

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

**All-Hazards****All-Media**

Historically, emergency alert messages were just text, composed like a news story. To leverage modern digital technologies, CAP provides data along with text, in a single XML message. CAP emergency messages are now the best way to alert everyone in harm's way.

Alerting authorities implement CAP as an RSS Feed—the same tech as a “blog”. Re-publishers monitor these Feeds and relay alerts to people in the alerting areas. CAP re-publishers include Google, IFRC, KDE, and WMO, among others.

CAP defines a simple message, designed to convey the Key Facts:

What? Where? How soon? How Bad? What should people do?

- about any kind of emergency (Weather, Floods, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Fires, Landslides, Disease, Air Quality, Transportation, Power ...)
- over any and all media (television, radio, cell phones, e-mail, Facebook, WhatsApp, X, Web sites, phone/PC apps, highway signs, traffic controls ...)



La Soufrière volcano | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 9 April 2021

CAP in the ‘Early Warnings for All’ Action Plan

One of the *Outcomes* of EW4All, under “Dissemination and Communication” (Pillar 3): “All countries have the capability for effective, authoritative emergency alerting that leverages the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), suitable for all media and all hazards.” One of the *Actions* in EW4All Pillar 3: “Establish CAP editor and Alert Hub to further enhance multi-hazard CAP based emergency alerting”.

CAP Editor and the Alert Hub are provided by the non-profit company Alert-Hub.Org.

CAP Editor

<https://cap.alert-hub.org>

Any alerting authority can implement CAP at no cost, and with nothing to install. “CAP Editor” is a free, cloud-based tool for CAP alert creation and publishing. It is initialized for 360+ alerting authorities.

CAP Editor is in operational use by 49 countries, publishing 84 national-level CAP Feeds.

Anyone is welcome to try out this tool as a “Guest”. But, only the head of an official alerting authority can designate persons who will login with a password to create and publish official CAP alerts.



Alert Hub

<https://alert-hub.org>

Any system that gets CAP alerts from more than a few sources needs a way to combine alerts across many news feeds. Just as an Internet search engine helps users find online resources, a CAP Alert Hub helps users get just the CAP alerts they want. For example, a civic authority needs to get all published alerts, while a private citizen may want only the high-priority alerts. Also, although each CAP alert is a kind of news story, not all alert news feeds are official sources. A CAP Alert Hub lets receivers choose only alerts from sources registered in the international Register of Alerting Authorities, maintained by WMO.



Alert Hub aggregates emergency alerts from 225 CAP alert feeds, published by 152 countries. Colored green on this map, these countries are 90% of the world by population.

Alert-Hub.Org



Eliot Christian is a pro bono consultant to various organizations and CEO of the non-profit Alert-Hub.Org CIC (Community Interest Organization), which operates WMO Alert Hub. Since 2001, Eliot has been developing and promoting CAP, internationally and in nations worldwide. Eliot consults on CAP and conducts free training for IFRC, ITU, UNDRR, WBU, and WMO, and any others on request.

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90 sec videos:

CAP Intro

Volcano