

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Training Session and 2017 CAP Implementation Workshop 19-21 September 2017 in Rome, Italy

A one-day Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Training Session and a two-day CAP Implementation Workshop will be held 19-21 September 2017, in Rome, Italy.

The events are hosted by the Fire Corps Academy of Italy, [Istituto Superiore Antincendi](http://www.istitutoantincendi.it).



Everyone interested in emergency alerting is welcome: managers, technical staff, media, etc., including those in government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and commercial organizations. There is no charge to participate in these events.

This Workshop is co-sponsored by the [International Association of Emergency Managers \(IAEM\)](http://www.iaem.org), the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(IFRC\)](http://www.ifrc.org), the [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](http://www.itu.int), the [OASIS standards organization](http://www.oasis-standards.org) and the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](http://www.wmo.int). These Workshops focus on emergency alerting as enabled by the CAP standard, ITU-T Recommendation X.1303. At the Workshops, implementers of CAP and other associated organizations discuss common issues and how best to expand adoption of CAP.

The CAP Training Session covers: understanding of CAP and how it serves interoperability goals; getting and displaying CAP alerts from alerting authorities and aggregators; making and validating CAP alerts; and, disseminating CAP via traditional methods, the Internet, and new media. The CAP Training Session will also provide hands-on instruction on installing a free tool for creating and publishing CAP alerts. This tool can be installed not only on the participant's own laptop PC brought to the classroom, but on Internet hosts actually used by alerting authorities.

There are likely to be about 30 presentations at the Workshop, on a wide range of topics and presented by experts from every part of the world.

CAP "alert hubs" will be a major topic again this year. An alert hub simplifies access to copies of alerts by aggregating alerts from many different feeds into one URL. Such an alert hub, when operated on a cloud infrastructure, offers high levels of responsiveness, availability, reliability, authenticity, and security. To maximize alerting speed, alerts can be pushed immediately to the hub from sources, and immediately from the hub

to subscribers. In this way, dissemination of alerts within a second or two becomes quite possible.

There will be an update on the "Filtered Alert Hub" (see <http://alert-hub.org>). This free and open source software simplifies access to and use of copies of CAP alerts. It also allows filtering of available CAP alerts by location and/or any other alert content. For example, about two thousand filters provide a custom alert feed for just one city or country. There is a custom alert feed for "official alerts only"--restricted to sources that are in the international [Register of Alerting Authorities](http://www.alert-hub.org). Another filter gives just the highest priority alerts for "broadcast intrusive", which could be useful for applications such as the IFRC [Hazards App](http://www.ifrc.org) that is being implemented in countries worldwide.

The Filtered Alert Hub technology also supports the "WMO Alert Hub" prototype. This prototype figures prominently in a global-scale, CAP-based, free facility now being discussed throughout WMO.

Italy's National Fire Corps (host for his Workshop) will present on its progress in implementing CAP in support of their mission throughout Italy. Those involved in Civil Protection for Italy will also present on the successful expansion of CAP use.

Another of the presentations will describe China's National Early Warning Release Center. Established in 2015, the Center studies and formulates relevant policies and technical standards. It is mainly responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of China's National Early Warning Release System (NEWRS). This operational and very large scale, CAP-based system provides the overall release channel for relevant departments throughout China to disseminate and publicize early warnings and related information for all types of hazards.

The German Weather Service, Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), will present an update on its implementation of CAP. DWD has leveraged CAP for many years and recently added CAP feeds and English warnings to its portfolio. DWD will also share some insights on the use of CAP in support of push-enabled applications.

Google will share its perspective on technology applicable to CAP feeds. The presentation will also describe Google's new [emergency location service for Android](http://www.google.com) now rolling out internationally.

Sahana Software Foundation will present on work concerning the use of symbols in communicating

emergency alerts. There are also a number of CAP implementations operational or in progress that use Sahana Software Foundation tools.

A survey of other CAP implementations now underway or newly launched, as well as new developments in some of the existing CAP implementations will be presented (see status report on [CAP Implementation by Country](#)).

Participants will hear from the [OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee \(EM TC\)](#) about efforts to seek consensus on common CAP "event" terms and criteria to distinguish those highest priority CAP alerts that should be sent immediately to all people in an affected area. During the CAP Workshop, the OASIS EM TC will have a meeting with its usual call-in arrangements.

The CAP Workshops are technical meetings conducted in English without interpretation. These meetings do not set policy; they are intended solely for information sharing among experts. Accordingly, participants represent themselves and need not be formally associated with organizations. However, registration is strongly encouraged for administrative and planning purposes. Any participant nominated by a WMO Member is instructed to follow the procedure in the official WMO invitation, once that is available.

The CAP Training Session and the CAP Implementation Workshop will be in the ISA facility located at [Via del Commercio, 13, Rome](#).

Further information will be posted, as it becomes available, to the [2017 CAP Implementation Workshop website](#). Materials from previous CAP Workshops (co-sponsored variously by IFRC, ITU, OASIS, and WMO) can be found at these links:

- [2016 Bagkok, Thailand](#)
- [2015 Rome, Italy](#)
- [2014 Negombo, Sri Lanka](#)
- [2013 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2012 Montréal, Canada](#)
- [2011 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2009 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2008 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2006 Geneva, Switzerland](#)

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