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Douglas Mann, Secretariat, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory *, 901 D Street, SW., Suite 900, Washington, DC, 20024-2115, United States of America

Telephone: +1 703 575 2114; Facsimile: +1 703 681 9180; E-mail: MannD@battelle.org
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ISO/IEC JTC1 SC32 N0407 Reports of External Liaisons

UN/CEFACT Techniques and Methodologies Working Group (TMWG)

Last meeting of TMWG – 8 - 12 November 1999, Concord CA USA

Key work items

1. Continued development of UN/CEFACT Unified Modeling Methodology. This methodology can be applied to OO-edi as well as to other technologies, and is to be used across the CEFACT organization. The Business Process Analysis WG (BPAWG) is working with TMWG in the first two workflows of the modeling life cycle (i.e., Business Domain Modeling and e-Business Requirements). The BPAWG defines at a high level the business domains and their interfaces through the life cycles (i.e., requirements, analysis, design and implementation). Business domains are subdivided to make usable subsets for detailed modeling by the EDIFACT WG (EWG) and International Trade Procedures WG (ITPWG).

The EWG will require UML-based modeling as a prerequisite for message development by 2002 or earlier if the TMWG can complete its methodology document and training to enable earlier implementation. To that end, a new task group, EWG T9, will undertake three projects to test the modeling methodology:

- Supply-chain
- Reinsurance industry messages
- Tourism Transport & Leisure registration project

Although some EWG user groups will work outside the EWG to develop business models and requirements, most groups desire to work within UN/CEFACT to take advantage of reusable processes and to receive guidance from the “big picture” of the business domains - a view that cannot be gained on the outside. Development must no longer be aligned by “purchasing” or “finance,” etc. There must be a project or series of projects with interfaces to other projects. The BPAWG’s job is to define the business domains and their relationships and interfaces.

2. Developed Revision 5 of the TMWG Recommendation to UN/CEFACT on XML. This report is a response to a UN/CEFACT request for a recommendation on XML. UN/CEFACT has accepted the report as its strategic direction in regard to XML. The primary outcome has led to UN/CEFACT partnering with the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) in a joint initiative known as Electronic Business XML (ebXML).

The ebXML initiative is tapping into a consortium of IT industry resources having expertise and funding, and then extending it to the standards development arena. This approach takes advantage of the distributed work of industry players who are developing models within the frameworks of a variety of business process methodologies

Next TMWG Meeting

- London, 28 Feb. – 3 Mar. 2000
- Key work items

- Complete Unified Modeling Methodology for Design workflow, showing how protocol-specific implementations, e.g., XML, UN/EDIFACT, CORBA, JAVA RMI, etc. can be generated from the UML-based analysis artifacts.
- Assess BSR project developments in relation to other projects
- Review ebXML progress to date