UBL and UN/CEFACT
a status report

UBL Forum
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Vice Chair UBL Technical Committee
Allerod, Denmark November 16 2006
The UBL Objective

HTTP + HTML = Web Publishing

ebXML/WS + UBL = Web Commerce
UBL 2.0

• Now an OASIS Committee Specification.
  – OASIS Standard expected December 2006
• Extended library.
  – 31 document types.
  – Extended Procurement Process (Europe).
• Based on real implementation experience.
  – Improved library of re-usable components
• Alignment with UN/CEFACT projects.
  – Core Component Type library.
  – Input from Trade and Business Groups.
• Compliant to ISO 15000-5
What Makes a Standard

- Formalized…
  - Has sanction, De Jure.
- Widely adopted …
  - Has traction, De Facto.
- History tells us traction is more important than sanction
  - Internet versus ISO/OSI.
- So sanction is only a means to achieve traction
  - not a goal in itself.
- What makes a standard is adoption.
UBL has Traction

• Adopted for a variety of contexts:
  – Government e-procurement.
  – International trade.

• Based on library of re-usable components.
  – Royalty Free

• Experienced users contributing to development.
  – Credibility and practicality.

• ‘Viral’ adoption
  – A feature of an Open Standard is no auditing of usage.
UBL has Sanction

• An approved OASIS Standard
  – 1.0 in May 2004
  – @ version 2.0 in December 2006

• Based on ebXML Core Components.
  – ISO 15000-5 compliant
  – Early adopter and pioneer

• UBL 2.0 intends to be a fully sanctioned international standard.
  – Recognized under the MoU/MG for eBusiness standardization.
Sanctioning eBusiness Standards

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

UN/CEFACT

SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE PROCESSES FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

UNITE NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

OASIS
Specific Technology Consortia

- **OASIS**
  - XML standards for e-business
  - Collaborates with UN/CEFACT on the ebXML

- **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)**
  - Web infrastructure standards

- **The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)**
  - Internet standards
But wait, there’s more…

• Industry solutions developed to fill a requirement not met by other standards:
  – Rosettanet, XBRL, OAGIS, GS1, etc.
  – Gain momentum and become a standards business.

• National bodies:
  – CEN/ISSS, ANSI, CNIS, SPRING, SITPRO

• Proprietary or private solutions.

• There is a natural selection at play.
  – The market will decide.
  – But only if given the correct information.
The UN/CEFACT Objective

- Simple, transparent and effective processes for global business.
- To secure the interoperability for the exchange of information between the public and private sector.
- Encourage close collaboration between governments and private business.
UN/CEFACT and UBL Collaboration

- UN/CEFACT recognizes UBL 2 as appropriate first-generation XML documents for eBusiness.
- Future UN/CEFACT deliverables constitute the upgrade path for UBL.
- Maintenance of UBL 2 remains with OASIS
- In the expectation that UN/CEFACT will produce its own integrated set of XML schemas within a period of three years, OASIS will produce no further major versions of UBL past UBL 2.
- OASIS will grant UN/CEFACT a perpetual, irrevocable license to create derivative works based on UBL.

Agreed in April 2006.
This means…

• If you want a solution today then use UBL.

• Adopting UBL is not contravening UN/CEFACT’s strategic direction.
  • Recognized by the MoU on eBusiness Standards

• UBL is the useable stepping stone to a unified UN/CEFACT standard.

• You can use UBL for today and for tomorrow.
The UBL Technical Subcommittee

• Procurement SC
  – Models for Supply Chain business requirements

• Transportation SC
  – Models for International Trade business requirements

• Human Interface SC
  – Printed formats (eg. UN Layout Key)
  – Mappings for stylesheets
  – Input Forms (XForms)

• Small Business SC
  – Implementation profile for small business

• Software SC
  – Software for creating and customizing UBL models.
Localization Subcommittees

• Translation of UBL semantics.
• Fostering requirements for local implementations.
  – Chinese
  – Japanese
  – Korean
  – Spanish
  – Italian
  – Danish
CEFACT Plenary
*(Shareholders)*

Bureau *(Board of Directors)*

Forum

Forum Management Group *(Board of Management)*

Permanent Groups *(Corporate Divisions)*

TMG (CCTS, UMM)

TBG (1-19)

ICG

ATG (1-2)
UN/CEFACT Collaboration Activities part 1

• **CEFACT BUREAU/ UBL TC**
  – Mark Palmer and Tim McGrath

• **TBG1 - Supply Chain**
  – completed first analysis

• **TBG3 – Transport**
  – reviewed UBL 2.0 specification
  – proposing a common work item

• **TBG17 – Harmonization**
  – discussions started

• **TMG/CCTS – Core Component Technical Specification**
  – discussions started
UN/CEFACT Collaboration Activities Part 2

• ATG/NDR - XML Naming and Design Rules
  – working team formed
  – submitted requirements
• TBG2 – UN/eDocs
  – Need strategy for engagement
• ICG (and ATG2) – Code Lists
  – need to engage formally
• TBG19 e-Government
  – Newly established
• TMG/Context Methodology/Message Assembly
  – Clarifying fundamentals
In Summary

• UBL and UN/CEFACT have different and complementary objectives.
  – Overlaps are being converged.
• UBL will work with UN/CEFACT to build a common set of eBusiness document standards.
• UN/CEFACT recognize UBL v.2 as appropriate first-generation XML documents for eBusiness.
• UBL is the useable stepping stone to a unified UN/CEFACT standard.
• It is OK to use UBL for today and for tomorrow.
“Indeed we must all hang together, otherwise we shall most assuredly hang separately.”

Tak - Thank You
UBL International 2006

http://www.ublconference.com

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UBL International 2006 is running its inaugural event in Copenhagen Denmark (Scandinavian Trade Building in Allerød) the week of November 13-17, 2006.

UBL International is a training summit bringing together worldwide Universal Business Language expertise to deliver full-day and half-day lectures and hands-on courses from commercial training companies, and a full day of free symposium presentations, this year marking the launch of UBL 2.0!