ECIMF CWA
Concluding the project

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ECIMF – CWAs

- Originally planned CEN Workshop Agreements:
  - Introduction (ECIMF-Intro)
  - General Methodology (ECIMF-GM)
  - Technical Specification (ECIMF-TS)
  - Proof-of-Concept (ECIMF-POC)

- Latest significant updates:
  - Latest versions: v.0.3 (November 28, 2001)
  - Some interesting presentations from February and June meetings not incorporated in the CWAs:
    - Interoperability through semantic translation with labeling
    - Relationship to recent ebTWG work on Business Objects

- Where are we now?
Introduction (ECIMF-Intro)

- Latest version changes:
  - Mostly cosmetic editing:
    - Added less dense project description
  - Suggestions from plenary:
    - Gentle introduction is needed
      - The current version is still far from it!
    - Understandable vocabulary
      - SMEs don’t necessarily know what UML and ontologies are…

- Suggestions for final editing:
General Methodology (ECIMF-GM)

- Latest version changes:
  - Incorporation of the 4-layer model (added Business Context with REA)
  - Merged with the Frameworks Integration Guideline
    - FIG was split into general schema, and detailed instructions are moved to Appendix
    - Still needs much work…
  - Improved structure and graphics
  - Added Semantic Translation and REA meta-models
  - Expanded section on Business Context Matching

- Suggestions for final editing:
ECIMF-GM: open issues not yet addressed

- List of open issues not properly addressed in the latest version:
  - Process Mediation:
    - Currently lacks the overall concept - how to model?
    - Proposed meta-model sounds too technical...
    - Needs to be rethought in light of the improved “Business Context with BOTs” approach
  - Semantic Translation:
    - Needs more research and a proof-of-concept
    - More information needed on various algorithms
  - Syntax Mapping:
    - There is only outline of the issues involved
    - Needs to be filled with more content
  - ECIMF-compliant runtime toolkit
    - Proposed block diagram provided, needs more discussion

- Suggestions for the final editing:
Technical Specification (ECIMF-TS)

- Latest version status:
  - Still empty…
    - Added references to meta-models that underlie the notation to be defined here.
  - This CWA is very dependent on ECIMF-GM, and perhaps can only be completed when that settles…

- Suggestions for the final editing:
Proof-of-Concept (ECIMF-POC)

Latest version status:
- Added realistic example:
  - Full analysis of the integration case
  - Real e-commerce frameworks considered
  - All four layers have been discussed
- Work pending:
  - Business Context: update models according to the new BC/BOT
  - Process mediation: update worksheets acc. to BC/BOT

Suggestions for the final editing:
ECIMF-POC: open issues not yet addressed

- List of open issues not properly addressed in the latest version
  - Semantic Translation:
    - Discussion needed - the example uses a fully heuristic approach…
  - Syntax mapping:
    - Example needed
  - MANIFEST generation
    - Example syntax (based on ST Ontology) looks very complicated…
  - Implementation:
    - Figure 6: too low-level (this might be a syntax translator, but not the whole agent…)

- Suggestions for final editing:
ECIMF-POC: tools

- Latest status:
  - Conzilla: dropped in favor of Protégé-based tool
  - Implemented a new tool, which illustrates the use of semantic labeling for concept mapping
  - The tool is alpha-quality, and its practical usefulness is not quite clear
  - Protégé knowledge-base model seems flexible enough to express all/most concepts, but is somewhat at odds with Topic Maps and RDF.

- Suggestions for the final deliverables:
ECIMF Website status

- ECIMF Project Information Center
  - http://www.ecimf.org
  - Originally hosted by WebGiro, now hosted from funds of a group of former WebGiro employees
  - The current hosting arrangement is valid for the next three months

- Suggestions for continuing the availability of ECIMF project materials:
Summary and conclusions from the Chair 😊

The original goals of the project couldn’t be fully reached:

- Changed economic situation affected the main contributor, WebGiro
- Too few contributions received from other Workshop members
- This affects the final content of CWAs

However, there are valuable achievements that should be preserved and propagated:

- The four-layer model
- Use of REA for economic alignment of business parties
- Use of and strategies for semantic translation as an interoperability tool
Other conclusions and suggestions?

- New contact:
  - Andrzej Bialecki <ab@getopt.org>