

## LF AI & Data Foundation Technical Advisory Council (TAC) Meeting Minutes October 19, 2023 (6:00am - 7:00am PST) via Zoom

TAC Meetings are bi-weekly and open to everyone in the LF AI & Data community.

### Voting Notes

Under the original charter rules we need 50% attendance from the voting members (represented by premier members + graduate projects) to meet quorum. To ensure quorum is met more consistently, the TAC implemented the following attendance and voting eligibility rule effective Dec 1, 2022: Voting members of the TAC who miss 2 consecutive meetings will not be allowed to vote and must then attend 2 consecutive meetings before their voting privileges are reinstated.

With the new attendance and voting rule adopted by the TAC, the number of eligible voting members varies per week and is tracked [here](#). Please see meeting minutes on the [TAC Wiki](#) for details on attendance and voting eligibility on a per meeting basis.

Please see the [TAC Wiki](#) for more information about voting.

Please see current voting members, including alternates, on the [TAC Wiki](#).

Voting details for today's meeting: 10 voting members were eligible to vote and 11 voting members were in attendance. Quorum was met for this meeting.

TAC Voting Member	Voting Representative	10/19//2023
<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Attendance/No. Eligible Votes</b>	<i>10 out of 11 eligible</i>
4paradigm	Zhongyi Jerry Tan	Jerry Tan
Amazon Web Services	Brian Granger	
	Mark Atwood	
Baidu	Jun Zhang	Jun Zhang
	Alternate: Daxiang Dong	
	Alternate: Yanjun Ma	
Ericsson	Rani Yadav-Ranjan	
Huawei	Howard (Huang Zhipeng)	Huang Zhipeng
	Alternate: Charlotte (Xiaoman Hu)	

	Alternate: Leon (Hui Wang)	
IBM	Susan Malaika	
	Alternate: Beat Buesser	Alternate: Beat Buesser
	Alternate: Alexandre Eichenberger	Alternate: Alexandre Eichenberger
Nokia	Michael Rooke	Michael Rooke
	Alternate: Jonne Soininen	
OPPO	Jimmy (Hongmin Xu)	
SAS	*Nancy Rausch	*Nancy Rausch
	Alternate: JP Trawinski	
ZTE	Wei Meng	
	Alternate: Liya Yuan	
Adversarial Robustness Too Project	Beat Buesser	Beat Buesser
	Alternate: Kevin Eykholt	
Angel Project	Jun Yao	
Egeria Project	Mandy Chessell	Mandy Chessell
	Alternate: Nigel Jones	
	Alternate: David Radley	
	Alternate: Maryna Strelchuk	
	Alternate: Ljupcho Palashevski	
	Alternate: Chris Grote	
Flyte Project	Ketan Umare	
Horovod Project	Travis Addair	
Milvus Project	Xiaofan Luan	
	Alternate: Jun Gu	
ONNX Project	Alexandre Eichenberger	Alexander Eichenberger
	Alternate: Jim Spohrer	
	Alternate: Prasanth Pulavarthi	

	Alternate: Andreas Fehlner	
Pyro Project	Fritz Obermeyer	
OpenLineage	Julien Le Dem	
	Alternate: Mandy Chessell	Alternate: Mandy Chessell
	Alternate: Michael Robinson	Alternate: Michael Robinson
Marquez	Willy Lulciuc	Willy Lulciuc
	Alternate: TBD	
	Alternate: TBD	

### Note for Voting Members

Please ensure you attend the bi-weekly TAC meetings to maintain voting eligibility. If you have not already provided an alternate representative, please email Nancy Rausch (Nancy.Rausch@sas.com), TAC Chair AND operations@lfaidata.foundation to designate an alternate representative. It is critical to meet quorum during the meetings especially when there are voting items on the agenda.

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### LF Attendees

- Ibrahim Haddad, VP Strategic Programs
- Lucy Hyde, Senior Program Manager, Linux Foundation
- Nathan Southern, Project Coordinator, Linux Foundation
- Reden Martinez, Project Coordinator, Linux Foundation

### Invited Guests/Presenters

- Jon Stine, Executive Director, Open Voice Network
- Dr. Deborah Dahl, Senior Technical Advisor, Open Voice Network
- Oita Coleman, Senior Advisor, Open Voice Network

### Call to Order

Nancy Rausch (NR) called the meeting to order at 6:02 am Pacific and Reden Martinez (RM) recorded the minutes.

NR reviewed the antitrust policy notice.

## **Agenda**

Nancy Rausch (NR) reviewed the agenda for the meeting. There were no further changes or additional topics added.

