Fran Schrotter	**JTC 1 / SC 38 Plenary**
Senior Vice President and COO	September 27, 2010
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Good morning, everyone.

My name is Fran Schrotter, and I am senior vice president and COO of the American National Standards Institute, often referred to as ANSI. It is my honor to open this plenary meeting of JTC 1 SC 38 on distributed application platforms and services.

The U.S. has been actively engaged in the work of SC 38 from its inception, and we are proud to provide leadership as secretariat and through our chairman, Dr. Don Deutsch of Oracle. We are very happy to welcome you all here today to New York City.

For those of you who may not be familiar with us, ANSI serves as the coordinator of this nation's private-sector led and public sector-supported voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment system. ANSI does not develop standards; rather, we accredit standards developing organizations in dozens of industries. In a similar fashion, we accredit organizations that are engaged in conformity assessment activities.

You may already be aware that ANSI is the U.S. member body to ISO, but the Institute also speaks as the U.S. voice in standardization forums around the globe. Through our network of members, we represent the interests of more than 125,000 companies and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

This subcommittee's work is critically important to stakeholders around the world. As we become increasingly reliant upon web-based services for our personal and professional lives, the need for a safe and secure "cloud" grows clearer each day.

Interoperability and portability are both tremendous issues for this group to address, so that data and applications can jump from one cloud or platform to the next.

But at the same time, keeping data and intellectual property on a shared infrastructure increases the potential for unauthorized access and exposure. Consistency around authentication, identity management, compliance, and access technologies will become increasingly important . . . as will privacy and the safeguarding of consumer and business information.

By nature, cloud computing is an international issue, allowing collaboration and information sharing across national borders. But with different standards in place and different vendors operating in different countries, a truly global solution will be needed to make sure that the cloud is safe, secure, and effective, no matter where you log on.

Many countries and organizations are already involved and much progress is already underway – I thank you all for your interest and participation. But further involvement and continued coordination remain critical, and I think we all want to combine our initiatives to the greatest possible extent to maximize the impact of our work efforts.

On behalf of ANSI, I would like to thank Don Deutsch for his leadership as chairman of the subcommittee. Don, it is thanks to your hard work and dedication that this committee has made such rapid and substantial progress.

Thanks are also due to Jeff Mischkinsky, convenor of the working group on web services, and to INCITS, the ANSI-accredited U.S. Technical Advisory Group Administrator to SC 38.

In a space like cloud computing, bringing all affected stakeholders to the same table is absolutely essential. A consensus-based decision process which is inclusive, participatory, and solution-oriented will ensure the optimum results. That is why I'm so pleased to see so many delegates from around the world here at this plenary session. My thanks go out to each of you for being part of this process, and for all of your hard work and ongoing efforts to develop globally relevant standards that address cloud computing.

I wish you the best for a successful and productive meeting.

Thank you.

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