Recap: La Jolla 2016

The Object Management Group® (OMG®) held its quarterly Technical Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in La Jolla, California, USA, from December 7-11, 2015. At the meeting, the company issued RFP, RFC and RFI specifications and requirements.

Multiple special events took place during the meeting week such as OMG Standards at Work in the Internet of Things, Industrial Internet West Coast Forum - Beyond the Hype: Deploying the Industrial IoT in the Real World, Introduction to OMG's Modeling & Middleware Specifications Tutorial, Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration (OSLC) Summit and the Business Architecture Reference Model Building Workshop.

The following captures highlights from the week.

RFPs, RFIs and RFCs ISSUED

- Automated Enhancement Points (AEP) Request for Comments (RFC) - This draft specification of a uniform measure for accurate software sizing is being issued for comments from the industry. It provides a standardized way of accurately measuring software size - critical to productivity analysis, vendor management and maintenance and enhancement work.

- Languages, Countries and Codes (LCC) Request for Comments (RFC) - This draft specification provides formal, machine-readable representations of the names of countries and regions worldwide, and the languages spoken within them, thus providing an essential foundation for many financial, commercial, government and academic applications. The ontologies in this specification are based on two existing ISO standards: ISO 639, Codes for the representation of language names, and ISO 3166, Codes for representing country names and their subdivisions. Comments are welcomed from relevant industry experts, to inform an OMG decision on formally publishing this specification during 2016.

- Structured Assurance Case Metamodel (SACM) 2.0 Request for Comments (RFC) - This draft specification builds on the first version of OMG’s successful SACM specification for recording and exchanging design information about safety-critical systems. Assurance Cases are sets of auditable claims, arguments, and evidence created to verify that a defined system will satisfy specific requirements. Comments on this draft specification are welcomed from relevant experts.

- Healthcare Ordering Service Request for Proposals (RFP) - This detailed requirements document solicits specifications for an efficient, accurate order management interface that supports quality patient care, referral management and care coordination across an increasingly complex network of heterogeneous provider organizations.

- Cyber Security Protection for Front-Line RT Systems Request for Information (RFI) - To prepare for forthcoming standardization work on cyber protection for military and first responders’ real-time, front-line information systems, OMG is soliciting input from all organizations and individuals with expertise or relevant experience in this field.

- Data Residency Request for Information (RFI) - As individual and corporate data is increasingly stored in and moved between multiple jurisdictions around the globe, data owners, data controllers and national regulators are increasingly demanding detailed information on exactly which laws and regulations govern the storage and disclosure of that data. This RFI solicits information about issues and practices related to the location of data, movement of data across geographies and jurisdictions, and protection of that data against inadvertent access,
TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION PROCESSES UNDERWAY

OMG Technical Committees also reviewed these proposed new specifications:

- OntoIOp/DOL™ submission - A specification for an abstract metalanguage with an associated metamodel targeted at cross-language interoperability among a class of concrete languages used to record logical expressions found in ontologies, models and specifications.
- Hardware Abstraction Layer for Robotic Technology™ (HAL4RT™) submission - This specification provides the base portion of a software platform for robotics and control systems, and aims to enable applications to run on different hardware.
- FIBO® Financial Business and Commerce (FBC) submission - This specification includes ontologies that define financial instruments, functional entities such as banks and regulators, and financial products and services within the framework of the Financial Industry Business Ontology® (FIBO).

OMG members are currently holding a vote on whether the organization should publish these submissions as OMG specifications. All OMG specifications are available for free download on the OMG website: www.omg.org/spec/index.htm.

SPECIAL EVENTS

During the week, OMG held informational events for the public:

- Business Architecture Reference Model Building Workshop
- Industrial Internet West Coast Forum - Beyond the Hype: Deploying the Industrial IoT in the Real World
- Introduction to OMG’s Modeling & Middleware Specifications Tutorial
- OMG Standards at Work in the Industrial Internet of Things
- Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration (OSLC) Summit

Meet an OMG Member: Elisa Kendall

Elisa Kendall has been an active member of OMG since 2002. She helped establish and co-chaired the Ontology PSIG, co-authored the Ontology Definition Metamodel (ODM), and currently co-chairs the ODM Revision Task Force. She is a voting member of a number of other task forces, primarily in Analysis and Design. Elisa is also an elected member of the Architecture Board and OMG BOD.

