International Cooperation on eBusiness Standards

Open Forum for Standards Developers

Presented by

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eBSC

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Agenda

- eBusiness Standards Convergence Forum
- Insights and recommendations
- UN/CEFACT: Transitioning the strategy
- Coordination, Collaboration and Convergence

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Background

❑ Many, overlapping eBusiness standards initiatives

❑ Too many standards and lack of commonality in use

❑ Industry and government expending critical resources to monitor and influence multiple efforts

❑ Industry consortia agreed to work on improvements

— eBusiness Standards Convergence (eBSC) Forum

— workshops and teams to address specific barriers

▪ Common representation of coded lists

▪ Service Oriented Architectures

▪ Alternate Methods for Developing Message Building Blocks and Management of Complexity

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Forum

- eBusiness Standards Convergence (eBSC) Forum
- **Purpose:** encourage coordination and convergence
- Neutral forum for industry, government and SDOs to:
    - assess current state of **delivery** and **use**
    - define actions to improve this situation
    - optimize delivery and accelerate use
- Deliver results to organizations developing or using eBusiness standards
    - some results marginal impact: representation of code lists
    - others got traction: capabilities and standards registry
- Success required **commitment** and ongoing **advocacy**

Barriers to Progress

❑ Lack of oversight and coordination among SDOs

❑ Ineffective harmonization / convergence processes

❑ Consolidated industry mandates, strategies, commitment and leadership often missing

❑ Competition (real & perceived) between SDOs

❑ Perception that convergence erodes prominence

❑ Cost & time to modify / converge published specs

❑ Corporate decision makers apprehensive of further investments in "infrastructure" standards or changes

❑ Minimal direct pressure on SDOs to converge

Observations and Challenges

- Camps of Interest / No Shared Roadmap
  - SDOs with overlapping, parallel projects
  - addressing similar technical requirements and challenges
- Need for a common, conceptual framework
  - provide a model for viewing the eBusiness space
  - understand requirements and available capabilities
  - identify overlaps, gaps and linkages
  - plan and coordinate projects and convergence
  - enable a registry of standards and SD projects.
   - who, what, how, when, status, access, input,…

