

# Process Map Development for Speaker Recognition

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# Introduction

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Scientific Working Group for Speaker Recognitions (SWG-Speaker)

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

- Speaker Recognition Subcommittee (OSAC-SR)
- <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/organization-scientific-area-committees-osac>
- <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/speaker-recognition-subcommittee>

What is a Process Map?

Lead to ~~Standards~~, ~~Best Practices~~, ~~Guidelines~~, Common Methods

# Standards

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HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:  
(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)



Source: <https://xkcd.com/927/>

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# History: SWG-Speaker

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SWG-Speaker / Best Practices task group

Initial Efforts to develop best practices

- Terminology
- Process differences
- Agency-unique steps
- Trying to do “should-be”

Submission of straw document

- Split into 4 parts
- Split again into 2 more parts

Struggled to gain traction

# History: OSAC-SR

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OSAC “diversion” getting reestablished

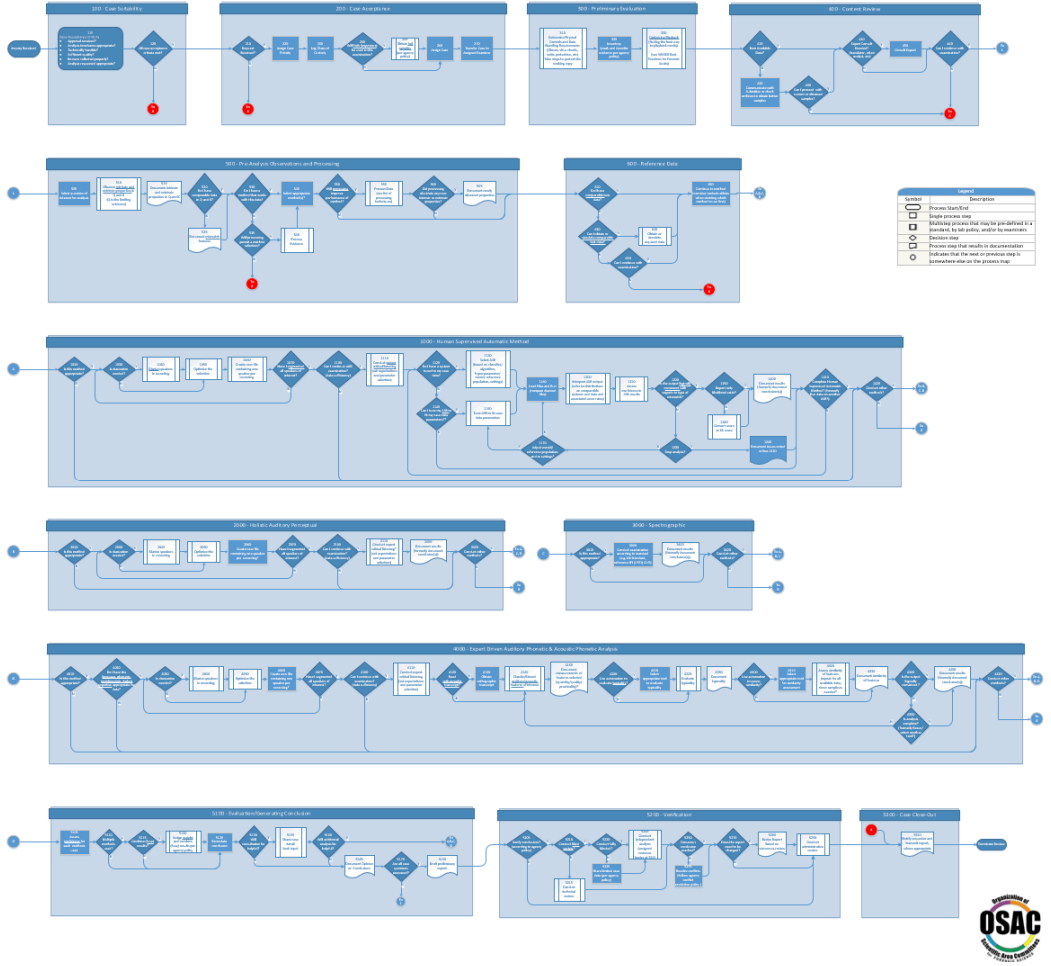
Best Practice work still floundered

Process Map exercise

- Participants
  - Practitioners, developers, researchers
  - Multiple agencies
  - Multiple countries
- Captured “as-is” processes over 3 full days (80%)
- Brainstorming – no judgement, captured multiple methods
- Huge unwieldy diagram

