

TDOC NP-99567

“Bake-offs”

A Way to Enhance the Quality of Standards

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Bake-off

- ***Bake-off:= “baking contest, esp. among amateur cooks, in which entries must be prepared and baked within a stipulated time.”***

Here: events where (competing) engineers get together

- to test their implementations against each other
 - face-to-face or remote
- **Goal: achieve interoperability via**
 - debugging the standard
 - debugging implementations



Difference Bake-off / Interoperability Testing

Bake-off

- part of standardization
- prototype
- time window very short
- open to all developers
- short-time events (1-5 days)

Interoperability test

- close to production stage
- product
- time window entire life cycle of technology
- closed
- longer-time events

Advantages of Bake-offs

- **Enhances (even more) the quality of specifications**
- **Fast feedback into standards process**
- **Writing tests cases in prose suffices**
- **Developers active in the standards process - increased circle of participants**
- **Gauges the market acceptance of the standard**
- **Publicity of bake-offs raises awareness in the market about the standard**

Advantages of Bake-offs

- **For companies:**
 - **Helps companies also to debug their implementations**
 - **Meeting other developers familiar with the standard**
 - **Throughout industry (not just in the Internet world), usefulness of bake-offs rated very highly**

Bake-offs and Conformance Testing are like Food and Water

- **Neither one will replace the other**
- **No competition, but complementary**
- **Both will increase in importance**

ETSI's experiences as Host of Bake-offs

- **Bake-offs @ ETSI this year**
 - **TIPHON: 5 face-to-face events, 2 on ETSI premises**
 - **TIPHON: remote bake-off (Nov 1999)**
 - **1st Bluetooth Unplug Fest (Nov 1999) on ETSI premises**
- **Satisfaction with these events**
 - **Usefulness of TIPHON and Bluetooth bake-offs rated at 4.5**
(1=poor, 5 = very useful; 180 questionnaires)

Are Bake-offs a possibility within 3GPP?