# Preview Tag

**Topic**: Currently different vendors enable their tag creating customers an ability to share a saved tag, before it’s been submitted, with other entities on the tag. During the CISS meeting one vendor stated that they have been doing this for 15 years. However, the sharing is limited to that vendor’s customers. Hence, not all entities on the saved tag have access to the same information; only the ones that subscribe to that vendor’s etag service will get those entities. Conversely, that vendor’s customers won’t see saved tags from entities that use a different service vendor. This creates an inconsistent view of information for everybody. Depending on who your counterparts are and which service vendor they use; entities will get a more or less complete picture. In a world with faster and faster scheduling, having an incomplete picture is not good for anyone.

The Preview tag request proposes to create a standardized method to enable sharing across vendors and get everyone a more complete picture.

During the meeting two main issues were discussed.

* The mechanism to exchange the data
* Who should receive the information?

**Issue A; The mechanism to exchange the data.**

**Concerns:**

1. Increased load on Tag Authority servers since more tags would be exchanged.

**Option A1:** To alleviate the concern, the use of the QueryAvailability concept was suggested. This existing mechanism would send messages point to point without increasing the Tag Authority loading. The requestor would send the tag message directly to the desired entities. The QueryAvailability use case is very similar to Preview tag concerning the Tag Authority server loading concerns. A Preview tag would use a State to describe it as Preview.

Pros:

* The preview tags do not increase the load on the Tag Authority servers.
* The preview tags would not require the Tag Authority to handle tags that are not fully compliant with all submittal rules (since not all information is defined in the tag; it’s just a saved tag at this moment where some information might not be yet available; e.g., OASIS arefs. Having to change the Authority service could be expensive.

Cons:

* The Tag Authority, that handles most of the tag distributions, would not see the tags.

**Issue B; Who should receive the information?**

**Concerns**

1. I don’t want to receive tags that are not of interest to me, it would clog up my tag summary.
2. All entities should receive the information or there might be legal concerns if entities are left out.

Obviously, the above concerns are not 100% compatible and more legal that technical, so the solution probably needs to process oriented versus hardcoded on the servers?

**Option B1:** Add an opt-in/opt-out flag in the EIR.

Pros:

* Would allow entities to control whether they want preview tags or not.

Cons:

* Might not be granular enough in situations where the entity would want some tag previews but not all.

**Option B2:** In the etag specification require a non-discriminatory opt-in/opt-out mechanism but not dictate the exact implementation. It would also reference a business process document that would describe the legal process, considerations, and requirements.

Pros:

* Leaves the legal and process aspects out of the specification.
* Would allow each vendor to implement an appropriate level of support ranging from hardcoded “everyone gets them to comply with the legal concern” to a more granular level as legally allowed.

Cons:

* Would create another document or reference and not an actual implementation specification.

**Option B3:** Mandate that all entities would receive the Previews.

Pros:

* Simpler implementation.

Cons

* Does not fully address Concern 1.