct nonterminal was removed from the concrete encoding of SL, and communicative acts will be treated as generic actions.
 - Numerous minor editorial changes were made.
- TC C has reformulated and reviewed the Communicative Act Library, and recommends that it be promoted to Experimental status. The following changes were made:
 - The individual communicative act definition documents were recombined into a single document, at the request of the FAB.
 - A annex addressing the formal basis of SL (based on the FIPA 97 documents) was added to the library administration document.
 - Numerous editorial changes were made.
- TC C has reviewed the Interaction Protocol Library. TC C recommends that the individual elements of this library (the protocols) remain at Preliminary status, but be made public. TC C also recommends that the Interaction Protocol Library Administration document, containing the AUML definition, be promoted to Experimental status. TC C intends to continue its work refining the individual protocols.
- Prior to the Sydney meeting, TC C intends to have an interim meeting via videoconference to discuss future issues in the Communicative Act Library. Details of this meeting will be publicized on the agent_comm mailing list.

- TC C appoints Fabio Bellifemine as the editor of the FIPA-SL Content Language specification. TC C also thanks Monique Calisti for her dedicated work during her term as editor of this document.
- TC C appoints Jeremy Pitt as co-editor of the Interaction Protocol Library specification set.
- TC C wishes to extend special recognition and thanks to Makoto Okada and Hiroki Iciki for their tremendous work and leadership on the Message Structure and Communicative Acts specifications.
- TC C gratefully acknowledges the work of Bernhard Bauer, David Bell, Fabio Bellifemine, Luis Botelho, Thierry Bouron, Brandon Buteau, Monique Calisti, Scott Cost, Stephen Cranefield, Tim Finin, Mark Greaves, Marcus Huber, Hiroki Iciki, Kiyoshi Kogure, Yannis Labrou, Frank McCabe, Jim Odell, Makoto Okada, and Jeremy Pitt.

Resolutions of TC Agreement Management:

- After studying the work plan 17: Agent Description Ontology, the TC resolves to include it into the mission statement.
- TC Agreement Management will produce three closely related specifications:
 - Agent Configuration Management Specification
 - Agreements Specification
 - Service Description Ontology Specification
- TC Agreement Management appoints three editors:
 - Jonathan Dale (Agent Configuration Management Specification)
 - Timothy J. Norman (Agreements Specification)
 - Hironobu Kitajima (Service description ontology)
- TC Agreement Management thanks FAB and other TCs for help and collaboration.
- TC Agreement Management gratefully thanks: Manny Aparicio (Saffron), François Arlabosse (AFSJ), Laura Bacari (6th Element Group), Thierry Bouron (France Telecom R&D) Phil Buckle (Nortel Networks), Bernard Burg (Motorola Labs), Jonathan Dale (Fujitsu), David Evans (Simplex technology), Rob Hadingham (Nortel Networks), Hironobu Kitajima (Fujitsu), Timothy J. Norman (U. Aberdeen), Denis Pierre (Aegis), Jeremy Pitt (ICL), Ev Sherwood (Motorola Labs).

Resolutions of TC Gateway:

- To combine preliminary versions of the component and profile documents produced by TC E (PC00062, PC00063, PC00065, PC00066) by 1 August 2000.
- The binding times for the submission of the Call For Technology to the FAB is 7 August 2000.
- Future work:
 - TC Gateway accepted the changed dates in the work plan, which are:
 - Preliminary Specification 07/2001, Experimental Specification 01/2002
- TC Gateway will assess the responses to the CFT, and produced specifications, as per the work plan dates.
- TC Gateway gives special thanks to Heimo Laamanen, Heikki Helin, Jamie Lawrence, Kari Koivuniemi, Janne Jarvi, Michael Berger,, Anupam Joshi, Satoshi Nishiyama, H. Chi Wong, Stefan Poslad, Robert Luna, Bruce Peat, Steve Willmott, Phil Buckle, Michael Stockman and Stefano Campadello
- TC Gateway thanks all other TCs and FAB their co-operation and for fruitful information and knowledge exchange.

