



Human Rights in Standardization: Return from experience and way forward

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About the speaker and about this presentation

- Global Security Strategist, Enterprise Security Group at Broadcom
- 2 roles
 - Executive advisor to the CISO level of fortune 200 customers
 - Standardization expert at IETF and leader positions at ITU-T:
 - Study Group 17 Vice Chair for the UK and candidate chair at WTSA24 in New Dehli, Oct. 2024
 - TSAG Rapporteur Group Industry Engagment and Metrics: associate rapporteur
 - Candidate WTSA24 COM3B chair

Today:

- 3 stories on Human Rights considerations into standardisation at the ITU-T
- A LOT of learnings
- The realization that this is NOT straightforward and a huge number of conditions are NOT met
- But maybe we found an approach
 - A bon entendeur, Salut

We didn't wait to be told to bring Human Rights in standardization

Example 1 X.1451: Risk identification to optimise authentication

Context

- Platforms need to identify the risks at user authentication time
- Alibaba proposed this New Work Item
- However UK and civil society concerned it was toxic from Human Rights perspective
- Created an offline task force: SG17 Working Party 3 chair, Civil Society, China
 - Demonstrated mathematically this was safe
 - Civil Society rewrote correctly the text for China at their request and appreciation
 - Consensus reached

A great story, journey and community work

Learnings

- It worked because
 - SG17 and its delegates generally cares about the problem
 - Human Rights experts participate through Human Rights supportive administrations
- This situation happened multiple times in SG17 but we recognize:
 - This is by chance of Human Rights experts participating or not
 - This is ad-hoc and non programmatic



But cannot necessarily recognize the problem upfront, discuss it, and/or decide if this is a show stopper or not or propose a way forward – HOWEVER can act if explained and helped

Do have the expertise to identify, assess, position and potential fix/repair

An attempt to increase expertise ...

... that failed

- As X.1451 was an excellent experience for all the parties ...
- ... asked Human Rights to help us share their knowledge for SG17 to be in a better position
- But Human Rights refused for **the good reason** that in fact it is a much bigger problem
 - The expertise is NOT in the ITU delegates
 - This is such a hard task that even attempting would be counter productive and lead to the wrong outcome
 - The doctrine at that time from Human Rights was for NOT building up the ITU on Human Rights
 - The only possibility was to take a 'damage control' approach in an ad-hoc manner

Another approach taken by coincidence(s)

Example 2: X.arch-design

Context

- Define "Security design principles", inventory them and create a reference for architects and designers
- But the analysis showed that cyber security is both
 - An architecture
 - An architecture characteristic
 - An architecture which is itself under its own architecture characteristics
 - A design criterion
 - ALL at the same time
- This forced to introduce the designer and architecture as role
- And recognize that this is not about technology but about design with 2 possible approaches

The designer must follow these steps

- 1) Anthropology (what is the human experience or the EoI)
- 2) Ethics (it is not because I can design this EoI that I should do it)
- 3) Legal (what are the legal requirements, constraints and limits of EoI)
- 4) Technological (what are the Architecture Building Blocks and Patterns as best practices)

The Nature of Design

Considering an Entity of Interest (Eol) X,
the Eol has a known anthropology

Yes

No

The designer should follow these steps

- 1) Anthropology (what is the human experience or the Eol)
- 2) Ethics (it is not because I can design this Eol that I should do it)
- 3) Legal (what are the legal requirements, constraints and limits of Eol)
- 4) Technological (what are the Architecture Building Blocks and Patterns as best practices)