Issues became clearer

# Initial Process Map



# Process Map Refinement

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Iterations/editing

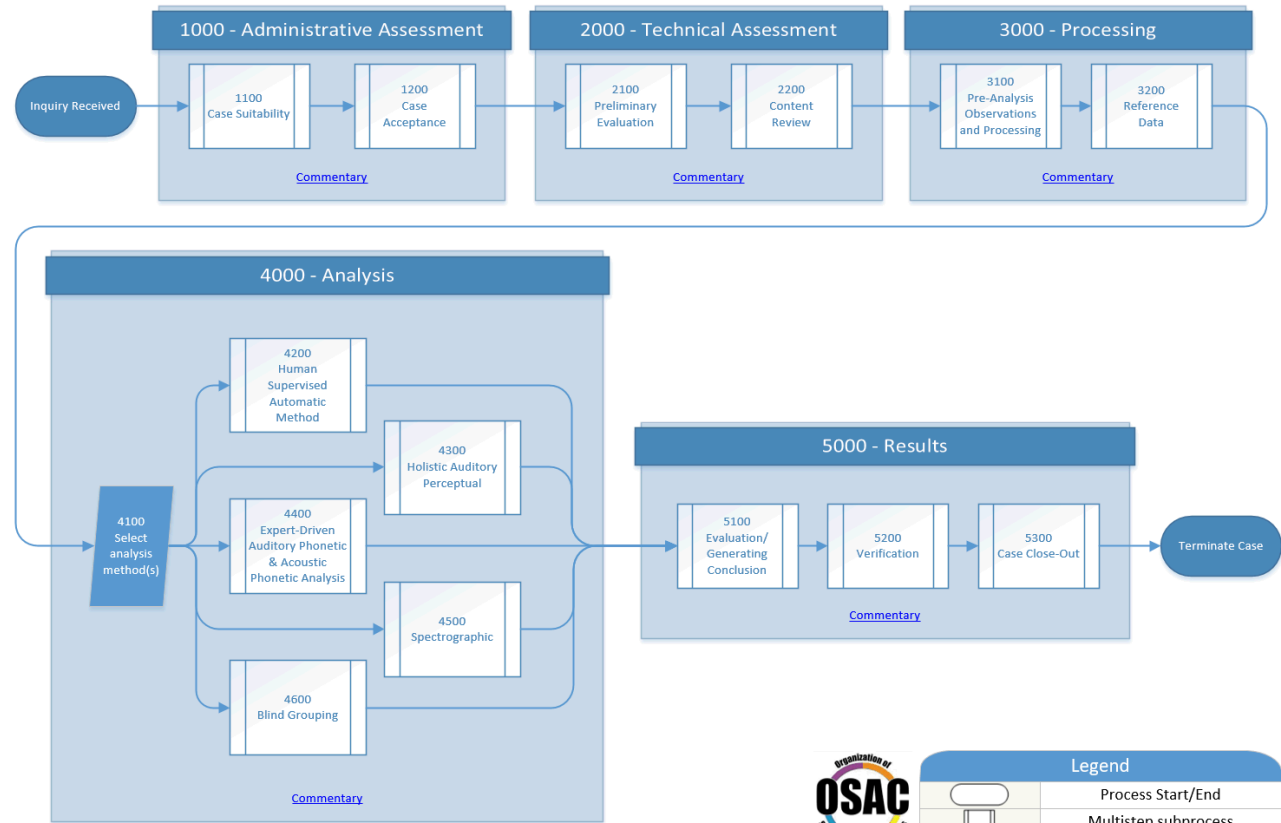
Added more methods

Noted vocabulary

Reformatted to hierarchical structure

Finalized current practice (“as-is”) in May 2017

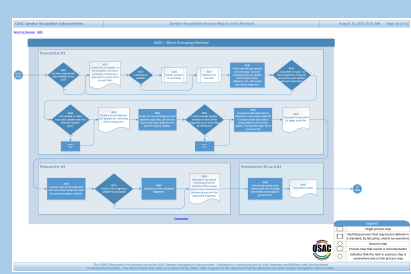
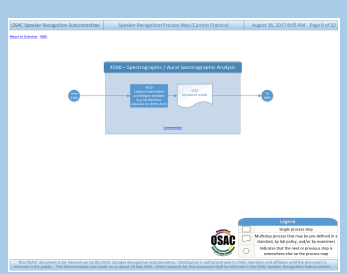
