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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Eleventh session, 20 – 23 June 2005

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE UN/CEFACT APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES GROUP (ATG) TO THE PLENARY

Report by the UN/CEFACT ATG Group

This document is for endorsement

1. General

1. The purpose of the Applied Technologies Group (ATG) is to be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the trade, business and administration document structures that are based on a specific technology or standard.
2. The ATG convened during the UN/CEFACT Forum Meetings - September 2004 in Washington DC, USA, and March 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as well as holding meetings in June 2003 (Walldorf, Germany – hosted by SAP) and January 2004 (Wollongong, Australia – hosted by Diskray Pty Ltd).
3. Two working groups are defined within the ATG, these being ATG1 – UN/EDIFACT and ATG2 – UN/XML. The programme of work for the Group, including the activities of the working groups can be found on the ATG website: <http://webster.disa.org/cefactgroups/atg>.
4. Since the meeting in September marked the end of the first two year period of the UN/CEFACT Forum an election of ATG officers was held, with the following outcome:
 - Mr Anders Grangard, GS1 France: ATG chair and representative to the Forum Management Group, FMG.
 - Mr Mark Crawford, LMI, ATG Vice Chair
 - Mr Gait Boxman, Tie Holding N.V., ATG Secretary

2. Resolutions

5. Joint Resolution n 1

The Information Content Management Group (ICG), ATG and Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG) resolve to jointly define a profile for the generation of XML Metadata Interchange (XMI) documents for Unified Modelling Methodology (UMM) compliant class models. The profile will be defined within the TMG BCSS (Business Collaboration Schema Specification) project. An initial profile will be developed to contain as much information as possible that is Core Component Technical Specification (CTS) and Naming and Design Rules (NDR) conformant.

The TMG Core Component Working Group (CCWG) will take over the responsibility for ensuring that the Unified Modelling Language / UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UML/UMM) profiles are fully compliant with current and future releases of the Core Component Technical Specification in respect to UMM artifacts.

This will enable the ATG to develop the mechanisms necessary for the automatic generation of NDR compliant XML schemas using the same format that ICG will use for input to the registry.

It will enable the ICG, using the XMI instance output, to carry out the necessary validation checks to ensure that all core component information within the class model exist within the UN/CEFACT Registry, thus providing a coherent set of documentation.

It will enable UN/CEFACT to provide a Core Component deliverable that can be inserted into UML compliant software packages thus facilitating the use of the Components in the development of data models.

The initial XMI profile will be based on the most commonly used XMI specification in order to address the largest possible community of UML software platforms.

Once an initial experience has been gained with this profile, the project will further develop the profile to align it with the latest version of the XMI specification including MOF (Meta-Object Facility) capabilities.

3. ATG Projects

3.1 Standard Business Document Header

6. This specification was developed and approved as a UN/CEFACT standard before the Core Components Technical Specification and the XML Naming and Design Rules were available. There is hence a need to align it to these standards. The project was approved during the March Forum meeting and a first proposal with candidate Core Components has been submitted to TBG17.

4. ATG1 – UN/EDIFACT

7. Since the last UN/CEFACT Plenary the group has met twice during the UN/CEFACT Forum. The participation levels have averaged five persons.

4.1 Data Maintenance Request (DMR) Review (See ATG1 minutes for details)

8. DMRs processed against the UN/EDIFACT D04B Directory:

Approved	3
JTd (changed and approved)	6
Postponed	1
Withdrawn	8
Total	18

9. DMRs processed against the UN/EDIFACT D05A Directory:

Approved	14
JTd (changed and approved)	15
Rejected	1
Total	30

4.2 UML to EDIFACT Transformation Rules project

10. The specification went through public review, Open Development Process, Step 5 (ODP 5), in 2004. Since no comments were received, the comments period was prolonged, but this did not yield any further input. The specification is currently being voted to be moved into implementation verification, Open Development Process, Step 6 (ODP 6).

5. ATG2 – XML

11. ATG2 met during the four ATG meetings, as well as holding weekly phone conferences in order to progress their work. Their current active membership averages seven people.

5.1 XML Naming and Design Rules (NDR)

12. The XML NDR has gone through public review where approximately 300 comments were received and successfully resolved. After approval the specification has now moved into implementation verification, ODP 6. For this the project depends on two independent requests for XML development from TBG, of which one has been secured.

13. With the Memorandum of Understanding between OASIS and UN/CEFACT, the UBL Technical Committee is now in favour of moving UBL into UN/CEFACT. A team with representatives from both organisations has been set up to resolve technical differences between the two XML Naming and Design Rules. One short-term solution that is being investigated in order to protect the installed user base on both sides is if it is possible to use both XML schemas. A prerequisite is that we can guarantee that they yield identical outputs.

6. Future Meetings

14. ATG will be holding their next meeting June 27 through July 1 2005 in Kongsberg, Norway.

15. ATG will also meet during the Forum Meeting in September 2005 (26th through 30th) in Lyon, France.

ATG Project Matrix

Updated: April 2005

Title	Description	Project Status	Expected Completion
Standard Business Document Header	Align the Technical Specification of the Standard Business Document Header to the Core Components TS and XML Naming and Design Rules.	ODP Stage 1	January 2005
Representation of CCTS in XML	To develop requisite UN/CEFACT XML schema modules for storing ebXML Core Component Technical Specification (CCTS) constructs (as defined in Section 7 of the CCTS) in XML that is compliant with the Applied Technologies Group	Dependent on XML NDR finalisation	TBD
Implementer's Guide To ebXML Technical Architecture	Provide implementation and deployment guidelines aimed at implementers of the ebXML Technical Architecture.	Transfer to TMG under discussion	TBD
Harmonisation of representation terms	To align the list of representation terms between the ebXML Core Component Technical Specification (V1.9) and the UN/EDIFACT Message Design Rules (V6.0).	ODP stage 2 in May 2005	March 2006
TAC for XML Deliverables	To provide rules and guidelines for transformation of UML diagrams and artefacts into UN/EDIFACT constructs	Dependent on XML NDR finalisation	TBD
UML to UN/EDIFACT Transformation Rules	To provide rules and guidelines for transformation of UML diagrams and artefacts into UN/EDIFACT constructs.	ODP stage 6	September 2005
UML to XML Design Rules	To provide rules and guidelines for transformation of UML diagrams and artefacts into XML constructs.	Dependent on XML NDR finalisation	TBD
Representation of BPSS in XML	To provide XML schema for the ebXML Business Process Specification Schema (BPSS) compliant with the Applied Technologies Group – XML Working Group XML Naming and Design Rules specification.	Dependent on TMG decision on BPSS project	TBD
XML Naming and Design Rules	To provide rules and guidelines for normative-form schema design, instance design, and markup naming, and write and maintain documentation of these rules and guidelines	ODP stage 6	September 2005
CPP-CPA Implementers Guide	To provide the implementation guidelines for the ebXML Collaboration Partner Profile and Collaboration Partner Agreement.	Dependent on UN/CEFACT / OASIS discussions	TBD