Ruschlikon
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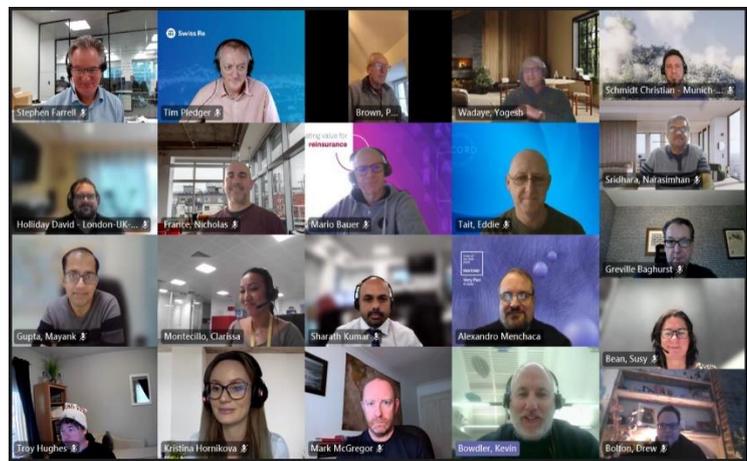## ACORD establishes the ACORD GRLC Technical Design Authority

Status Update

On the 8th of February, 2024, ACORD held the first meeting of the ACORD Global Reinsurance and Large Commercial (GRLC) Technical Design Authority Standards Project Group (SPG). ACORD's newest Standards Project Group includes representatives from ACORD, Aon, AXA XL, Acrisure Re, Munich Re, Swiss Re, LIMOSS, PPL, ACORD Solutions Group (ASG), MSG, Trace Isys, and Velonetic.[1]

The inaugural meeting was focused on establishing and prioritising the areas of focus for the group moving forward.

Purpose of the Technical Design Authority

The ACORD GRLC Technical Design Authority SPG was formed to assess, develop, and establish design principles for extending ACORD GRLC Standards to JSON/RESTful implementations. The group is responsible for assessing concerns and/or proposals from other ACORD GRLC SPG's, the wider ACORD membership, or other interested parties in relation to technical alignment between XML/SOAP and JSON/RESTful implementations.

Why are we establishing a Technical Design Authority now?

The ACORD GRLC Standards have traditionally been developed to support XML/SOAP implementations. This has been extremely successful in supporting adoption of the more well defined, transactional based flows, such as accounting and claims transactions. However, the Ruschlikon community has raised an increasing demand for JSON/RESTful versions of the GRLC Standards.

We have already seen this with the development of the ACORD GRLC Contract, Risk, and Pre-Accounting implementation (CRP) of the ACORD Global Placing Message, which has been designed from the ground up to support JSON/RESTful implementations. The driver for the publication of the ACORD GRLC CRP implementation toolkit was a request from the London Market Group Data Council for an API based messaging standard for submission of the Core Data Record (CDR) to the Digital Gateway. In addition to the data requirements, the London Market Data Council asked explicitly for the Standard to support JSON/RESTful implementations.

The Accounting and Claims and ePlacing community have asked for JSON/RESTful versions of the EBOT, ECOT, and ePlacing implementation toolkits.

Last year, ASG donated materials to ACORD to support JSON/RESTful implementations of EBOT and ECOT. Similar conversions of the ePlacing XML implementation are happening now. Without a unified and cohesive set of principles, as well as fully endorsed and published versions of the ACORD GRLC Standards, alternative non-standard JSON implementations may eventually be developed.

However, publishing JSON/RESTful versions of the Standards is not a simple task of doing a one-for-one match, which is not always possible or in some cases sensible. Both XML/SOAP and JSON/RESTful have inherent capabilities and constraints. What makes sense for one, may not make sense for the other. The ACORD GRLC Technical Design Authority SPG has been called to discuss these issues and to make decisions which will influence the future shape of the ACORD GRLC Standards.

The ACORD GRLC Technical Design Authority has been established to meet the needs of our ACORD GRLC membership (including the entire Ruschlikon community) by focusing on alignment, support, and adoption of the ACORD GRLC Standards, irrespective of whether an implementor elects to go down the JSON or XML route.

If you would like to know more about the ACORD GRLC Technical Design Authority SPG, or are interested in participating, please contact memberservices@acord.org.

[1] Please note solution provider participation on any ACORD SPG's only occurs when elected by a specific practitioner as their representative.

Clarissa Montecillo, ACORD, Head of GRLC, and Ruschlikon Steering Committee member

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