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CERN – W3C joint development

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Summary:

We are proposing to link CERN software development based on web standards to the relevant W3C Working Groups.

2014 is the 60th year of CERN , the 25th year since [Sir Tim Berners-Lee](#) invented the Web , the 20th year since he founded the [W3C](#), accepting the Michael Dertouzos offer for the Consortium Director's position at MIT, the 10th year since [he was Knighted](#) in 2004 and the 5th year since he launched [the Web Foundation](#). It is time to establish, at last, an official CERN-W3C link.

Justification:

Software developers at CERN, writing Grid Middleware, Data Management software, collaborative tools, repositories for Data Preservation projects and web-based applications, use, amongst other standards, the http protocol in their packages but no formal technical CERN -W3C collaboration exists.

A collaboration with relevant W3C Working Groups will lead to technical benefit, via expertise sharing, in these times when resources are limited. The web today is a platform for sharing documents and data as well as managing software repositories.

In addition, CERN can benefit from off-spring organisations, like <http://webscience.org> (announced by Sir Tim Berners-Lee at the [web@20](#) years' event at CERN on 2009/03/13). Example: <http://webscience.org/web-observatory/about/exploring-the-web-of-data/> can be useful for IT and experiments' on-going work related to managing data at the WLCG sites.

In the framework of the "[CERN & Society](#)" programme, approved by the CERN Council in December 2013, CERN should also evaluate a participation in the Web Foundation. This would lead to social and mutually political benefit. Work being done there contains interesting projects for IT. There is also work being done in IT, of benefit for the Foundation. Examples can spring from page: <http://www.webfoundation.org/initiatives/web-for-economic-development/>

Finally, the [Web We Want](#) (announced by Sir Tim Berners-Lee at the UN in Geneva on 2013/12/05) will be in the centre of the debate around today's surveillance patterns. It will be technically and politically interesting for the CERN IT Security team to contribute in this area's policy making.