

RETS2 MLS Payload Workgroup Meeting

Date:

02/26/07

Location:

NAR Conference Bridge

Attendees:

Dan Woolley
Jaison Freed
Paul Stusiak
Steve Verba
Gina Accawi
Mike Wurzer
Jeff Brush
Paula O'Brien

Paula opened by stating her desire to get at least the primary payloads ratified soon. Paul said he felt there was work yet to be done on composable types, citing as two examples address and phone, which can have additional validation added to them within the schemas. Paula offered an opinion against typing string elements too strongly through use of regular expressions, citing that this may cause some mapping difficulties in the community. Others felt it would not be a problem using tools. Paul and Gina are working on examples and will share them with the workgroup in an upcoming meeting.

Dan contributed his feeling on the payloads, and said as a client, he was willing to support whatever the server vendors felt they could support.

Mike brought the recent RainCity blog RETS discussion to the workgroup's attention, and suggested that RETS leadership may want to enter the discussion and clarify some misconceptions about RETS.

Mike also mentioned that Mark Lesswing had shared with him news that a NRDS RETS server that is currently under development. He said that MLS's would be very excited about the concept of having access to that data through a RETS interface. Paula asked Mike if he would like to be a beta reviewer for the server and Mike accepted. Paula will contact him during the testing phase of the project.

Paul informed the group that he was considering having a payload meeting on April 18th instead of the RETS developer seminar. He felt this would be an opportunity for business domain experts to meet in person and review the payloads. Mike agreed that this was a good idea and Paul will contact him to discuss it further.

Mike also suggested that the payloads needed to be more accessible to the non-technical community. Paula asked if she could follow up with him to discuss ideas he had for that approach and then see if she could make this happen through the new RETS wiki. Mike agreed that he would like have such a discussion.

Paula asked the group what they thought about the “Summary” payloads – ListingSummary and PropertySummary. Dan saw the use case that someone could use a smaller payload for review on a PDA or other mobile device. Mike cautioned that it might be a challenge to get consensus on which fields constituted a summary and also might be a vendor support challenge. Paula stated that in the TMS workgroup, they had developed the concept of “display list” payloads and detail payloads to accommodate clients who did not want to process the entire detailed payload just to provide the user a list. Mike and Jaison felt that the summary approach might work if the number of elements in the payloads were very limited so no vendor would feel it approached a full dataset. Paula will review this idea with the community.

The group was asked if they had any additional feedback on the payloads up for discussion today. Jaison replied that Agent was missing a middle name field. Paula said she would add a middle name to the Person element. Jaison also said that “PreferredAddress” was confusing with regards to MailingAddress and Address. He also questioned whether Address should really be part of ContactInformation – currently they are two separate elements, with ContactInformation containing phone, email and web site information. Paula will review these items and share them with the community for additional clarification.

Steve introduced the concept of agent teams. Mike agreed that teams are an important business dynamic for agents. The group debated whether “Team” should be an element of the Agent payload or whether “Team” is really a container and should be a separate payload that contains Agent elements. Paul is going to present this question to the community via the rets-dev list.

Action Items:

- Paul and Steve to review the RainCity blog RETS discussion.
- Paul and Gina to create examples of composable types and validation for the payloads for the workgroup.
- Paul to contact Mike to discuss the April 18th MLS payload meeting at the Austin RETS meeting.
- Paula to contact Mike during the testing phase of the NRDS RETS server project.
- Paula to contact Mike to discuss technical approaches towards making the payloads more accessible.

- Paula to review the idea of MLS summary payloads with the community and present feedback to the workgroup.
- Paula to review the questions around MailingAddress, Address, PreferredAddress and Address/ContactInformation with the community and present feedback to the workgroup.
- Paul to present the concept and questions around Teams to the rets-dev list.

Next Meeting:

The workgroup did not set a time for the next conference call.