

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Jump-Start and CAP Implementation Workshop (22-24 September 2015 in Rome, Italy)

A Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) [Jump-Start](#) and a CAP Implementation Workshop will be held 22-24 September 2015, in Rome, Italy. The events will be hosted by the Fire Corps Academy of Italy, [Istituto Superiore Antincendi](#) (ISA).



Persons interested in emergency alerting are welcome: managers, technical staff, media, etc., including governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and commercial organizations. There is no charge to participate, as has been the case for all prior CAP Workshops.

CAP Workshops are co-sponsored by the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(IFRC\)](#), the [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#), the [OASIS](#) standards organization and the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#). The Workshops focus on emergency alerting as enabled by the CAP standard, ITU-T Recommendation X.1303. At the Workshops, implementers of CAP and associated organizations discuss common issues and how best to expand adoption of CAP.

The CAP Jump-Start will cover: understanding of the CAP standard and how it serves interoperability goals; getting and displaying CAP alerts provided by alerting authorities and aggregators; making and validating new CAP alerts; and, disseminating CAP alerts via traditional methods, the Internet, and new media.

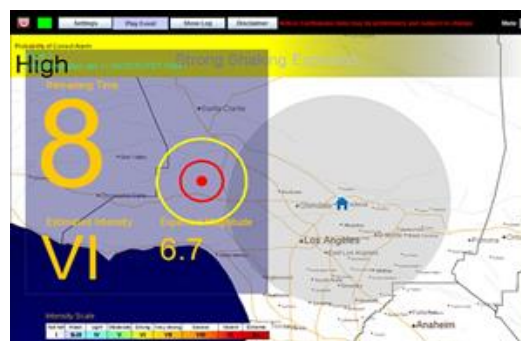
CAP Jump-Start sessions also provide hands-on instruction on how to install free tools for creating and publishing CAP alerts. Such tools can be installed not only on participant's own laptop PCs in the classroom, but on Internet servers actually used by alerting authorities.

Two new free all-hazards tools for creating and publishing CAP alerts will be presented, one by Google.Org and one by The Weather Company. Also, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Global Disaster Preparedness Center will present its free [Universal App Program](#). The Workshop will have an update presentation on the free CAP-enabled [Sahana](#) tools for emergency management as well.

CAP support by Météo-France Group will be presented, and [Pinkerton's](#) will present on its use of CAP through the Trusted Information Exchange System (TIES). TIES is also key to [Microsoft's CityNext](#) tools for emergency management.

Among other topics will be the proposed WMO Alert Hub. This free facility on the Internet will help disseminate copies of alerts as designated by official sources listed in the international [Register of Alerting Authorities](#). The WMO Alert Hub will address crucial alerting requirements for high levels of responsiveness, availability, reliability, authenticity, and security. Yet, this service will not compromise the authoritative voice for alerting because alerts facilitated by the WMO Alert Hub remain clearly a product of the alerting authorities.

A related topic of discussion will be how CAP can be applied to Earthquake Early Warning systems. In these systems, warnings triggered on detection of an earthquake are sent electronically to warn people before destructive ground motion arrives. In the example below, people are being warned that strong shaking will arrive in eight seconds.



With only seconds of warning time, Earthquake Early Warning messages must be pushed to user devices immediately. CAP alerts pushed to the WMO Alert Hub can help with these and other immediate threats such as tsunami and tornados.

In these and most other public warning systems, alerts should be sent over all media available. An emerging trend is CAP alerts presented by online media overlaying Internet advertising (tornado warning screenshot shown below). This capability has been pioneered by the [Federation for Internet](#)



[Alerts](#) (FIA) which will present its progress and plans to the Workshop.

Another presentation will show an example of CAP in the emerging "Internet of Things". CAP messages are emitted by sensors in buildings to provide real time earthquake damage assessment.

Participants in the CAP Workshop will also hear presentations on new CAP implementations as well as updates on some of the many existing CAP implementations. New CAP implementations include Argentina, Burundi, Brazil, the Philippines, Rwanda, and the United Kingdom. [MeteoAlarm](#) will present an update on public access to CAP in 35 languages across 34 European nations.

Other presentations will focus on countries where CAP implementations are now underway. For example, the India Meteorological Department is now engaged in CAP implementation. Initiatives have also started in other countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Jamaica and Sri Lanka. In Italy, CAP implementations are spreading from the Italian Ministry of Interior to the National Meteorological Service as well as Civil Protection Authorities.

The CAP Workshop will discuss a new CAP tie-in with the WMO Information System (WIS). Each of the fifteen WIS Global Information System Centres (GISCs) is now encouraged to maintain on its website links to news feeds of CAP alerts for all their WIS Centres.

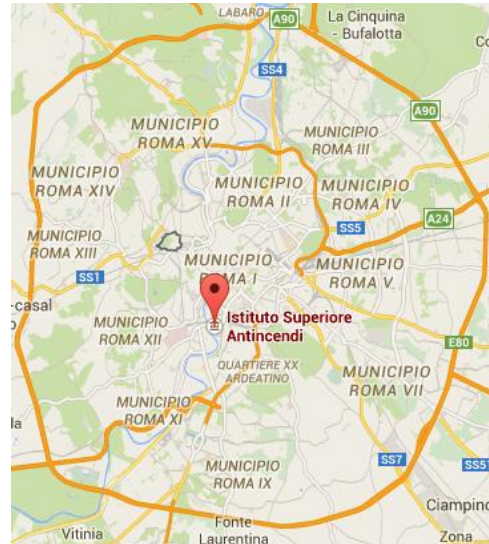
Participants will hear from the [OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee \(EM TC\)](#) about efforts to seek consensus on how to code those highest priority CAP alerts that should be sent immediately to all people in an affected area. This priority level of public alerting is known in the U.S. as an "imminent threat", in Canada as "broadcast immediate", and in China as a "red alert". Here it is especially important to converge on a common scheme for coding the type of event (e.g. tornado, tsunami, typhoon).

OASIS will present at the Workshop the latest thinking on future enhancements to the CAP standard itself. The OASIS presentation will also touch on other standards pertinent to emergency management. Immediately after the CAP Workshop, the 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. Participants nominated by WMO Members are instructed to follow the procedure described in the official WMO invitation, available from the [CAP Workshop website at WMO](#).

The CAP Jump-Start and the CAP Implementation Workshop will be in the ISA facility located at [Via del Commercio, 13, Rome](#) (shown below).



Further information will be posted, as it becomes available, to the [CAP Workshop website at WMO](#). Here are links to the previous CAP Workshops (all were co-sponsored by ITU, OASIS, and WMO).

- [2014 Negombo, Sri Lanka](#)
- [2013 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2012 Montréal, Canada](#)
- [2011 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2009 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2008 Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [2006 Geneva, Switzerland](#)

The Program Committee of the 2015 CAP Implementation Workshop:

- IFRC** - Omar Abou-Samr
- ITU** - Cosmas Zavazava
- OASIS** - Elysa Jones
- WMO** - Eliot Christian

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