



By Bruce Devlin
SMPTE Standards Vice President

Looking back on my first 18 months as standards vice president, I'm pleased to say that the Society is looking healthy, the standards pillar has a rich diversity of active projects, and the environment in which we operate continues to change at an ever-increasing pace. You will read in the reports from the technology committees that we have a mix of Standards, Recommended Practices, Registered Disclosure Documents, and SMPTE Technical Specifications flowing through the process. This diversity reflects the changing landscape of product development and the fact that more and more products are software rich or even virtualized services nowadays.

The standards pillar has also introduced a variety of new tools and trial working practices to see how we can better serve our members. Github is being used as an interactive issue tracker for various documents. We have found this to be very effective, particularly when the cohort of commenters interact in different time zones and are familiar with these software tools that they use every day. We are also trialing a Public Committee Draft (CD) process. Similar to the SMPTE Technical Specification process detailed in AG-22 on the SMPTE website, the goal here is to allow new features in a standard to be put in the public domain for a period of time while implementers build and test the public draft.

We are hoping that this ensures robust, implemented, and tested features appear in SMPTE standards to create new platforms for the media world.

The past 18 months have been an exciting roller coaster of technology and learning. SMPTE is looking good, and I hope you will agree that we sit in a good place in the modern world of high-technology products and services. Don't forget to tune into the Quarterly Standards Webcasts, which are free for everyone, whether you are a SMPTE member or not. We will tell you about the progress in our standards community and do a deep dive into a specific area of technology. Join in and tell us what you want to hear about.

About the Author



Bruce Devlin is well known in the media industry for his work on files and systems; particularly Material Exchange Format (MXF) and Interoperable Master Format (IMF). With more than three decades of experience, his technology presentations, especially his educational "Bruce's Shorts" videos (<https://mrmxf.com/>), are a go-to resource for chief financial officers, chief technology officers, and students alike. Devlin has designed everything from application-specific integrated circuits to algorithms. He tweets as @MrMXF; he literally wrote the book on MXF and is now responsible for standardization activities at SMPTE.



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UPCOMING STANDARDS MEETINGS

18–21 September 2019

Fraunhofer
Erlangen, Germany

9–12 December 2019

Arista Networks
Santa Clara, CA

2–5 March 2020

SMPTE Indian Section
Mumbai, India