



Voice Agent Interoperability Manifesto

This manifesto is to assist in designing a standards-based approach to voice agent interoperability.

Today barriers of walled gardens, disparity of approaches and operation inhibit the power of voice agents. Yet interoperability for all Artificial Intelligence technology, not just voice agents, is inevitable. Standards are the means to realize the convenience in use that will turn all people into agent users. Employing voice agents for utility, commerce or happiness. Be it in popular languages or under served ones. Without bias, but with trust and transparent data use.

We recognize this shared future vision will instigate, enable and support, moving and molding the protecting mountains in legal, national, and commercial (self) interests, clearing the way for the standards-based approach to voice application interoperability to become a reality.

Only when all stakeholders in the voice agent landscape truly work together and combine intents will the unbounded potential value of voice assistance be unlocked.

Therefore we hold true these values in practice and vision:

Privacy *over* commerciality
Transparency and trust *over* indemnifying terms and conditions
Universal common ease *over* siloed similar functionality
Standards-based coupling *over* proprietary platforms
Inclusive *over* general application
Reuse *over* recode
Cooperation *over* competition
Simplicity and consistency *over* complexity and confusion

Presented on June 17th, 2021 at the Voice Agent Interoperability Workshop of the Open Voice Network. Compiled using the thoughts, ideas and presentations of all participants by Maarten Lens-FitzGerald.