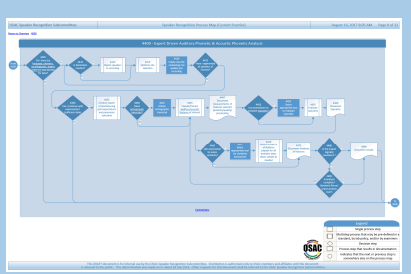
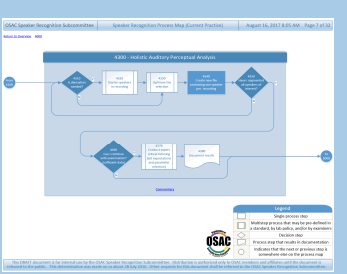
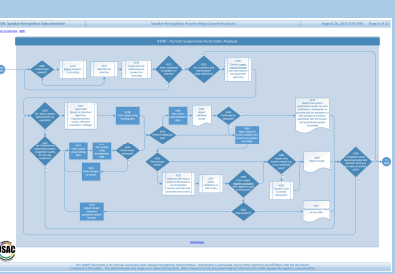
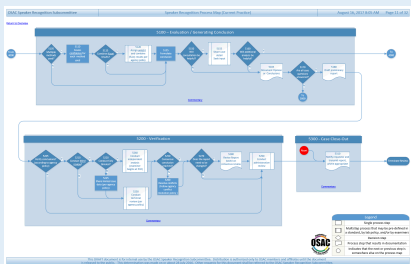
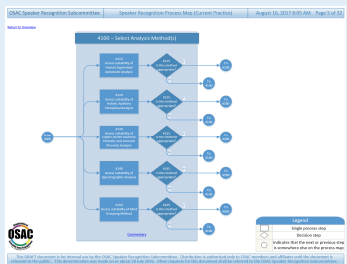
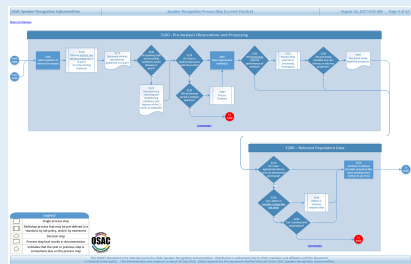
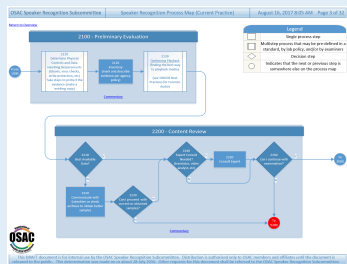
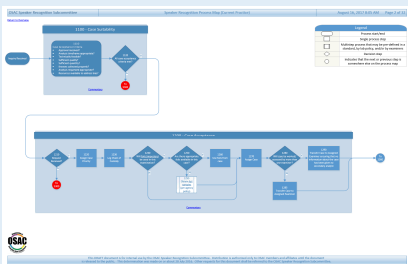
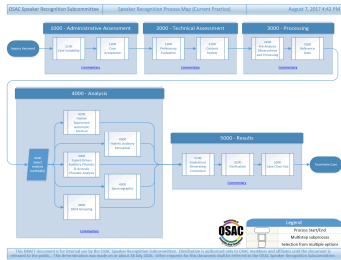
# Final Process Map



