International Cooperation on eBusiness Standards

Open Forum for Standards Developers

Presented by
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Agenda

- eBusiness Standards Convergence Forum
- Insights and recommendations
- UN/CEFACT: Transitioning the strategy
- Coordination, Collaboration and Convergence
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
eBSC 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
AIA Use of Capabilities Matrix for Adoption of eBusiness Standards

New Interoperability Requirements

Business requirements

AIA eBusiness Implementation Guidebook

The eBSG approves candidate standards as part of the AIA framework
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
Facilitating national and international transactions

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

UN/CEFACT Mission
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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