

eBusiness Standards Convergence Forum Summary of Meeting #2

**Held at LMI
McLean, Virginia
September 3-4, 2003**

Objectives:

- review progress and results from the task teams
- work on task 1: recommendations for shift to convergence
- work on task 2: eBus standards framework and opportunities for convergence
- work on task 3: common conceptual model for eBus capabilities stack
- work on task 4: glossary/thesaurus of essential terms
- work on task 6.1: common XML schema representation for coded lists
- complete work on "open topics" from the May 29-30, 2003 meeting
- update the eBSC Forum work plan and communication plan

Participants:

Industry Organizations and Initiatives:

AIA: Ron Schuldt
Tom Warner - via web meeting
AIAG: Mary K. Blantz
Pat Snack - via web meeting
API/PIDX: Jim Twyman
ASHRAE: Marty Burns
CIDX: Ken Hutcheson
EIDX: Bill French - via web meeting
FEA/GSA: Marion Royal
FIATECH: Mark Palmer
NSRP: Ron Wood
PIDX: Kim Lambert
RAPID: Jim Wilson
RosettaNet: Suresh Damodaran - via web meeting
STAR: Dick Malaise

Standards Development Organizations and Initiatives:

ANC X12: David Barkley
ebXML: Mark Crawford
IDEAlliance: Diane Kennedy - via web meeting
OAGi: David Connelly - via web meeting
Mike Rowell - via web meeting
OASIS: Karl Best - via web meeting
UBL: Monica Martin - via web meeting
UN/CEFACT: Mark Crawford

eBusiness Software Testing and Certification Organizations

Drake Certivo: Andy Moir
Drummond Group: Rik Drummond

NIST Organization Units:

BFRL: Mark Palmer, Jim Barnett
ITL: Tom Rhodes

Summary

1. Progress Reports from Task Teams

Task Team 1: Develop recommendations on what is needed for the paradigm shift to cross-industry standards convergence

Dick Malaise, Ken Hutcheson and Pat Snack (via web link) gave the TT1 report. TT1 distributed the draft of the position report, "The Case for Standards Convergence", and explained the key points and the process for developing the report. Meeting participants provided initial comments and recommendations for improvements.

Action Item: eBSC participants will review "The Case for Standards Convergence" and send comments to Dick Malaise by September 19, 2003.

Action Item: Marty Burns will send to Dick Malaise text for the report on the theme "standards do not get adopted until there are market (and perhaps technical) pressures to adopt them".

Action Item: Ken Hutcheson and David Barkley to develop text to describe the lifecycle stages of standards development, adoption and deployment for incorporation into "The Case for Standards Convergence" and send this text to Dick Malaise by September 23, 2003.

Action Item: Dick Malaise will update "The Case for Standards Convergence" and post it on eBSC web site by September 29, 2003.

Ken Hutcheson distributed the draft of a proposed survey titled, "Commitment to Cross-Industry Standards Feedback" and explained the purpose and contents. Meeting participants provided initial comments and recommendations. The group observed that to change the situation the "user / membership community" of the different eBusiness standards initiatives need to participate at a sufficient level to ensure that their requirements are understood and that they get what is needed.

Ken will update the survey and initiate the request for organizations to complete the survey. Results from the survey will be due by October 27, 2003. Ken will summarize the results, develop draft conclusions and distribute this information to the eBSC email list. The results will be reviewed for use in the eBSC report to the ISO/IEC/ITU/ECE MoUMG meeting on November 24, 2003.

Action Item: Ken will incorporate the comments, update the survey, post it on the eBSC web site and distribute a request for organizations and initiatives to complete the survey.

Task Team 2: Develop eBusiness standards framework and opportunities for convergence

Karl Best (via web link) gave the TT2 report. Karl explained the process and sources that were used to develop the eBusiness Standards Matrix and reviewed the open issues on the September 2 version. Meeting participants provided initial comments and recommendations for improvements. Karl recorded the changes to the structure of the matrix. Ron schuldt recommended adding a reference to an example "taxonomy of business processes", e.g, what is listed on the EIDX web site, for identifying the business processes an initiative is addressing with an eBusiness specification project. Karl agreed to continue to maintain the master version of the matrix and to receive the input. Mark agreed to develop instructions and email requests for the input.

