

Promoting Interoperability Through Registration of Standards Efforts

Karl Best

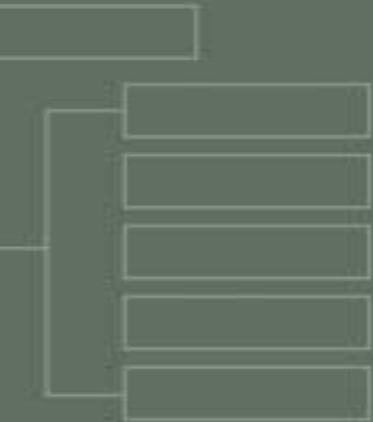
OASIS Director of Technical Operations

Barriers to Interoperability (Facilitation Session results)

- Turf battles / Not Invented Here
- Scope and process differences
- Different technical models and architectures
- Lack of common vocabulary
- Information sharing

Specific Action Items

1. Identify overlaps, potential liaison partners
2. Set up relationships



Scenario #1:

- As a standards organization manager or participant, I suspect that other organizations are doing work similar to that done by some of my technical committees
- My organization or committee can't create all specifications, but I want to know that everything is being done, somewhere

Scenario #2:

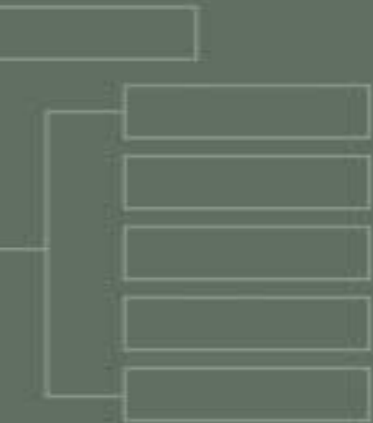
- As a developer or engineering manager, I suspect that a standard has been developed for a certain topic, but I'm not sure where to go to get it
- I suspect that a standard is being developed, and I want to be involved as it effects the products I am developing

The problem:

- Where can I find out who is doing what?
 - What standards groups are developing what specifications?
- Web searches don't give useful results
 - Everyone describes their work differently

The solution:

- A means of discovering and identifying what work each standards group is doing
 - Standardized description



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The goal:

- Promote collaborative standards work
- Promote interoperable specifications
- Prevent overlap or duplicative work
- Promote involvement of all interested parties
- Promote use of and adherence to standards by vendors



Suggestion

- Registry of standards efforts
 - What is being developed, by whom
 - What problems does it solve
 - What is it related to
- All standards groups requested to register their work, both completed and in progress

What this is not...

- Repository of the documents themselves (specifications, schemas, business objects, etc.)
 - XML.org Registry
 - ebXML Registry
 - UDDI
 - BSR (ISO TC 154)

