CEN/ISSS Electronic Commerce Workshop

ECIMF – E-Commerce Integration Meta-Framework

Project meeting

12 June 2001, Norsk EDIPRO, Oslo

Participants:
Andrée Ahano, COFACE
Andrzej Bialecki, WebGiro
Tony Fletcher, BT
Barbara Gatti, CEN
Man Sze LI, IC Focus
Ambjörn Naeve, CID/KTH
Martin Bryan, The SGML Centre
Gunnar Welander, Web Giro
Erik Andersen, WS/DIR Chair
Knut Lindelien, Norwegian Technology Standard Institute
Asbjorn Hovsto, Ergo Solutions
Marcus Gullberg, HP
Tore Syversten, Norsk EDIPRO
Mariann Sundvor, Norsk EDIPRO

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all participants to the second meeting of the ECIMF project group. The first meeting was the kick-off of the project, held on 3 May 2001 in Brussels. The ECIMF project proposal was approved by the Electronic Commerce Workshop at the London plenary meeting in March 2001.

2. Administrative matters

2.1. Introductions and apologies for absence

Thierry Ceillier and H. Flemming Stern Pelz, RosettaNet, apologized for their absence.
The presentation on RosettaNet was given by the Chair.

The agenda was approved with the introduction of a new item under point 4:
4.1 Short presentation on Hewlett Packard by Marcus Gullberg.

2.2. Appointment of Secretary for meeting

Ms Gatti, WS/EC Secretary, offered her assistance to draw a short report of the meeting.

3. Review of outstanding items from previous meeting not covered elsewhere

The minutes of the kick-off meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action 2: the proposal has been sent to a number of standards organizations, namely RosettaNet, OASIS and the Open Application Group – feedback was received only from RosettaNet.

Action 3: A liaison with the ebXML group has been proposed; Colin Barham from TIEglobal has given his availability to track the work carried out by the ECIMF project. Still to be confirmed after the changes in the ebXML group.

Action 4: The Chair received a number of positive comments on the project proposal. General remark was to ask how the project relates to other initiatives.

4. Project status update – current materials, timeframe and deliverables

The Chair gave a brief overview on the project.

The project, co-ordinated by WebGiro and CID at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, aims at developing a standardized meta-framework for describing and aligning various aspects of already existing e-commerce frameworks. In brief, the proposal aims at enabling two systems that implement different architectures to work together.
The project investigates three levels of mapping: semantics, dynamics and syntax.

Three deliverables will be produced by the project:
- a general methodology
- technical specifications
- a proof of concept

The time-scale for achieving and validating these deliverables is 18 months.

4.1 Short presentation on Hewlett Packard by Marcus Gullberg

Strategic focus of HP is the integration of companies through e-commerce.

Given the scope of the ECIMF project, this project well fits into the company's current strategy.

In Sweden, HP is involved in an e-government project.

HP industrial implementation is the Internet service platform e-Speak. HP is working with XML and UDDI.

5. Presentation of contributions

To see presentations: doc 01/007 on the web repository.

5.1. Supporting conceptual overview and semantic correspondence - Ambjörn Naeve (CID/KTH)

CID/KTH has developed a prototype of a concept browser (named Conzilla), which will be extended for use in the ECIMF project. A general overview of the tool has been presented, followed by a presentation of how Conzilla can be used to discover the areas of semantic correspondence between concepts defined in different e-commerce frameworks.

5.2. Position of the ECIMF project towards ebXML, RosettaNet and OAGIS

Both RosettaNet and OAG work in close co-operation with industry to provide concrete models. ECIMF addresses topics that are prerequisites to integration of RosettaNet and OAGIS interfaces with internal processes and applications.

Regarding the relation of ECIMF to ebXML, both focus on Business process Modelling, with a top-down approach, but they seek interoperability between differing specifications:

- ebXML: CPP/CPA
- ECIMF: MANIFEST

Alignment and close co-operation among ECIMF and RosettaNet, ebXML, OAG and TMWG (Techniques and methods working group) is desirable and should benefit all projects. Alignment with UMM is also desirable, as more and more frameworks use RUP and UMM.

Significant reuse of concepts and experiences is expected.

In conclusion, it is suggested to set up a task force with experts from different groups to work on a common strategy.

5.3. RosettaNet's Conceptual Model and Strategy for Convergence

Presentation is divided into three parts:
a) Conceptual Model for Understanding XML-based Standards Components
b) Specific XML initiative (xCBL, cxML)
c) Rosettanet XML standards convergence perspective

The scope of RosettaNet is to increase the speed of B2B business process integration. RosettaNet focus on integrating backend applications within enterprises.

For points a) and b) reference is made to the slides, that contain the RosettaNet model for XML standards components and the XML Standards Snapshot (Open XML initiatives) in details.
The model separate sector for the Business process; the Supply Chain is seen separately.

For point c), Rosettanet has confirmed that it will
- continue its standard efforts in all current component areas
- continue allignment with upcoming standards;
- support both UDDI and ebXML
- monitor ebXML progress on various horizontal components

RosettaNet recognises the limited interoperability between XML standards.

What is next?
- going into different sectors, among which telecoms
- developing cheaper software packages suited to the needs of SMEs

Any comment on the conceptual model is very welcome by RosettaNet; it should be addressed to Thierry Ceillier, Vice-President RosettaNet Europe (e-mail: thierry.ceillier@rosettanet.org).

6. Liaisons - Interface with relevant initiatives

RosettaNet would like to closely co-operate - it supports the ECIMF project.

Liaisons shall be established with:
- ebXML
- OASIS part for CPA
- UNCEFACT

Another attempt to have a feedback from OAG shall be pursued.

7. Any other business - and parting greetings and thanks.

Support to the model has been expressed by
Simosa
Inrea
Ipo
Tie

Web Giro is investing co-operating with SAP.

8. Next meeting(s)

Next meeting is scheduled on 16 October in Brussels (all day). The venue shall be confirmed by the ISSS Secretariat.

Annex 1

ECIMF group – second meeting

Actions list

N°	Action	On	Deadline
01	To prepare an update version of the project proposal and related annex	Andrzej	ongoing
02	To ask OASIS, RosettaNet, OMG for comments on project proposal	Andrzej	Done To repeat
03	To liaise with ebXML	Secretariat	done
04	To comment on project proposal	All	done