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# Final Process Map



# Commentary / Vocabulary

[Return to Overview](#) [3000](#) [3100](#)

Process Step
3100 – Pre-Analysis Observations and Processing
Description
This is the description for block 3100.
Terms and Definitions
3155: Types of processing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancement for intelligibility or listenability (e.g. tone removal, spectral shaping, adaptive filtering, etc.)</li> <li>Normalization</li> <li>Convert sampling rate / bit depth</li> <li>Channel conversion</li> <li>DC offset</li> <li>Anti-aliasing</li> </ul>
Comments
Insert comments for block 3100 here.
Issues
Insert issues for block 3100 here. For example, is more research needed to confirm the actions described in this block?
References
Insert references and citations for block 3100 here.
Revised
August 16, 2017 8:05 AM

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[Return to Overview](#)

Terms and Definitions	Terms and Definitions
<b>Extrinsic Properties</b>	Breathing patterns
Duration	Non-speech vocalizations (coughing, laughing)
Sampling rate	Pathologies
Stereo/mono/multi	Idiolectal terms/phrases/conversation openers/enders
Channel/bandwidth (landline, cell, microphone, transmitter, video)	<b>Other Terms</b>
Bit depth/rate	Human Supervised Automatic Analysis
File format	Holistic Auditory Perceptual Analysis
DC offset	Expert Driven Auditory Phonetic & Acoustic Phonetic Analysis
Encoding (linear, mu-law, alaw)	Spectrographic Analysis
Medium (through air, wall, window)	Blind Grouping Method
Codec	
Compression (type)	comparable data
Reverberation	critical listening
Distortion	foils/imposters
Noise	mark/marking
SNR (how measured?)	optimize
Drop-outs	questioned/Q
Clipping	known/K
Interference	match/mismatch
Speed	processing
Proximity to microphone	simulate
Overlapping talkers	test data
Metadata (timestamp, source, etc.)	contextual bias
Environmental noise (wind buffeting, rain, machine, media)	diarization
Aliasing	segment
<b>Intrinsic Properties</b>	sufficient data
Language	tune
Gender	case data
Accent/Dialect	ASR
Articulation	classifier
Fluency	algorithm
Speaking/Articulation Rate	hyperparameter
Voice quality	model
High/low vocal effort	reference/relevant population
Emotional state/condition of the speaker (intoxicated, fatigued, illness, angry, medicated)	settings
Physical activity	comparable system
Stress (cognitive, emotional, physical)	error rate
Speech type (read, repeated, oratory, conversation, voicemail, conspiratorial)	confidence
Obscured speech (mask, other face covering)	likelihood ratio
Voice Quality (modal, whisper, shouting, falsetto)	score
Awareness of being recorded	document results
Interlocutor relationship	document issues
<b>Features often used in Acoustic/Phonetic/Expert Listening/Statistical</b>	phonetic, sociolinguistic, dialect expertise
Voice onset time (acoustically measured)	orthographic transcript
Pitch (F0 analysis)	auditory/acoustic features of interest
Pronunciation (by listening, by acoustic measures - disfluencies)	classify
Articulatory features (Ex: vowel analysis by 1) listening judgments, 2) acoustic measurements)	typicality
Prosodic analysis (speaking rate, articulation rate, pause rate, pause type – filled/unfilled, fluency, intonation, false starts, lengthening of syllables)	similarity
Voice quality (falsetto, fry, breathiness)	fuse
Vocabulary usage	weight
Dialectal/sociolectal analysis	agency policy
Foreign-accented	blind review
	independent analysis
	consensus (review)
	administrative review
	acceptance criteria

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# Summary

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## Stakeholders

- All groups

## Distill key steps

- Reecognize differences
- Consensus, not necessarily 100% agreement

## Vocabulary

## Follow-on work

- Use PM as baseline for discussion on recommended forensic processes
- Develop a “recommended practice” (i.e. “should-be”) process document
- Release as an OSAC document