



## ***News Release***

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### **COUNTER Code of Practice: status report**

Since publication of Release 1 of the COUNTER Code of Practice in January 2003, a growing number of vendors have either achieved, or are working towards achieving, COUNTER compliant status. They have also provided useful feedback to the COUNTER organization, which has enabled us to enhance the Code of Practice and to clarify some issues associated with it. These are described below.

A Register of Vendors providing COUNTER-compliant Usage Reports has been added to the COUNTER website ([www.projectCounter.org](http://www.projectCounter.org)). Only vendors listed on this Register may be regarded as being COUNTER compliant. In order to become COUNTER compliant for 2003, vendors must a) Sign a Declaration of COUNTER Compliance, b) submit this to the COUNTER Office and c) allow COUNTER access to the usage reports for which COUNTER-compliant status is claimed. When COUNTER is satisfied that these usage reports comply with the specifications of the Code of Practice, the vendor will be added to the Register. From 2004 onwards, auditing of the usage reports by an independent, COUNTER-approved auditor will be required in order to maintain COUNTER compliant status. Information on the auditing process will be published in the course of 2003, along with a list of approved auditors.

The first set of Guidelines on Implementation has been published as Appendix D to the Code of Practice. Designed to provide more detail to assist vendors with implementation, these Guidelines will grow in response to the questions and concerns raised by vendors as they work towards compliance. The first set of Guidelines provides information on the specific return codes that indicate a successful request to a web server.

Release 1 of the Code of Practice will be valid until the end of 2004. It is planned to publish Release 2 in January 2004 and it will replace Release 1 as the valid Code of Practice in January 2005. This will give vendors one year to work towards compliance with Release 2. Based on feedback from vendors, it is probable that the Level 2 Usage Reports will be modified in Release 2 of the Code of Practice.

A set of errata have been included as Appendix C to the Code of Practice

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