Requirements

- Common metadata
- Taxonomy(s)
- User interface, searching
- Hosting



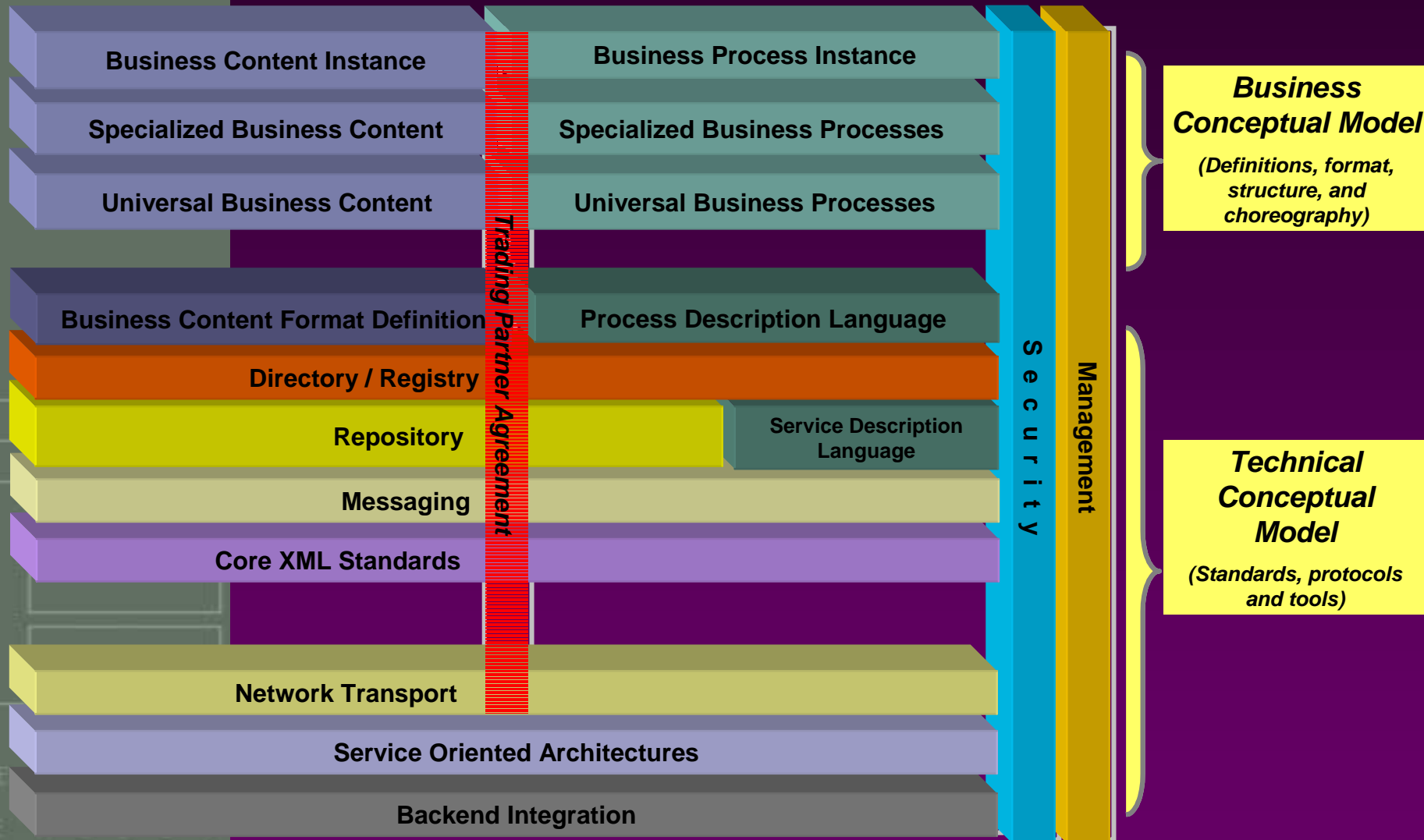
Metadata

- Common metadata for each entry
 - Probably most important contribution of the registry
 - Requires taxonomy
- Consistent description for better search results
- Need input from many standards groups; meet the needs of all interested parties

Taxonomy

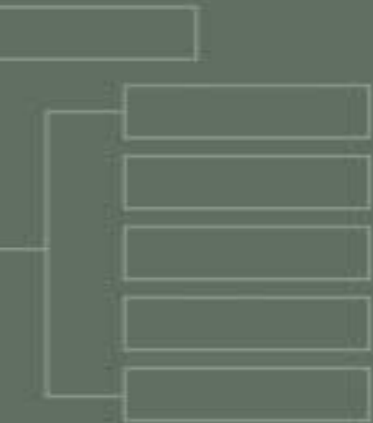
- “A place for everything, and everything in its place.”
- The taxonomy problem has never been solved
- Stack models are just one way to describe things, but always incomplete; just one part of the complete picture

ISO/BIC B2B Conceptual Model



Taxonomy (cont.)

- Perhaps select three or four of the best stack models; allow multi-dimensional description
- Or, define each entry by how it relates to others (e.g. the Google model; describe using TopicMaps)



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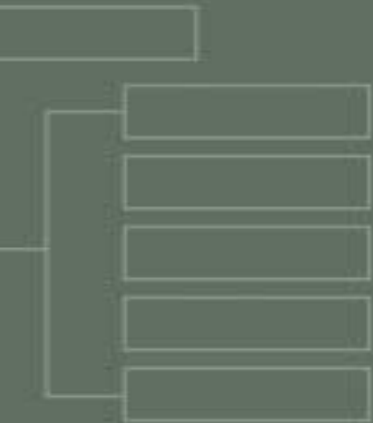
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Map of Standards Groups at www.software.org/quagmire

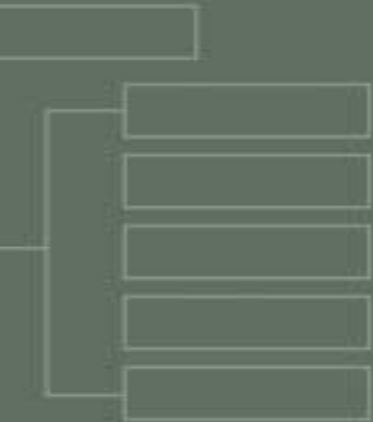
Interface

- Need to develop user interface for
 - Input
 - Search/retrieval
 - Graphical map display



Hosting

- It always comes down to money...
- What is the business model?
- How to host this?
 - XML.org can do this; needs additional sponsorship, especially for development



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How to judge success

- ~100% of standards activities registered? What scope?
- Short of that, how many specifications need to be registered for the registry to be useful?
- How to achieve this?

First steps

- Who is interested in participating?
- Organize effort
- Identify existing work or similar efforts
- Develop metadata, taxonomy
- Solve business model
- Start development

Call to action

- Please let me know if you're interested, and how
 - Help define metadata
 - Help develop database, UI, etc.
 - Sponsorship



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