

Parental Rating API  
Third Web and TV Workshop

## Pre-Summary

Many TVs and set-top boxes have some sort of age restriction setting

Would be useful to access from browser

Would be even better if it wasn't such a mess

And multi-media makes it worse

# History

Rating systems initially came from the film industry

Originally the Hays code set guidelines on what was allowed

A movie that didn't follow the rules was not released

Abandoned in



# Other countries adopted similar systems

	General
	Parental guidance recommended
	Recommended for mature audiences
	Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15s must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian
	Restricted to 18 and over
	Restricted to 18 and over





Country/System	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Adult
ACB	Master text format bearbeiten															MA15+	R18+X18+		
MJ/DEJUS	Zweite Ebene															14	18		
CHVRS (1)	Dritte Ebene															13	18		
MOC	Vierte Ebene															12	18/X		
Medierådet	Fünfte Ebene															12	18		
FBFC	General Audience (Unrestricted)															11	15		
MOC	PERE	L	MP-6	K-12											K-14	Adult (Restricted)			
FSK	S	K-9	U	FSK 6	-10	K-13											K-15	K-18	
TELA	FSK 0															FSK 12	FSK 16		
Småis	K															IIA	IIIB		
CBFC	I															12	15		
IFCB	KN															12	15		
IFCO	ALL															12	15		
MIBAC	L															7	12		
Eirin	U															12	14		
NCC	A															12	16		
NBC	U															7+	12+		
RTC	G															12+	15+		
Kijkwijzer	AA	A														B	B-15		
OFLCNZ	AL	6	9	12											15	15			
NFAVCB	G															12/12A	15/15A/16		
MTRCB	G															PG	18		
KRRIT	G															PG	12/12A		
CCE	A															7	11		
MDA	Apt															14	15		
FAPB	GP															R-13	R-18		
Statens medieråd	BO															7	12		
GIO	M/4															M/6	12		
BBFC	G															PG	15		
MPAA	G															PG	15		
FAB	G															PG	15		
CAC	G															PG	15		
CHVRS (1994-2005)	G															PG/DP	14		

Table from Wikipedia (simplified)



# Additional rating schemes

## TV rating schemes



## Music rating schemes



## Games

## Problem scope

There are lots of rating systems

That's not the problem

Content is rated by some semi-official national organization

Content is usually single media

Ratings are 'applied' at point of purchase

Purchases are in a specific country - national rules apply

## 'Classic' set-top box scenario

Set-top box set to (German rating) FSK 12

Movie received has FSK 6

Set-top box shows movie

Movie received has FSK 16

Set-top box does not show

Already tricky with satellite TV

Should I play a "T" movie from Italy?

# Common solution - set of rating lists

Check your iPhone for an example...

Keine Filme zulassen	
ab 0 Jahren	✓
ab 6 Jahren	✓
ab 12 Jahren	✓
ab 16 Jahren	✓
ab 18 Jahren	✓
Alle Filme zulassen	✓

Keine Filme zulassen	
U	✓
Uc	✓
PG	✓
12	✓
12A	✓
15	✓
18	✓
Alle Filme zulassen	✓

Keine Filme zulassen	
G	✓
PG	✓
PG-13	✓
R	✓
NC-17	✓
Alle Filme zulassen	✓

Separate settings ratings for all different movie rating systems

And all the other rating systems...

## OIPF provides one way to handle this

Uses JavaScript objects:

ParentalRating , ParentalRatingCollection ,  
ParentalRatingScheme and ParentalRatingSchemeCollection

Multiple schemes can be defined

Scheme URN

Text list of values

```
"urn:mpeg:mpeg7:cs:MPAAParentalRatingCS:2001" ,
```

```
"G,PG,PG-13,R,NC-17,NR"
```

```
"urn:oiptvf:GermanyFSKCS" ,
```

```
"0,6,12,16,18"
```

## So far, so good, but...

- § Covers only one media type at the moment
  - § If I can watch PG-13 videos, what music can I hear?
- § Only works with officially rated content
- § Setting needs to be available for that specific combination
  - § If I set my box to "NC-17", can I watch an FSK 16 movie?
- § Threshold system can't handle non-linear rating sub-ratings
  - § Violence (V) Language (L) Sexual content (S) Suggestive dialogue (D) Fantasy violence (FV)
  - § OIPF has additional flags for disturbing scenes, portrayals of discrimination, illegal drug use and strobing.

## What would be useful...

§ Capability of reading device setting from within browser

§ W3C Standard

§ Probably from DAP Working Group

§ Access to device settings

§ Region

§ Rating Scheme

§ Setting

And...

# What would be useful...

Additionally:

- § Something that allows reacting to sub-ratings  
(I may not mind suggestive dialogue, but may draw the line at violence and strobing.)
- § Something that allows application developers to adapt their applications
  - § Current system is aimed at block/allow, but not at adapting
  - § Current system is based on external rating agency
  - § Handling each media type separately doesn't make much sense for web pages
  - § Official rating of content does not work well in a **World**



§ Something simple

§ In most cases, it boils down to:

§ Kid

§ Older Kid

§ Adolescent

§ Adult

§ Or "Strict", "Moderate" and "None" for filters



# Thank You...



## Christian Fuhrhop

Dipl.-Inform.  
Project Manager

Future Applications  
and Media

Fraunhofer Institute  
for Open Communication Systems  
Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 31  
10589 Berlin | Germany  
Phone + 49 30 - 3463 - 7361  
[christian.fuhrhop@fokus.fraunhofer.de](mailto:christian.fuhrhop@fokus.fraunhofer.de)  
[www.fokus.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de)

[www.fokus.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de)

