

The Respect Reputation System™

VERSION 2.1 - 2016-02-01

Abstract

This subdocument of the Respect Trust Framework™ defines the peer-to-peer reputation system that implements the Proof Principle of the Respect Trust Framework.

Table of Contents

TRUST LEVELS	2
ACCOUNTABILITY RULES	3
CONNECTION RULES	4
VOUCHING RULES	4
COMPLAINT RULES	4

Trust Levels

1. This version of the Respect Trust Framework defines four Trust Levels for Individual Members only. Future versions will define Organisational Trust Levels, and may define additional Trust Levels as needed to further the purpose and principles of the Respect Trust Framework.
2. A Member's Reputation Graph is automatically assigned a Trust Level as soon as the Member meets the requirements of that Trust Level. Conversely, as soon as a Member no longer meets the requirements of a Trust Level, the Member shall automatically be assigned to the next lower Trust Level for which the Member meets all the requirements.
3. A Member's Trust Level assignment may also be changed by resolution of a Complaint as defined in the Complaint section below.
4. The lowest Trust Level is **Unverified**. This is the minimum Trust Level that applies to all Individual Members. The requirements to become an Unverified Member are: a) the Member must successfully complete registration with the Respect Network, and b) the Member must contractually agree to the Respect Promise.
5. The next higher Trust Level is **Verified**. The requirements to become a Verified Member are that an Individual Member must verify his/her ownership of one or more external accounts and/or personal data attributes sufficient to enable Respect Network Corporation to verify compliance with the Accountability Rules.
6. The next higher Trust Level is **Trusted**. The requirements to become a Trusted Member are that an Individual Member must have at least ten Verified Connections with other Members.
7. The highest Trust Level is **Trust Anchor**. Unless a Member is a Founding Trust Anchor (below), the requirements to become a Trust Anchor are that an Individual Member must have received at least three Trust Anchor Connections from other Trust Anchors.
8. To bootstrap the population of Trust Anchors, Respect Network Corporation may appoint **Founding Trust Anchors**. The requirements to become a Founding Trust Anchor are: a) the individual must become an Individual Member; b) the individual must be known to a representative or delegate of Respect Network Corporation; c) the individual must agree to become a Founding Trust Anchor via contact (in person or online) with such representative or delegate; and d) the individual must share a Public Profile that includes enough verifiable information about the individual's legal identity to enable accountability for his/her compliance with the Respect Trust Framework.
9. Respect Network Corporation may prospectively and uniformly: a) adjust the number of Verified Connections required to become a Trusted Member, b) adjust the number of Trust Anchor Connections required to become a Trust Anchor, c) set limits on the number of Vouches or Complaints available at a particular Trust Level, and d) set expirations on Vouches or Complaints based on the period of time since the Vouch was given, or e) make other minor modifications to the Respect Reputation System that do not substantially modify the overall design without requiring a new version of the Respect Reputation System if such adjustments or settings will, in the judgment of Respect Network Corporation, further the purpose of the Respect Trust Framework.

