Certification Process & Funding

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Overview

- **Certification**
  - **Process**
  - **Actors & Interactions**
- **Funding proposal**
- **Feedback & discussion**
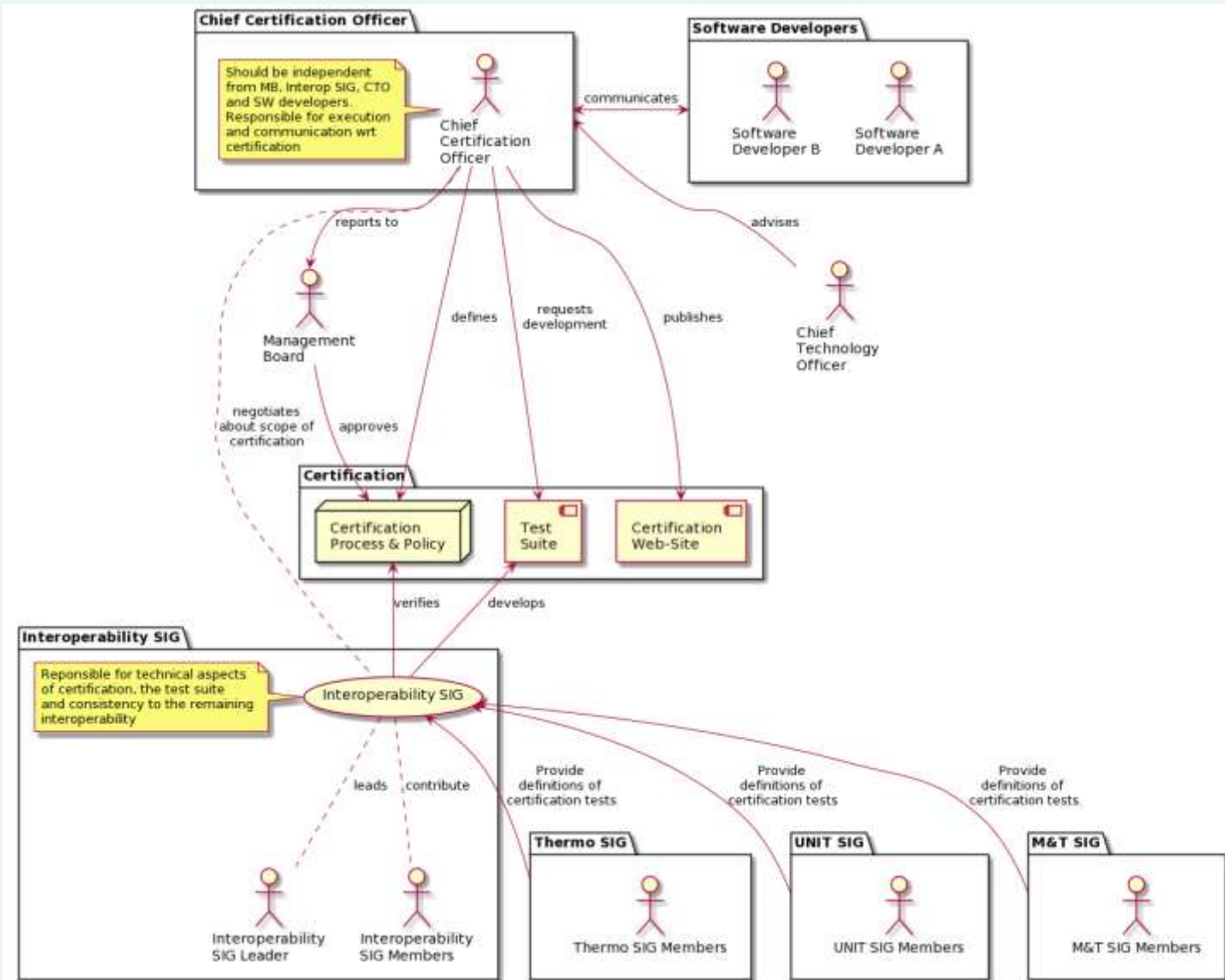
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Certification – Process (1)

