

Privacy description and accessing API standards for Web Applications

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In the perspectives of mobile platform, currently there are many platforms (e.g. iPhone OS, Android, etc) which are mostly mutually incompatible and furthermore each mobile device only supports one particular platform. In this situation, even mobile application developer would like to develop an application which supports most of mobile platform, It's really hard because application developer have to understand various kind of mobile platform, different programming language and development environment. In addition, the similar problem is in the application distribution.

A common standard for mobile applications is the best way to tackle fragmentation in the long term. In this context, web platform is recognized with one of strong candidate for overcoming this issue. Concerning to the standardization activity related with web platform such as HTML WG [1], Web Apps WG [2], Device APIs and Policy WG [3] and Geolocation WG [4] and etc in W3C are working on the developing the related standards like HTML5, Web APIs, etc.

Concerning to application distribution issue, one of major industry alliance is the Wholesale Applications Community. This alliance consists of 24 mobile companies including Samsung, LG, Sony Ericsson and Orange. The aim of this alliance is to create a mobile distribution channel that distributes applications to all devices irrespective of the mobile platform. This approach is based on the web standards as well.

These kinds of issues are not related with only the mobile platform but also most of consumer electronics including TV and even more. Therefore importance of Web platform will be continuously growing in the IT industry and even convergence domain among the various kinds of different technology.

Web platform has practical benefits in terms of supporting cross platforms. But there is still critical issue that should be solved for speeding up the proliferation of web platform. It is privacy issue. Privacy is an agreement, between user and web application provider, on how should user's information is handled. Privacy issues related with web application should be clearly solved, since misuse of information exposed by the Web APIs can have potentially harmful financial, physical safety, reputational and other impacts. Privacy issues that should be solved may include functional requirements in technical standards, laws and regulations, and best practices.

In a view point of ETRI's position, it is required to describe the privacy policy, in standard way, related with most of user's information. And the web application should handle the user's

information according to the specified policy rule. In addition API standard which accesses the specified policy should be taken into account as one of W3C standardization issue for enhancing the interoperability of web applications.

[1] W3C HTML WG, <http://www.w3.org/html/wg/>

[2] W3C Web Applications WG, <http://www.w3.org/2008/webapps/>

[3] W3C Device APIs and Policy Working Group, <http://www.w3.org/2009/dap/>

[4] W3C Geolocation WG, <http://www.w3.org/2008/geolocation/>

[5] Laura Arribas, Paddy Byers, Marcin Hanlik, Frederick Hirsch, David Rogers, "Device API Policy Requirements", W3C Editor's Draft 08 June 2010. Available for download at <http://dev.w3.org/2009/dap/policy-reqs/>