Action Item: Mark Palmer will send Karl the modifications for the matrix that were developed at the meeting.

The participants discussed the best mechanisms and timing for getting organizations to provide input to the eBusiness Standards Matrix and who could be the leads for getting the input from each organization. Some organizations may need a month to get consensus on their input. The requests will be distributed in late September. Input will be due to Karl Best by October 27.

The following people were identified as leads for obtaining the input form the listed organizations and initiatives:

AIA: Ron Schuldt and Tom Warner
AIAG: Pat Snack and Sally Fuger
ASC X12: David Barkley
CIDX: Ken Hutcheson
DoD/DoN: Ron Wood and Mark Crawford to discuss
Dublin Core: Tom Rhodes
FIATECH/AEX: Mark Palmer
GSA/FEA: Marion Royal
HL7: Tom Rhodes and Lisa Carnahan
IETF: Rik Drummond
ISO: not assigned; discussion point with MoUMG representatives
OAGIS: Mike Rowell
OASIS: Karl Best
Odette: Mary K. Blantz and David Connelly
OMG: Simon Frechette
OTA: Mary K. Blantz
PIDX: Mark Palmer
Rapid: Jim Wilson
RosettaNet: Suresh Damodaran
STAR: Dick Malaise
UBL: Monica Martin will review OASIS input to make sure UBL is represented correctly
UCCnet: Rik Drummond
W3C: Mark Crawford

Action Item: Mark Palmer will draft an introduction and request for input to the matrix and send requests to the listed leads for this input. Input will be sent to Karl Best for him to compile and distribute back to the eBSC team. Input will be due October 27.

Jim Wilson added some discussions on how to improve the matrix as a hyper-linked resource. Karl is planning to make these additions once the matrix structure is stable

Action Item: Jim Wilson will send to Karl Best his recommendations on how to improve the matrix as a hyper-linked resource.

Task Team 4: Develop glossary/thesaurus of essential terms

Jim Wilson gave the progress report for Task Team 4 and demonstrated the current glossary. This glossary builds on the RAPID glossary and using a simple XML schema. With the use of the "context" element, users can define "views" of the glossary for selected subsets of terms.

Action Item: Tom Rhodes will send to Jim Wilson references on dictionary schemas which are relevant to the glossary task.

Task Team 6.1: Develop common schema representation for coded lists

Marty Burns gave the TT6.1 report, explained the process and interactions with other initiatives to collaborate on a common solution and reviewed the content of their draft documents. The task team submitted draft documents with worked examples to OASIS/UBL for their August 2003 meeting. The documents were not discussed at that meeting. UBL did establish a temporary task group on code lists. Marty Burns will participate in that effort and shepherd the Task 6.1 documents in that process.

This prompted discussions about the public exposure of available code lists, the barriers to interoperability imposed by organizations demanding royalty payments on copyrighted code lists and the need for "authoritative sources for codelists". Some of these points are discussed in the task team 6.1. documents.

Task Team 11: Develop recommendations on what is needed for testing

Rik Drummond gave the TT11 report. Due to conflicts in schedules during the Summer the work on this task was not started. Rik recently sent communications to the other members of the team and will initiate follow-on conference calls. Rik has identified a number of relevant activities to contact for this work.

Action Item: Rik Drummond will collect initial input from relevant organizations and experts and draft an expanded description of the task and the work plan. Rik will circulate this to the eBSC email list for input.

2. Observations and Recommendations on eBSC Work Plan

Given the linkage between tasks 2, 3 and 7, and the importance of completing these as a cohesive set, the team decided to restructure the work plan to make tasks 2, 3, and 7 subtasks of a combined task 2 and to move task 11, testing, up into the priority set. The revised eBSC Work Plan is attached. Most of the participants are using the eBSC Forum web site www.nist.gov/ebsc. Only a couple of the task groups have used their designated Task Team web spaces. To uploaded files to the ebSC Forum web site, send your files to Mark Carlisle at NIST <mark.carlisle@nist.gov> with instructions on where to put the files and any description of the files that should be added.