- **Software Developer implementing CAPE-OPEN interfaces**
  - **Downloads CAPE-OPEN Test Suite**
  - **[Optional] Tests their implementation during development cycle using the Test Suite, running both:**
    - **CO-LaN provided tests (mandatory certification & optional)**
    - **[Optional] Tests implemented by developers**
  - **Runs Test Suite using standard CO-LaN provided certification tests**
    - **On final release candidate of new version of software**
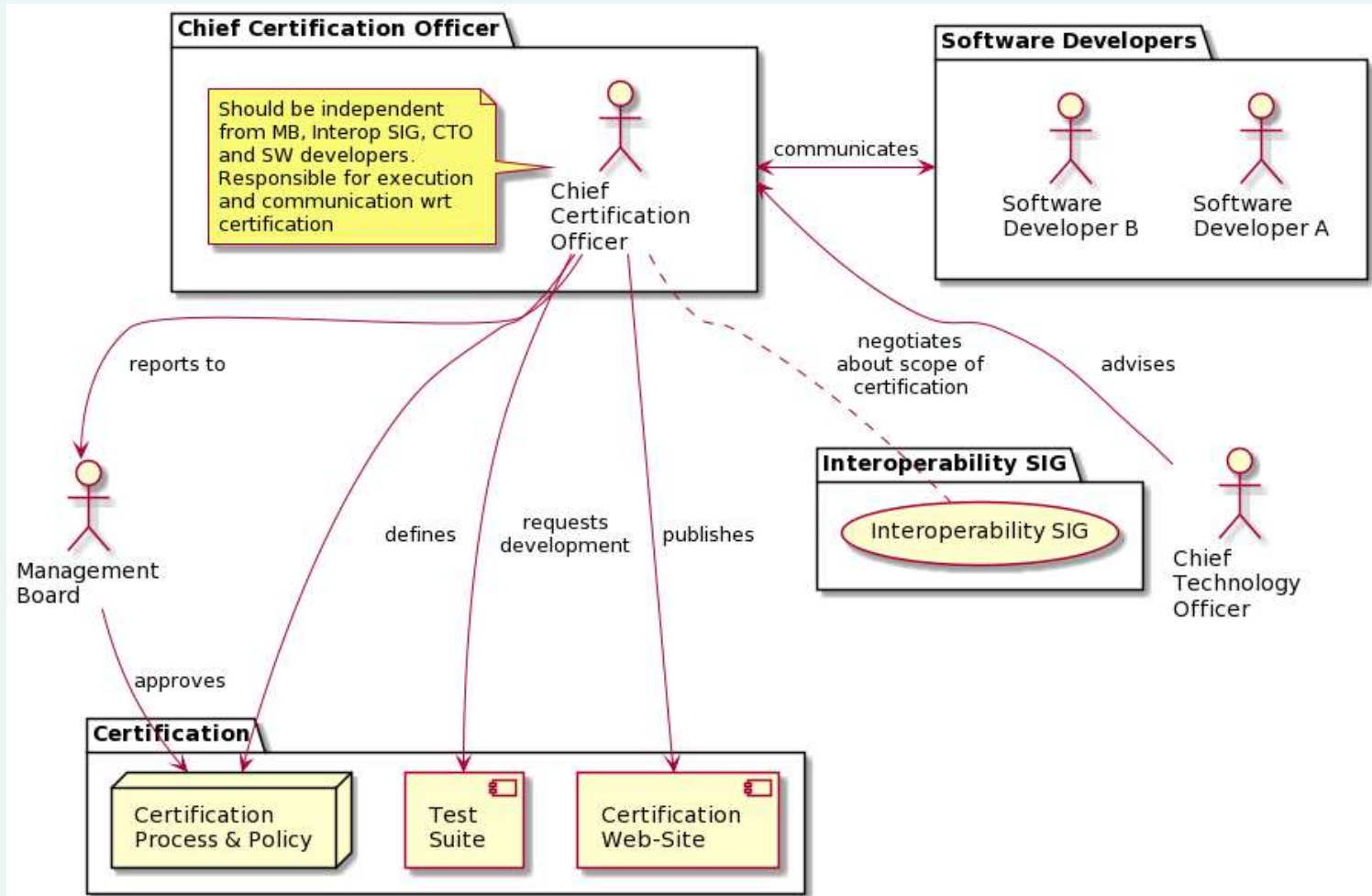 - **Submits test report to CO-LaN Chief Certification Officer**

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Certification – Process (2)

