Promoting Interoperability Through Registration of Standards Efforts

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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
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
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)
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
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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