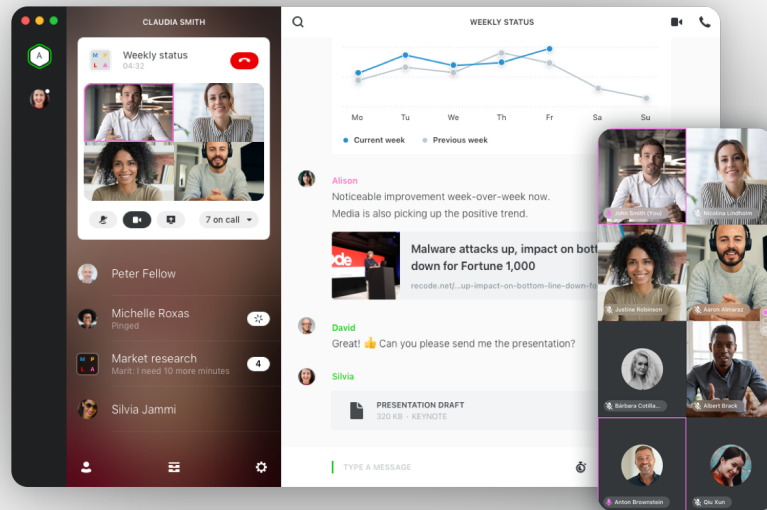DMA Article 7 Stakeholder Workshop — Interoperability
27-February-2023

Rohan Mahy
rohan@wire.com   @rohan_wire

Standards-based Interop:
More Instant Messaging Interoperability (MIMI) Working Group

- Recently formed Working Group at the IETF
- What topics will MIMI work on?
    - identifier naming
    - user introduction and discovery   — how do I safely start a chat with someone?
    - messaging content format
    - MLS profile   — make sure that end-to-end encryption works in interoperable way
    - server-to-server transport mechanism/protocol — how are messages and changes to chats transferred?
    - end-to-end cryptographic identity   — client can validate identity from the other service/domain

- Provides strong foundation for other features not explicitly standardized
    - preventing spam
    - metadata protection
    - group moderation
- Does not standardize client-to-server protocol

Why is Standardized Interoperability Beneficial?

- Good for European businesses
  - Only need to implement one standard protocol to interoperate with multiple Gatekeepers
  - Robust open source implementations become likely

- Good for Gatekeepers — Gatekeeper1 wants to interoperate with Gatekeeper2
  - Gatekeeper needs to implement multiple protocols unless they can agree on a single common one. A standard protocol is more neutral.
  - Could facilitate internal interoperability as well.

- Good for end-users
  - Network effect: Increases number of users with whom an end-user can communicate
  - Multi-user chat with 2 different gatekeepers
    - DMA article 7 says that end-to-end encryption needs to be available when interoperating to the extent it is available in the gatekeeper's system
    - Alice creates a group chat with Bob and Cathy. If Bob sends a message to Cathy is it end-to-end encrypted?

- Good for Competition in Instant Messaging
    - Spend time implementing new features instead of reinventing old ones

- Good for Enforcement
  - Standardized protocol makes it easy to verify technical compliance. Can run a standard test suite.

Gatekeeper 1
Bob

Gatekeeper 2
Cathy

Non-gatekeeper operator
Alice