- Chief Certification Officer (CCO)
  - **Reviews test report submitted by Software Developer**
    - CCO will not re-run the tests routinely
  - **Requests additional information / clarification if required**
  - **When compliance is established**
    - Certificate is granted for version of software tested
    - Notifies Software Developer
    - Publishes result on Certification website
  - **Feedback loop if compliance is not established**
    - If changes are required to vendors software to ensure compliance
    - If changes are required to Test Suite
      - Note that CCO may grant Compliance Certification if Test Suite is the cause of the non-compliance, before the Test Suite is updated
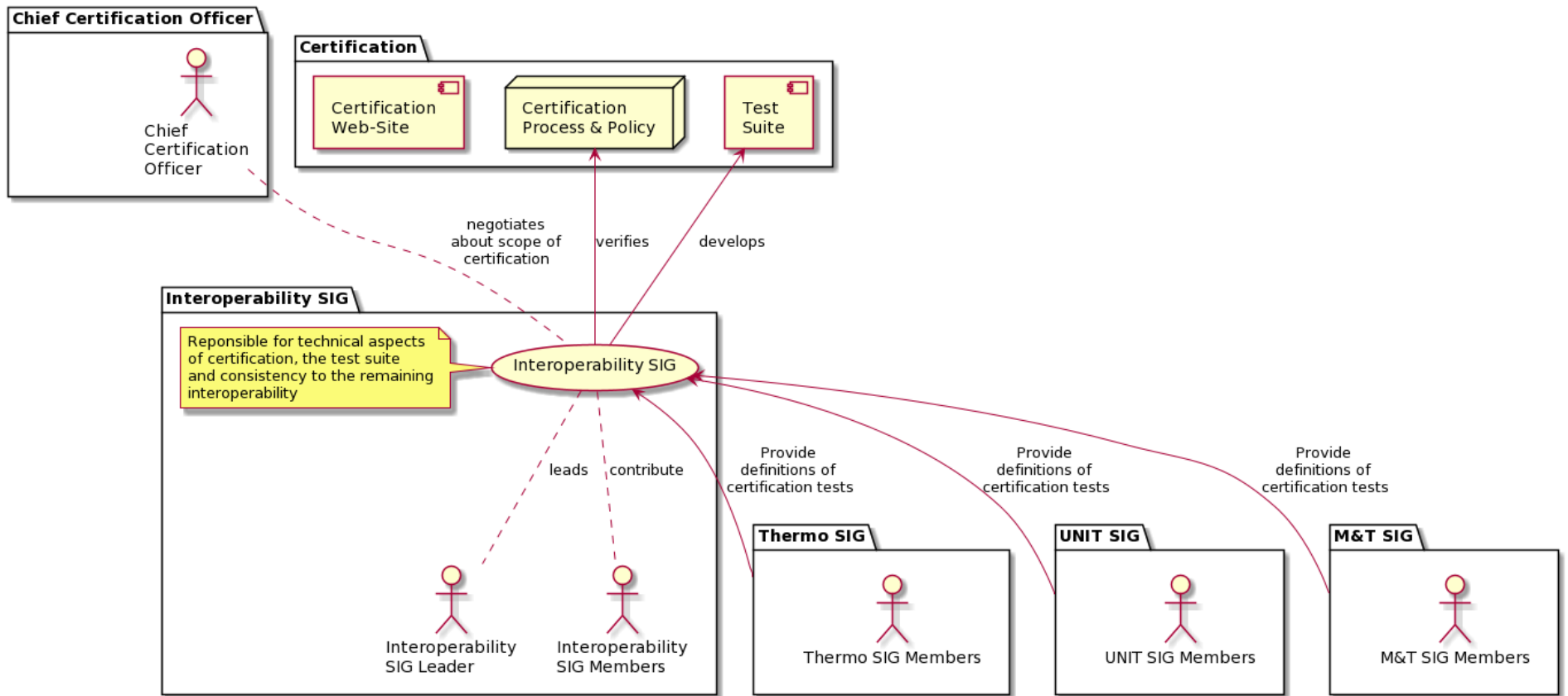
Certification – Actors & Interactions

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Certification – Chief Certification Officer

- **Note: There is no Certification SIG!**
- **Resolution of challenges to certification decisions will be provided by Management Board and/or CTO**

Certification – Interoperability SIG

- **CTO is a member of the Interoperability SIG by default**
- **It is the other SIGs responsible for the specifications who define the tests required for certification, NOT the Interoperability SIG**
  - **Including traceability of tests to the textual specification**

Funding Proposal – Test Suite

- Available to all CO-LaN members
  - Of any category
  - For use on software owned by a CO-LaN member only
- NOT available to non-members
  - Non-members can join CO-LaN to obtain access
- Will need to be reviewed in 2025
  - at the latest
  - When current membership fee arrangements are reviewed
- Pros
  - A positive benefit of CO-LaN annual membership fees
  - No separate commercial arrangements or licensing
- Cons
  - Expensive for potential full members who are not current members
  - Can be circumvented if a CO-LaN member organisation uses Test Suite on behalf of a non-member organisation

Funding Proposal – Request for Certification

- Unlimited requests by any CO-LaN member initially allowed
- Subject to annual review, depending on experience and cost to CO-LaN of providing certification
    - Future possible option to limit number of requests per organisation per year?
- Organisations that are not members of CO-LaN cannot request certification in this way, as do not have access to Test Suite to produce certification report
- Pros
    - No barrier to requesting certification for CO-LaN members
    - No additional cost beyond CO-LaN annual membership fee
- Cons
    - CO-LaN membership fees may not be sufficient to cover cost to CO-LaN of providing certification
    - Joining CO-LaN may be seen as a barrier to certification by non-members

Funding Proposal – Certification "Service"

- CO-LaN offers a service to both members and non-members, to run the tests on their behalf and provide certification
- Cost based on man-hours required to complete the work for each certification
- Pros
  - Allows certification for software developed by non-members and for members who do not have the resources to make use of the Test Suite
  - Additional income stream for CO-LaN if charges incorporate a premium on the man-hour costs of the person doing the certification
- Cons
  - Complex for CO-LaN to provide the service

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Test Suite as Open Source

- Previous suggestion has been to provide the Test Suite as open source
- Incompatible with limiting access to Test Suite to CO-LaN members?
- Proposal is therefore to provide binaries only at this time
- Could consider writing license agreement that allows access to source for CO-LaN members (only)
  - But adds unnecessary complexity?
  - However, a licence agreement will be required for distribution of the binaries
- To be reviewed when funding model is reviewed

- Feedback on certification process?
- Role of CCO – is it correct?
- Thoughts on funding proposal?
- …….

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