OMG: When did you first join OMG and why do you go to the meetings?

I first attended an OMG meeting in 2002, at the invitation of Evan Wallace and some other folks who were organizing an RFP for what became the Ontology Definition Metamodel. I met Evan through work I was doing for the government on metadata and ontology standards. He suggested that an early prototype tool my company, Sandpiper Software, had developed for ontology modeling in UML®, was a great starting point for ODM. We felt welcome from the outset, and met a number of kindred spirits, who didn't think it was lunacy to use UML as a starting point for ontology work. Since joining OMG, we haven't looked back.

OMG: What projects are you currently working on with OMG?

I'm involved in several task forces currently: a revision task force
for the ODM, the OntoIOp/DOL™ finalization task force (DOL is focused on ontology interoperability), an API4KP submission team (to provide interfaces for knowledge-based systems), and the new Languages, Countries, and Codes RFC. I’m also an active participant in the EDM Council’s FIBO® standards, and privileged to be a member of the Architecture Board.

OMG: How has being a member of OMG helped you either personally or professionally?

From a personal perspective, I’ve learned a great deal from OMG colleagues, and continue to do so. Many of the folks I’ve worked with are among the best in the world at what they do. We’re all curious, constantly brainstorming about problems we’re attempting to solve, new directions for the standards we’re working on, and so forth, which keeps me on my toes. I’ve made wonderful friends through OMG, and although we don’t always agree on how to address certain problems, I have tremendous respect for every single person I’ve met.

Professionally, I think the standards work we’ve been involved in has led, either directly or indirectly, to a number of the opportunities that have come my way. As a consultant, one needs to continuously make new contacts and demonstrate forward-looking capabilities. OMG has provided a place for me to do that, through connections with people and via recognition in the broader community based on the standards I’ve participated in developing and shepherding.

OMG: Why would you encourage other professionals to join OMG?

I think for all of the reasons I’ve already cited, and also to provide an opportunity to shape the standards that affect them. Some of the work we’re doing for FIBO (the Financial Industry Business Ontology), for example, will influence, if not drive, aspects of data governance and reporting requirements for the entire banking industry for the next decade or more. The ontology-related standards are critical for enabling widespread adoption of semantic technologies, especially from an enterprise perspective. We are seeing increasing requirements for interoperability among analysis tools - classification-based reasoners, rule engines, recommendation systems, predictive analytics - to support big data and IoT initiatives, yet there are still gaps in the standards to support them. This is one of the primary areas we are focused on, and I’ll continue to encourage anyone who cares about this to participate.

OMG: In your opinion, what is the top benefit of OMG membership?

That’s a hard one. Of all of the marketing, technology leadership, and other benefits I can think of, the most important benefit for our business has been networking. A lot of business is conducted “in the hallways” at and between meetings. It goes both ways -- fellow members and OMG staff have made strategic introductions for us, and we’ve done so for other folks, with well-qualified leads in many cases. But, I can’t emphasize enough how important the personal relationships are.

Result of OMG Architecture Board Elections

Six candidates were nominated for six open seats. On November 19, 2015, these nominees were elected uncontested:
Hugues Vincent, THALES; Doug Tolbert, Unisys; Jason Smith, The Software Revolution; Manfred Koethe, 88solutions; Richard Beatch, Bloomberg; and J. D. Baker, Sparx Systems.

Five of the seats have two-year terms, and the remaining one seat has a one-year term. Congratulations to all of the new OMG AB Members.

Richard Soley’s "On the Road" Blog

Follow Richard Soley as he travels the globe and blogs about it! Read Richard’s "On the Road" blog!
(RSS feed is available.)

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Other Resources

For more information on OMG or any of our advocacy groups, such as the CSCC or CISQ, please visit us online. Members should sign up for their own personal myOMG page to access and manage your email lists, submissions and interests.

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About OMG

Celebrating its 27th anniversary in 2016, Object Management Group® (OMG®) is an international, open membership, not-for-profit computer industry standards consortium. OMG Task Forces develop enterprise integration standards for a wide range of technologies and an even wider range of industries. OMG's modeling standards enable powerful visual design, execution and maintenance of software and other processes. OMG has offices at 109 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02494 USA. This email may be considered to be commercial email, an advertisement or a solicitation.