eBusiness Capabilities, Standards and Standards Projects Matrix

❑ Started with common concepts for first version

❑ Collected examples for testing and refinement

❑ Presented results to industry and SDOs

— May 2005 workshop at NIST, with ANSI – link to NSSN

❑ ISO IEC ITU UN/ECE MoU on eBusiness Standards

— agreement on need: de jure and consortia initiatives

❑ Aerospace Industry Association (AIA) – trial use

— March 2006 report: effective basis for industry planning

❑ Initiating work on prototype federated registry

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AIA Use of Capabilities Matrix for Adoption of eBusiness Standards
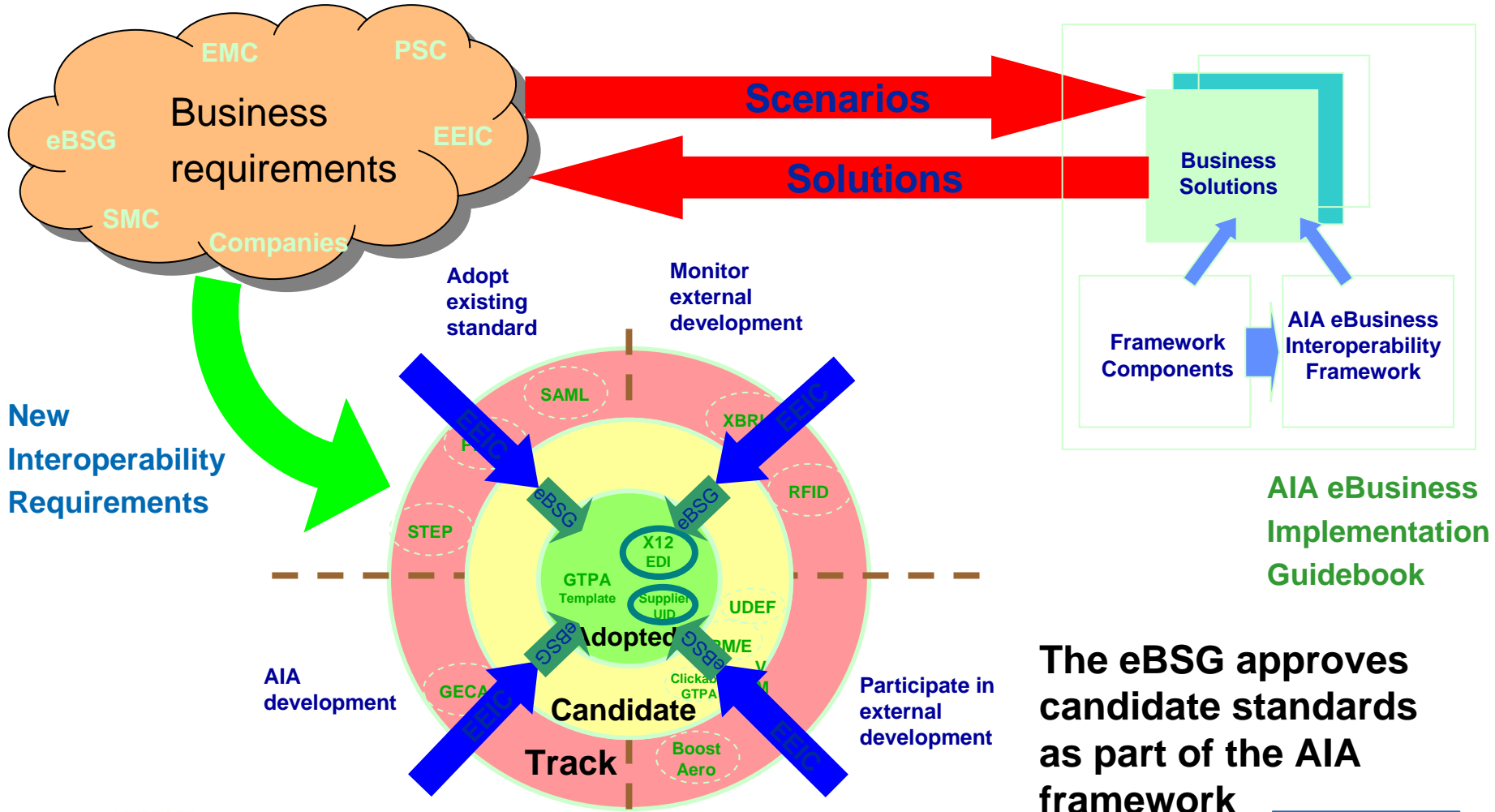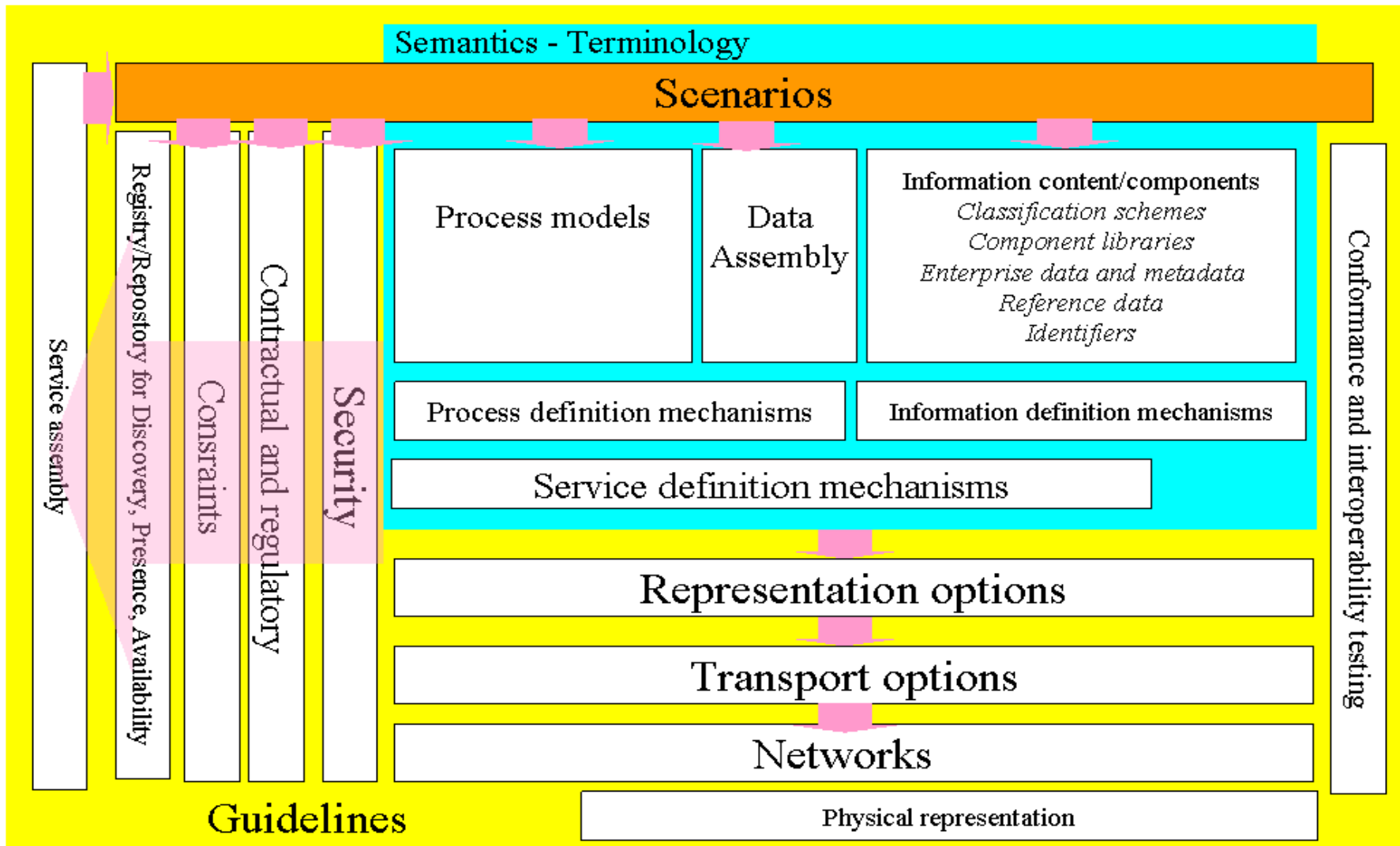
Model Representing Interoperable eBusiness Landscape of the Solution sets needed

