

# Coordinating Federal Govt. Engagement in Documentary Standards:

## The National Science and Technology Council's Sub-Committee on Standards

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**Patrick Gallagher**  
**Director**

**NIST**  
National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce



# Coordinating Federal Government's Standards Engagement

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- The National Science and Technology Council's Sub-Committee on Standards (SOS):
  - What
  - Why
  - How

## What is the SOS?

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- Standards Forum
  - Improving coordination and information sharing among Federal agencies, departments and commissions
  - Is a sub-cabinet level group within the National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC) Committee on Technology
  - NSTC is the S&T equivalent to the National Security Council, the National Economic Council, etc.
  - Highlights the importance of standards



## What is the SOS?

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- Comprises senior level representation from agencies
  - Ensures visibility of standards related issues at the highest levels of the government
  - Improve coordination to leverage expertise available in different agencies – IP, Innovation, Competition, Trade, International, S&T, Standards, etc.



## What is the SOS?

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- Sponsored by the White House:
  - Office of Science and Technology Policy – Aneesh Chopra
  - National Economic Council – Phil Weiser
  - Office of Management and Budget – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs – Cass Sunstein
- Co-Chaired by:
  - National Institute of Standards and Technology – Pat Gallagher
  - Department of Justice – Carl Shapiro

## Why another standards committee?

- Administration priorities include significant standards infrastructure:

- Smart Grid
- Electronic Health Records
- Cloud Computing
- Educational Technologies



Credit: Mercy Hospital

- Standards are integral to President's National Innovation Strategy
- Advent of multi-disciplinary, cross-cutting technologies
- Budgetary challenges – tighter Federal budgets

## Why another standards committee?

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- Builds on the foundation established by the National Technology Transfer Advancement Act (NTTAA) and OMB Circular A-119
- Issues not covered by NTTAA and OMB A-119 : e.g., IP and innovation
- Limitations of the Inter-agency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP)

## What will the SOS do?

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- Work closely with existing Federal and inter-agency efforts that have a standards focus:
  - ICSP
  - TBT Sub-Committee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC)
  - Other formal and ad-hoc groups
- Improve awareness of importance of standards related issues among Federal agency leaders
- Bridge the gap between technical expertise in agencies' and the leadership – some agencies are better than others



## What will the SOS do?

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- Initial SOS sub-groups:
  - Standards “playbook”
    - compilation of best practices and experiences of Federal agencies
    - develop metrics to measure effectiveness of agency engagement
    - coordinated by NIST and ?
  - Standards and IP –
    - focus USG efforts on the issue of standards and IP
    - significant impact on ability of the U.S. interests to innovate and compete
    - coordinated by PTO and DOJ