Accountability Rules

1. **One-Person-One-Account.** Every Individual Member agrees to register and maintain one and only one Individual Member Account. Every Individual Member understands and acknowledges that maintaining the One-Person-One-Account Rule is essential to maintaining the integrity of the Respect Network, the Respect Reputation System, and the Respect Trust Framework.
2. **One-Organization-One-Account.** Every Organisational Member agrees to register and maintain one and only one Organisational Member Account. Every Organisational Member understands and acknowledges that maintaining the One-Organization-One-Account Rule is essential to maintaining the integrity of the Respect Network, the Respect Reputation System, and the Respect Trust Framework.
3. **Accountability for Vouches.** Every Member agrees that when the Member Vouches for a Recipient, the Member is representing that: a) the Member believes that the Recipient's Member Account represents the true legal person the Member believes the Recipient to be; b) the Member has no knowledge of the Recipient having more than one Member Account on the Respect Network at the time of the Vouch; and c) the Member has no reason to believe that the Recipient is attempting to game or subvert the Respect Reputation System, or is otherwise violating the purpose, principles, or rules of the Respect Trust Framework.
4. **Accountability for Trust Anchor Connections.** Every Trust Anchor agrees that granting a Trust Anchor Connection means that the granting Trust Anchor: a) believes the Recipient meets all the requirements for a Vouch (above); b) either personally knows the Recipient or has direct personal knowledge of the Recipient's public body of work; c) has good reason to believe that the Recipient will honor and abide by the Respect Promise, and d) understands that revocation of the Recipient's Trust Anchor status may result in revocation of the granting Trust Anchor's status.
5. **No Vouching or Trust Anchor Incentives.** While a Member may offer an incentive for another Member to request a Connection, every Member agrees not to offer any form of incentive, implicit or explicit, to receive a Vouch or a Trust Anchor Connection.
6. **No Abusive Vouching.** Every Member agrees not use a Vouch for any other purpose than to send an honest signal of positive reputation about a Recipient. Abusive vouching includes using a Vouch to attempt to send a signal of negative reputation by Vouching in a Context intended to insult, demean, degrade, or otherwise harm the reputation of a Recipient; using a Vouch to solicit or otherwise capture the attention of the Recipient for any other purpose; or using the Vouching system to otherwise interfere with Recipient's usage and enjoyment of the Respect Network.
7. **Accountability for Personas.** Every Member agrees that at such time as the Respect Network incorporates support for anonymous or pseudonymous Personas, the single Member Account responsible for those Personas will be ultimately responsible for forming Connections, issuing and accepting Vouches, issuing and processing Complaints, joining Communities, managing Profiles, sharing Member Information, voting for Amendments to the Respect Trust Framework, and any other action that represents the Member's official activity through a Persona on the Respect Network.
8. **Accountability for Credentials.** Following the Protection Principle, every Member agrees to keep his/her Member Account authentication credentials private; to maintain reasonable security over these credentials; and to promptly notify the Member's CSP or Respect

Network Corporation if the Member has reason to believe the credentials have been leaked, stolen, or otherwise compromised.

Connection Rules

1. Any Member may form a Connection with any other Member by sending or asking for a Connection Request.
2. The policies governing acceptance of a Connection Request are entirely up to the sending and receiving Members.
3. If a Member receives a Connection Request that the Member judges as inappropriate, the Member is entitled to either: a) flag it as an Inappropriate Connection Request, or b) submit a Complaint.
4. If a Connection is accepted, either Member may request for it to be a Verified Connection. Only Verified Connections are counted in a Member's Reputation Graph.
5. If a Connection is accepted, either Member may require that it must be a Private Connection. This requirement must be honored by the other Member. A Private Connection may only be shared with other Members with the permission of both of Members joined by the Connection.
6. If a Verified Connection is accepted, either Member may request for it to be a Public Connection. It shall only become a Public Connection with the permission of both Members.
7. A Trust Anchor Connection must be a Public Connection.

Vouching Rules

1. Any Member may Vouch in any Context for any other Member with whom they have a Connection.
2. All Vouches are public for both the Voucher and the Recipient.
3. Recipients may control what Contexts appear in their public Persona. Communities may control what Contexts are required to appear in a Persona used within a Community.
4. Either a Voucher or a Recipient may unilaterally delete a Vouch at any time. If either party deletes the Vouch, it is removed from the Reputation Graph of both the Voucher and the Recipient.

Complaint Rules

1. Any Member whose Trust Level is Verified or higher may submit a Complaint with regard to any other Member whom the Complainant believes has violated the purpose, principles, or rules of the Respect Trust Framework.
2. The Complaint must state, in free form text and/or by selection from a user interface option, the nature of the violation.
3. Once a Complaint in proper form is submitted to Respect Network Corporation, it shall be automatically posted to the Reputation Graph of the Complainant, but not to the Reputation Graph of the Recipient unless and until the Complaint is upheld. In addition, the Recipient shall be automatically notified of the Complaint via the Recipient's Dashboard.