Global Perspective: UN/CEFACT

- United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

- GSA Office of Governmentwide Policy represents U.S.
  - based on the eBSC results, asked NIST to assist

- 2004: UN/CEFACT was struggling
  - success with EDIFACT standard
  - had not made needed changes: web services, virtual meetings
  - many challenges
    - inwardly focused, no IPR policy
    - accountability, transparency and stakeholder involvement

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UN/CEFACT Mission

Simple, Transparent and Effective Processes for Global Business.

- **Analyze and understand** the key elements of international processes, procedures and transactions and working for the elimination of constraints;
- **Develop methods** to facilitate processes, procedures and transactions, including the relevant use of information technologies;
- **Promote** both the use of these methods, and associated best practices, through channels such as government, industry and service associations;
- **Coordinate its work** with other international organizations;
- **Secure coherence** in the development of standards

Facilitating national and international transactions

Transitioning to Collaboration

❑ External evaluations of UN Programs (2005)
— demand for accountability and results
— opportunity for change; new management at many levels

❑ Recognize that CEFACT is part of a network of SDOs

❑ Engage stakeholders: Countries, Sectors and SDOS
— assess stakeholder priorities; CEFACT's unique value adds
— restructured annual Plenary for stakeholder sessions

❑ Expand coordination with SDOs with common objectives
— cooperation on common objectives and deliverables

❑ Use eBusiness Capabilities and Standards Registry
— build common understanding and coordinated work plans

Observations on SDO Collaboration

❑ Metrics for SDO's success:

— delivery of more standards; more paying members, OR

— use of standards for new capabilities

❑ Metrics and incentives for SDOs collaboration

❑ Insufficient resources assigned to cross-industry alignment and life cycle of eBusiness standards

❑ Communication, commitment, coordination, collaboration, convergence => built on common goals

— monitor, deployment feedback and modify

❑ Understand business, technology & organization dynamics

— viable capability increments and timings for success

Thank You!

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