3. Status Reports on Standards Initiatives

ASC X12

David Barkley gave an update on the activities of ASC X12 and distributed two draft, documents on the x12's CICA (Context Inspired Component Architecture) work and the X12 analysis of the UN/CEFACT and CICA approaches to "business grammars":

- "Overview of X12's Context Inspired Component Architecture, "CICA", - Approach to Defining Syntax Neutral Business Grammars", Draft Version 0.1, September 3, 2003
- "An Initial Comparison of UN/CEFACT and X12 Approaches to Defining Syntax Neutral Business Grammars", Draft, August 27, 2003

David explained that these are DRAFT documents which had not yet received broad review nor approval from X12. X12 is both developing the methodology for producing "core elements" and producing guidance to explain how to build complete messages. Participants asked why X12 had decided to define their own architecture versus adopting ebXML. This led to discussions on competing demands for stable solutions in the near term and the importance to most participants to have solutions which are accepted globally, versus just in the U.S.

There are many similarities in the approaches used by both efforts, but a divergence on the final deliverables of “business message grammars”. The general consensus of the eBSC participants is to focus resources on a common process for defining “primitive elements” and submit these to the CEFACT TBG17 for adoption or alignment. For this to happen, industry and competing initiatives must:

- agree on the CCTS
- agree on the value, maturity and stability of the TBG17 process (currently there is insufficient experience or evidence of valuable results)
- agree to use the resulting building blocks

With the above accomplished, there will still need to be accepted XML design rules.

David will convey to X12 the comments and input he received from this meeting within X12 and UN/CEFACT

UN/CEFACT

Mark Crawford gave the status report on UN/CEFACT. Many of the participants had seen recent emails and announcements which indicated the UN/CEFACT had decided to move on from ebXML considering that the essential parts of ebXML were complete. What happens to Core Component work? What happens to the inclusion of UBL? Uncertainty over BPSS work. BPSS work is not complete but will probably continue. CEFACT is looking at Web Services. Others had received conflicting descriptions of the changes and the motivations for these changes. Mark Crawford indicated that these topics would be discussed and hopefully resolved at the upcoming UN/CEFACT meeting in Korea.

Action Item: Mark Crawford will distribute to the eBSC email list information on the current set of “message primitives” submitted to TBG17 and the set of approved “core components” from TBG 17.

OASIS and UBL

Karl Best gave a brief presentation on the status of OASIS and made a few comments on the ebXML transition. Monica Martin gave a brief presentation on the status of UBL. Both presentations are available on the eBSC web site.

OAGi

David Connelly and Mike Rowell gave a brief presentation on the status of OAGi and the continued development of BIEs. OAGi plans to submit BIEs to TBG17. OAGi has done an initial review of the eBSC work on code lists and will conduct a more review.

Action Item: Mike Rowell will complete the OAGi review of the eBSC code list documents and send comments to Task Team 6.1.

4. Work on Task 2.2, Define a common conceptual model for eBusiness capabilities stack

On the morning of September 4, a group met to start work on Task 2.2 (per the numbering of the reorganized work plan), Define a common conceptual model for eBusiness capabilities stack. Jim Wilson presented a draft summary of the goals and objectives on this task. The group work on refining the draft and adding to it. Jim recorded the changes to the work description. The following models were identified as resources:

- OASIS conceptual model
- BIC eBus stack model and supporting documentation

eBSC Forum Meeting #2, September 3-4, 2003
Meeting Summary

- UN/CEFACT Architecture
- CIDX stack model

Initially, the Federal Enterprise Architecture Reference Model was proposed as an additional resource to review. Marion Royal recommended that the FEA model would not be immediately applicable to this scope.

Action Item: Marion Royal will help to get OMB involved with Task 2.2 and will send recommendations to Mark Palmer.

Action Item: Monica Martin will send to Jim Wilson and Mark Palmer links to work relevant to Task 2.2.

Action Item: Jim Wilson will distribute the revised description of Task 2.2 to the eBSC mail list for review and comments, and request comments by September 26.

Action Item: Mark Palmer will set-up a conference call on Task 2.2 for early October.

eBSC Action Items Log