4. The Complaint shall then be automatically submitted by Respect Network Corporation to one or more Trust Anchors for resolution (individually “Panelists” and collectively the “Panel”). A Panelist who has Vouched for either the Complainant or Recipient shall be automatically disqualified from that Panel and replaced with another Panelist.
5. The Panel shall have the option at any time during its deliberations to request that additional Trust Anchors be assigned as Panelists. If the existing Panel unanimously agrees, Respect Network Corporation shall automatically assign the number of additional Panelists agreed by the existing Panel.
6. The Panel shall have sole authority to request additional information from either the Complainant or Recipient as needed to resolve the Complaint. Complainants and Recipients agree to cooperate with the Panel so as to expeditiously resolve a Complaint.
7. All communications regarding the Complaint shall take place via communications channels authorized and agreed to by the parties involved. If no other channel is authorized, communications shall take place via the parties’ Dashboards.
8. All communications regarding resolution of a Complaint, but not the final decision of the Panel, shall be treated as confidential by all parties to this Complaint process. Members agree that Respect Network Corporation shall have access to such communications to help Respect Network Corporation research methods for improving the Complaint process and better serve Members.
9. The Panel shall work as diligently and expeditiously as possible to reach one of four conclusions regarding a Complaint: a) dismissed, b) resolved c) upheld, d) denied. The Panel may reach a conclusion at any point in the process based on the evidence before the Panel and the communications or lack thereof from the Complainant and Recipient. If the Panel consists of more than one Panelist, the decision shall be made by simple majority.
10. The Complaint shall be dismissed if the Panel concludes that it falls outside the scope of the Respect Trust Framework. The Complaint process is solely intended to address actions by Members that are viewed as not in conformance with the Respect Trust Framework. Claims for violation of law or for relief other than that explicitly stated in this document, including but not limited to monetary and injunctive relief, are outside the scope of the Complaint process and will not be considered. If a Complaint is dismissed, it shall be promptly removed from the Reputation Graph of the Complainant.
11. A Complaint shall be resolved if, either through the intervention of the Panel or by the Complainant’s and Recipient’s own independent means, both the Complainant and Recipient notify the Panel that the Complaint has been resolved. If a Complaint is resolved, it shall be promptly removed from the Reputation Graph of the Complainant.
12. A Complaint shall be upheld if the Panel concludes that the Recipient has violated the Respect Trust Framework. If the Complaint is upheld, the Panel shall have sole authority to decide: a) for what period the Complaint shall become part of the public Reputation Graph of the Recipient, b) what annotation about the nature and severity of the Complaint shall be included, if any, c) whether any Vouches shall be removed or reallocated as a result of the Complaint, d) what adjustment shall be made to the Trust Level of the Recipient, if any, and e) for how long such adjustment shall remain in force.
13. A Complaint shall be denied if the Panel concludes that the Recipient did not violate the Respect Trust Framework. If a Complaint is denied, it shall be promptly removed from the Reputation Graph of the Complainant. Furthermore, the Panel shall decide if the Complainant did not have legitimate grounds for submitting the Complaint (“Unfair

Complaint”). If the Panel concludes the Complaint was an Unfair Complaint, the Panel shall have sole authority to decide: a) for what period the Unfair Complaint shall become part of the public Reputation Graph of the Complainant, b) what annotation about the nature of the Unfair Complaint shall be included, if any, including whether the available evidence suggested that the Compliant was submitted to cause reputational harm to the Recipient, c) whether any Vouches shall be removed or reallocated as a result of the Complaint, d) what adjustment shall be made to the Trust Level of the Complainant, if any, and d) for how long such adjustment shall remain in force.

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