- › Roll Call
- › Approval of Minutes from previous meetings
- › Presentation proposal for the Interoperability Project and the TrustMark project
- › Open Discussion

## **Approval of Minutes**

Nancy Rausch (NR) presented a resolution to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2023 TAC meeting.

Proposed Resolution:

That the minutes of the October 5, 2023 meeting of the Technical Advisory Council of the LF AI & Data Foundation are hereby approved.

Alexandre Eichenberger made the first motion to approve the minutes, and Mandy Chessell seconded the motion.

*APPROVED - By vote of the TAC, the minutes of the October 5, 2023 meeting of the Technical Advisory Council were approved.*

## **Interoperability Project and TrustMark project**

Nancy Rausch (NR) introduced Jon Stine (JS), the Executive Director of Open Voice Network. JS commenced his presentation by introducing the Open Voice Network and highlighting two active and successful projects/initiatives from the LF Open Voice Network (OVON).

The first of these projects is the Interoperability Project, which is dedicated to the definition, development, demonstration, and scalability of a Universal API for conversational assistance.

The second project is the TrustMark Initiative, which centers on translating ethical principles specific to conversational AI into actionable measures and risk mitigation strategies for developers and enterprise users. This encompasses principles, LF EdX education, a maturity model, and specifications.

Both of these projects are currently in the process of applying for incubation status with LF AI & Data.

JS then proceeded to introduce Dr. Deborah Dahl (DD), who serves as the Senior Technical Advisor for Open Voice Network and leads the Interoperability Project.

### **OVN Interoperability Project**

Dr. Deborah Dahl (DD) introduced the project. The Open Voice Network Interoperability Project seeks to open and democratize Conversational AI through the definition, development, demonstration, and industry adoption of a universal API for interoperability of natural language/generative AI-enabled conversational assistants. The universal API for interoperability among conversational assistants will enable conversational assistants to marshal the expertise of other assistants in order to assist users in achieving goals that may be outside of the expertise of the first assistant. To do this the API will enable assistants to securely transfer conversations and relevant data to other assistants. This ability requires assistants to be able to find each other and to transmit information by means of a common protocol, similar to HTTP for the web. To this end, the Project will develop (but not be limited to) multiple open-source specifications, developer sandboxes, libraries (Python, Java, Node.js, Javascript, Java/Rust, Objective C/Swift, others), and an open-source destination identification and registry system.

The Open Voice Network Interoperability Project presents a range of potential collaboration opportunities with current LF AI & Data hosted projects, such as Egeria for location and discovery services, the Adversarial Robustness Toolkit for security specifications and tools, ONNX for best practices in interoperability standards, Delta for natural language and speech processing, as well as the AI Frameworks and Models workstreams within the Generative AI Commons.

Currently, the project is applying for the Incubation stage with LF AI & Data.

#### *Proposed Resolution:*

That the OVN Interoperability Project is approved by the Technical Advisory Council (TAC) as an Incubation-level project of the LF AI & Data Foundation.

Mandy Chessell made the first motion to approve, and Michael Robinson seconded the motion.

*APPROVED - By vote of the TAC, the OVN Interoperability project was approved as an Incubation-level project.*

### **OVN TrustMark Initiative Project**

Jon Stine (JS) introduced Oita Coleman (OC), who serves as the Senior Technical Advisor for Open Voice Network and leads the TrustMark Initiative Project.

OC introduced the project. The Open Voice TrustMark Initiative Project seeks to identify and define the time-honored ethical principles most relevant to the present and future of conversational artificial intelligence, and to translate said principles into individual and organizational endorsement, education, organizational assessment and evaluation, and technical specifications.

In short, the TrustMark Initiative – in an openly-collaborative, vendor-neutral, manner, with global participation – seeks to turn good intentions into action on behalf of users, organizations, and societies. It seeks to make the conversational AI of today and tomorrow worthy of user trust.

Since its founding in Q1 2023 from the Ethical Use Task Force of the Open Voice Network, a Linux Foundation community, the TrustMark Initiative Project has published an online “Ethical Principles for Conversational AI” course on the Linux Foundation EdX platform, and is expected in Q4 2023 to publish an organizational ethical self-assessment tool. Its 2024 roadmap points to expansion of its education course development efforts (a next-step course planned in Q1) and globalization/localization by language of its Self-Assessment Tool (also planned Q1).

The TrustMark Initiative has also served as a point of connection within the conversational AI ecosystem, and as a public voice on the topic of ethical conversational AI.