Resolutions of the Transport WG:

- TWG approves the new version of the specifications FIPA00075 "Agent Message Transport Protocol for IOP Specification " where the IDL interface has been fixed and submits this specification to FAB for promotion to experimental.
- TWG approves the deprecation of the specifications FIPA00073 "Agent Message Transport Envelope Representation in String Specification". They are made deprecated by the new specifications FIPA00075 "Agent Message Transport Protocol for IOP Specification ".
- TWG appoints Steve Willmott as editor of the following new specifications:
 - FIPA00084 "FIPA Agent Message Transport Protocol for HTTP Specification"
 - FIPA00085 "FIPA Agent Message Transport Envelope Representation in XML Specification"
- The documents will be sent to the management mailing list by mid of August for final approval and will be then submitted to FAB for promotion to experimental.
- TWG appoints Steve Willmott as editor of the following specifications with the following specific mandate:
 - FIPA00067 "FIPA Agent Message Transport Service Specification ": replace 'contentLength and contentEncoding' with 'payloadLength and payloadEncoding'.
 - FIPA00069 "FIPA ACL Message Representation in Bit Efficient Encoding Specification ": remove relative time and keep only absolute time.
 - FIPA00070 "FIPA ACL Message Representation in String Specification ": remove relative time and keep only absolute time.

- FIPA00071 "FIPA ACL Message Representation in XML Specification": a) remove the user-defined parameters from the AID structure; b) split the DTD by creating two new DTD for representing AID and Date.
- FIPA00076 "FIPA Agent Message Transport Protocol for WAP Specification": a) replace the usage of the String envelope specifications with the XML one; b) remove the footnote about the inconsistency between IOP transport and bit-efficient encoding.
- The documents will be sent to the management mailing list by mid of August for final approval and will be then submitted to FAB for promotion to experimental.
- TWG requests the FIPA Board to make the DTD of all the XML specifications publicly available on the Web site and ensure that the URL of these DTDs be persistent.
- TWG requests TC C to remove the notion of relative time from the ACL specs, in particular for the value of the :reply-by parameter, in order to have a uniform notion of time in SL, ACL and envelope.
- TWG approves the obsolescence of the following preliminary specifications. As a consequence, they will no more be submitted to FAB.
 - FIPA00077 Agent Message Transport Profile Alpha Specification
 - FIPA00078 Agent Message Transport Profile Beta Specification
- Steve Willmott is appointed as an editor to remove possible references to these documents from other existing documents. Steve will report directly to FAB by mid of August.

Resolutions for Product Design and Manufacturing WG

- Product design & manufacturing WG would like to thank the many participants that attended the July 20, 2000 meeting. Francois Arlabosse, Nenad Ivezic, David Flater, Evan Wallace, John Sheperdson, Jim Odell, Jim Christensen, Goutam Sataphathy, Laura Bacari, Brent Langley, Renato Levey, Don Sweetall, and Nina Berry.
- The PD&M WG would like to thank Jim Christensen for representing the Holonic-manufacturing consortium (HMC) at this meeting.
- The PD&M WG endorse and encourage FIPA to continue to pursue potential liaison relationship with the holonic-manufacturing consortium HMC.
- The PD&M WG would like FIPA to sponsor second meeting with the HMC in London on Sept 7, 2000 to future discuss potential liaison activities with the software side of the consortium. Stephan will be arranging this meeting and Nina will also try and attend.
- The PD&M WG would like to thank the representatives of Intelligent Automation, Inc. for participating in our meeting and presenting their research.
- The PD&M WG will investigate how we can support the testing of AUML as a modeling technique for designing agent-based manufacturing applications.
- The PD&M WG will release an informative document of manufacturing scenarios on the usage of FIPA technology for these applications. We would like to thank the holonic-manufacturing consortium for permitting us to utilize some of their real scenarios for this document.

- The PD&M WG will be having an interim meeting in Sept. in conjunction with the OMG Agent group. Jim Odell is attempting to setup a meeting between the PD&M group and the OMG manufacturing task force.