PSTC FAQ

- What is provisioning?
  - Provisioning is the automation of all the steps required to manage (setup, amend & revoke) user or system access and entitlement rights to electronic services.

- Why is a standard for the provisioning of services important?
  - Agreement of a vendor-neutral syntax for the exchange of provisioning data between systems & resources will significantly reduce the cost of integration for all members of the provisioning value chain and thus serve as a key accelerator for conducting eBusiness within and across enterprises.

- What are the core aims & objectives of the PSTC?
  - The purpose of the OASIS Provisioning Services Technical Committee (PSTC) is to define an XML-based framework for exchanging user, resource, and service provisioning information. The Technical Committee will develop an end-to-end, open, provisioning specification developed from Provisioning specifications.
  - The goal (subject to revision) is to submit a Committee Specification to the OASIS membership for its approval by September 2002.
- How would achievement of these aims & objectives benefit stakeholders within the provisioning value chain? (vendors, customers, partners, etc)
  - Interoperability between multiple systems
  - Additional functionality for the system the customer may have internally to use a multitude of resources, from a multitude of vendors
  - Vendors may manufacture, according the proposed standard, into customers sites that need access to resources (Electronic Services(s)) which may currently not be available.
  - Partners can develop open-standard communication to Resources and system collaboratively by having a standard interface.

- What specific problem(s) are we trying to solve?
  - Two main initial issues:
    - Interoperability between system to system
      - System may be meta-directory system, provisioning system, web access control system, or other.
    - Standard interface between the system and resource (Electronic Service(s)).

- How does this effort relate to XRPM, ADPR, DSML, SAML, DMTF/CIM and so on...?
  - Please refer to the Overview/Introduction Document.

- How does this effort complement or compete with Liberty, .Net, Passport and so on..?
  - Still being investigated…

- What is our timeline?
  - The goal (subject to revision) is to submit a Committee Specification to the OASIS membership for its approval by September 2002.
  - Meeting times, dates, and other detailed information are available at:
    - http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/provision/

- What are our critical success factors?
  - Successful Use Case development
  - Prototypes and Implementations by working group members
  - Test Case Publications
  - Approval of Proposed Specification (currently stated for September 2002)
  - Specification recognition and implementation

- Can you provide some practical use cases?
  - These will be made available after November 12, when the formal PSTC convenes and starts the work on a proper Use Cases working document. Many artifacts may be derived from XRPM, ADPr, and ITML proposals.