The Open Voice Network TrustMark Initiative Project identifies numerous potential collaboration opportunities with current LF AI & Data hosted projects, encompassing the Adversarial Robustness Toolkit, AI Explainability 360, AI Fairness 360, Delta (a natural language and speech processing platform), and the AI Frameworks and Education/Outreach workstreams within the Generative AI Commons.

Currently, the project is applying for the Incubation stage with LF AI & Data

*Proposed Resolution:*

That the OVN TrustMark Initiative Project is approved by the Technical Advisory Council (TAC) as an Incubation-level project of the LF AI & Data Foundation.

Mandy Chessell made the first motion to approve, and Michael Robinson seconded the motion.

*APPROVED - By vote of the TAC, the OVN TrustMark Initiative project was approved as an Incubation-level project.*

## **Open Discussion**

In the course of the open discussion, Ofer Hermoni (OH) emphasized the alignment of both projects with LF AI & Data activities. OH extended an invitation to Oita Coleman (OC), urging them to join the Outreach and Education workstream of the Generative AI Commons, underlining the desire for collaborative efforts. OH also delved into the nature of the Interoperability project, seeking clarification on whether it serves as a centralized tool orchestrating interactions among different voice tools or operates on a peer-to-peer basis through public APIs for communication.

Dr. Deborah Dahl (DD) provided clarification that the Interoperability project predominantly revolves around peer-to-peer communication, designed to eliminate any central points of failure, similar to the internet in this regard.

Mandy Chessel (MC) posed a question concerning the translation of ethical TrustMark definitions into architectural components within the Message Envelope project and its implications for transparency and accountability. This inquiry encompassed features like identity and various chat mechanisms. DD responded by explaining that, as things are currently evolving, there isn't a distinct overarching architectural framework within the Message Envelope. Instead, it comprises features that support ethical principles, such as agent authentication and the secure handling of user-sensitive information, all integrated within the mechanisms for transmitting messages between different assistants.

Oita Coleman (OC) further contributed by mentioning their exploration of various GitHub projects and research to support their ongoing work. They came across a framework known as ACE or Autonomous Cognitive Entity and are actively assessing its potential to bolster accountability and transparency, especially if it aligns with open-source principles.

Jon Stine emphasized the board's encouragement of adaptation rather than outright creation, fostering an adaptive approach from the outset.

Nancy Rausch (NR) raised a follow-up query regarding the Interoperability project, asking whether it includes any form of warnings, validations, alerts, or similar mechanisms.

In response, Dr. Deborah Dahl (DD) explained that while they have made significant progress in defining the process of transmitting messages, they have focused on authentication and establishing initial connections between the two assistants. However, they acknowledge the need to further consider potential interferences during the conversation transmission process to ensure the protection of interactions while they are ongoing.

Jerry Tan (JT) also sought clarification on the process for The Open Voice Network's integration with the LFAI & Data Foundation. In response, Ibrahim Haddad (IH) outlined that, following the approval of both projects at the incubation level, four of the company members of the Open Voice Network—namely Microsoft, Schwarz, Veritone, and Wegmans—would apply for Premier Membership with LFAI & Data, underscoring their strong commitment to these initiatives. Upon their admission to LFAI & Data, the foundation would establish a dedicated Voice-Specific committee, enabling other members with shared interests to join and actively participate in these collaborative endeavors.

IH will also schedule a separate conversation with JT to further discuss the plan.

No further topics were discussed.

### **Upcoming TAC Meetings**

November 2, 2023 - MetisFL (tentative)

November 16, 2023 - Jina AI New Incubation Project

Please note the TAC is always open to agenda suggestions and guest presentations. If you have a topic you would like to request, please email [tac-general@lists.lfaidata.foundation](mailto:tac-general@lists.lfaidata.foundation) for review and coordination via the TAC Chair accordingly.

### **Closing**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by NR at 6:59 AM Pacific.

### **Chat Conversation:**

21:05:52 From Nathan Southern To Everyone:

yes thank you Lucy


21:35:38 From LF AI & Data Zoom General To Everyone:

I believe this is the course in edX <https://www.edx.org/learn/artificial-intelligence/the-linux-foundation-ethical-principles-for-conversational-ai>

21:57:54 From Ofer Hermoni To Everyone:

Congratulation!

21:58:12 From Michael Rooke(Nokia) To Everyone:

Reacted to "Congratulation!" with 

21:58:13 From Michael Robinson | OpenLineage To Everyone:

Congratulations!

21:58:17 From Oita Coleman To Everyone:

Thank you so much for your support!



21:58:25 From Nathan Southern To Everyone:  
thanks all