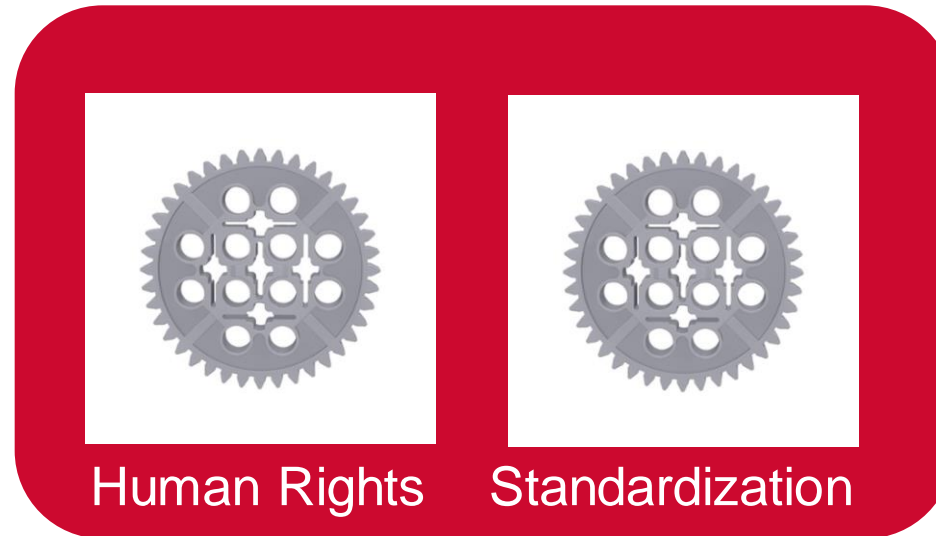
The designer should follow the reverse steps as a tree/graph

- 1) From a technology X and its architecture which legal frameworks it will disable or infer?
- 2) From each legal framework that it can enable, which ethics framework it will disable or infer?
- 3) From each ethics framework it can enable, which human anthropology it will allow or not?

X.arch-design Considerations

- This would be one VERY GOOD way to:
 - have a paradigm
 - to correctly introduce human rights in designs and therefore in standards
- Whilst in some areas this approach is taken since a long time, e.g. Medicine ...
 - A very good example on how the physicians in charge of finding solutions vs Parkinson disease
- ... this is NOT the case in ICTs!
 - “we” are a kilometers away to be in a position to do so and this is unfortunate
 - “we” would have a lot to gain including ... better products to sell on a better market!

VERY SMALL
CHANCES THAT
THIS WORKS
THIS WAY



Why do we have such a 'Design' deficit in ICT

Exploratory

- ... for a few key reasons:
 - Our methodologies are mostly in limbos
 - with no DESIGN TOOLING (apart from some exceptions eg. semi conductors)
 - We do not practice Multicriteria Decision Making Process (and the required mathematics behind)
 - and we do not have DESIGN TOOLING
 - We are not correctly trained on DESIGN Industry incentives are NOT in place
 - despite progresses in “corporate responsibility”
 - ... and we would need a colossal global and coherent capacity building program!
 - And for both developed and developing countries

PROBABLY
MANY MORE
CHANCES THAT
IT GIVES GOOD
RESULTS



Human Rights



Design



Standardization

And we tried already with the SDGs! And it faile!

Example 3: The SDGs would like too to be by-design in standardsitions

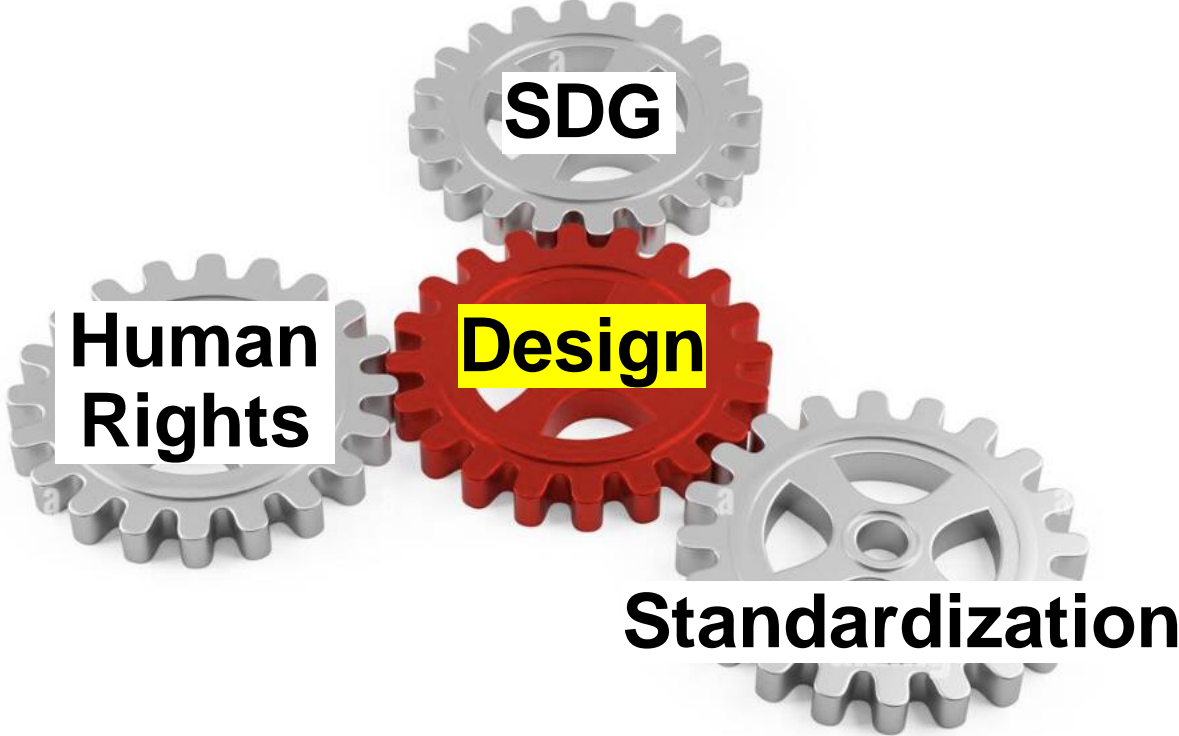
- Introducing Human Rights in standardisation, yes
- But way before we tried to introduce Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in standardisation!
 - 2018-2019, Japan and Broadcom pushed to bring SDGs in Recommendations
 - Similar problem! An SDG become a design characteristic
 - Japan pushed with Societey 5.0 in mind
 - Broadcom pushed to improve design already but didn't have the 'Theory of Design' approach
 - Problem:
 - Explicit benefits from an SDG to a standard: complex but doable task
 - Explicit negative impacts from an SDG to a standard: significantly harder
 - Implicit benefit from an SDG to a standard: extremely difficult
 - Implicit negative impacts from an SDG to a standard: impossible?
 - Why?
 - Because no theory of aggregation across ALL the design characteristics of an Entity of Interest
 - Same issue for Human Rights, typical examples
 - the “3 body problem” formed by privacy,security and safety
 - “human rights solutions” seem to always lead to more centralisation by the same dominant actors

But circumstances were not there to make it work for the SDGs, need the right conditions

Conclusions

- We need a real work-shop (in 2 words) to discuss the problem much much deeper
- At high level the idea to bring Human Rights 'by design' in standardisation is reasonable
- But there are other topics like this that have the legitimate same need e.g. SDGs
- Now, Broadcom is well engage on Human Rights protection
 - procurement, contract and this IS practiced daily!! #proud
- But we are concerned
 - A lot seems to be high level vision without execution in mind
 - Vision without Execution is the definition of an Hallucination
 - Lessons learnt show that a LOT OF CONDITIONS are NOT in place
- We would much prefer an approach
 - Recognizing this is a VERY difficult problem
 - Work on the conditions first, and outside of standardisation
 - This is a DESIGN issue first and attacking it by this angle will find a realistic (EXECUTABLE) outcome
 - And in practice – Help me the language on ethics in X.arch-design!

One picture to finish





Thank You

