UBL and UN/CEFACT

a status report
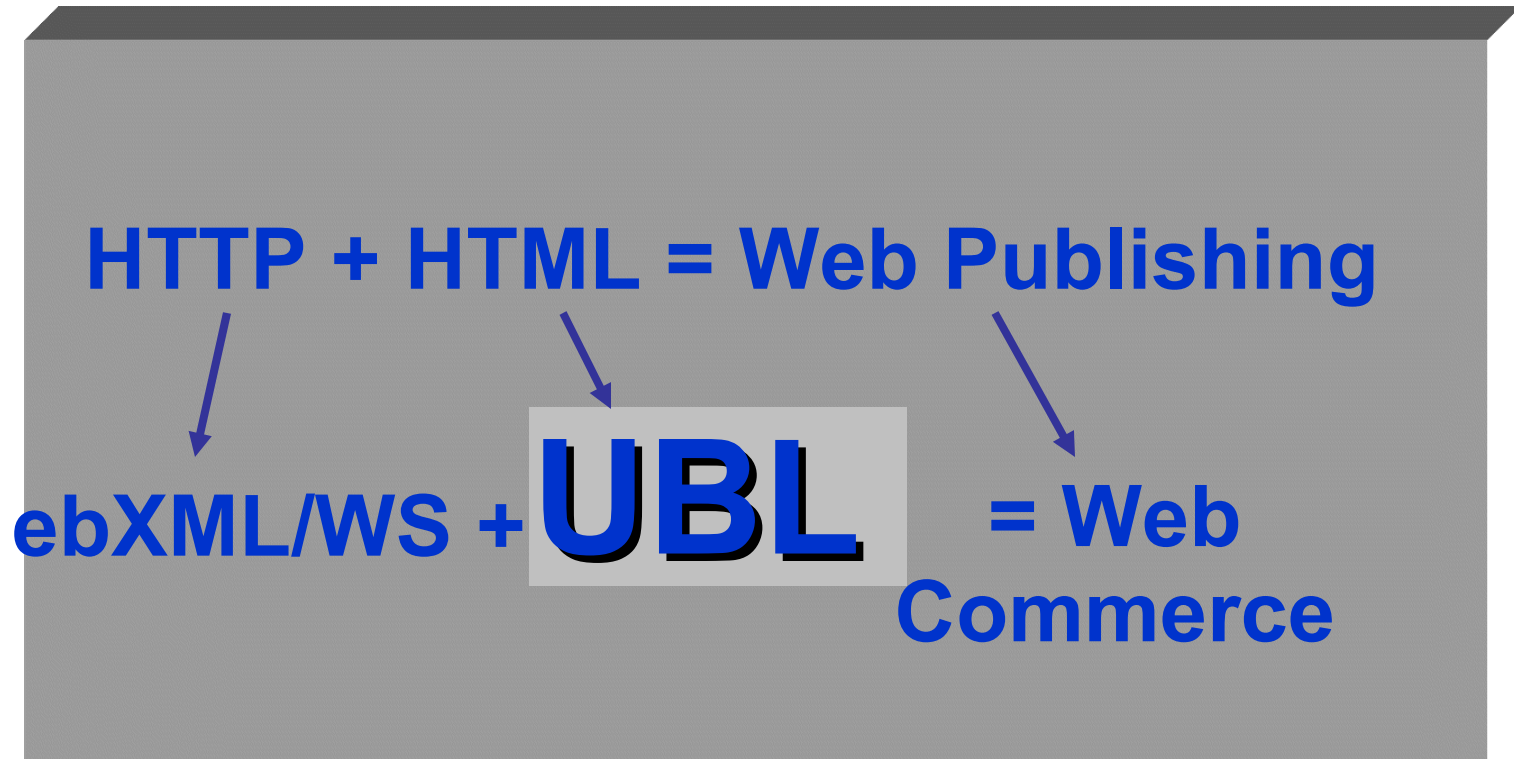
UBL Forum

Tim McGrath

Vice Chair UBL Technical Committee

Allerod, Denmark November 16 2006

The UBL Objective

HTTP + HTML = Web Publishing

ebXML/WS + UBL = Web Commerce

UBL's Ancestry
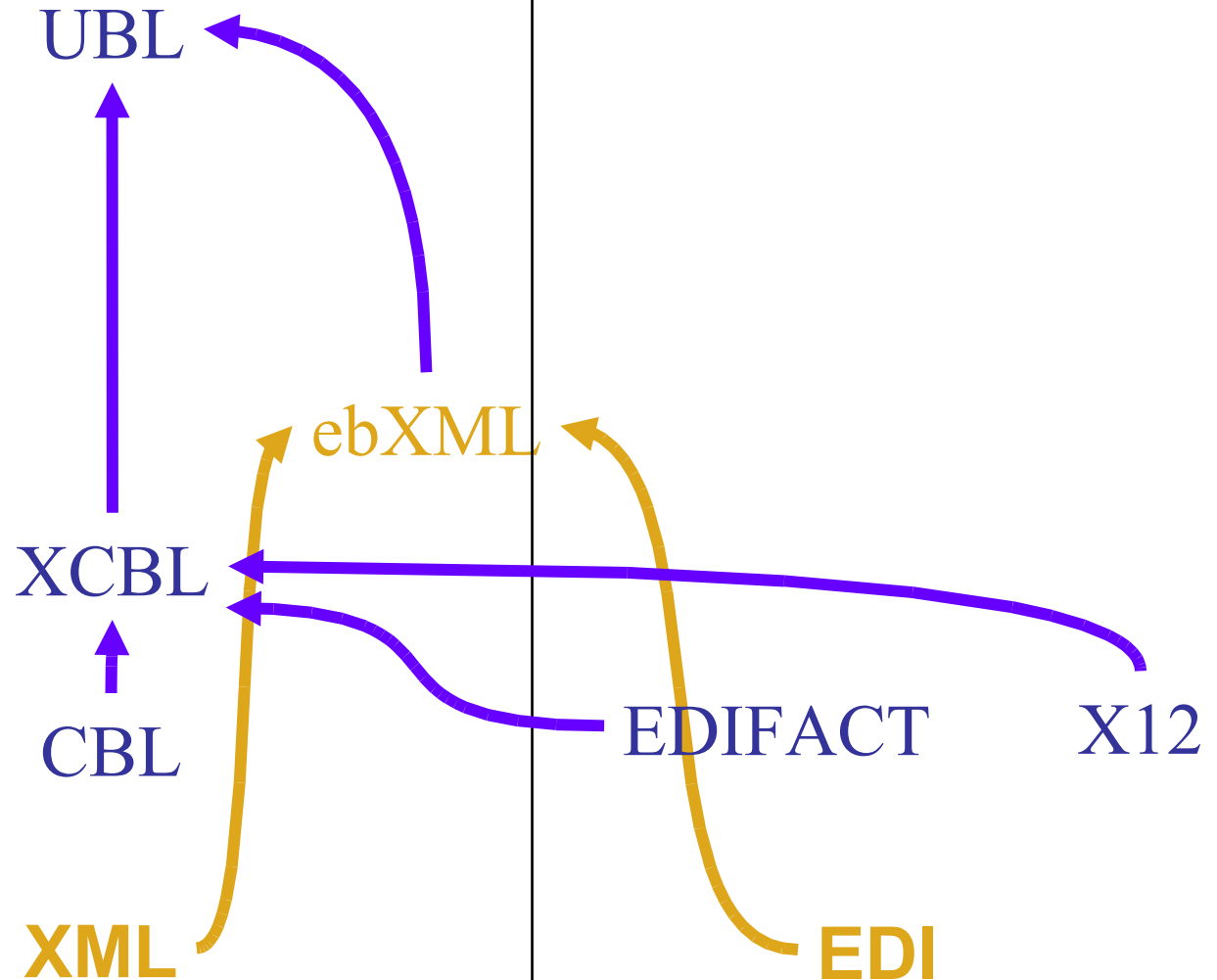
UBL 2.0

- Now an OASIS Committee Specification.
  - OASIS Standard expected December 2006
- Extended library.
  - 31 document types.
  - Extended Procurement Process (Europe).
  - Transportation Process Documents (Asia and US).
- 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
  - ebXML Core Component Technical Specification.

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.

OASIS **UBL**

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.

OASIS **UBL**

Sanctioning eBusiness Standards

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
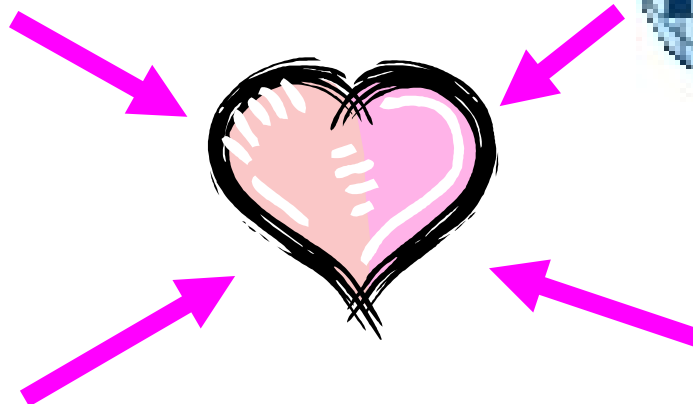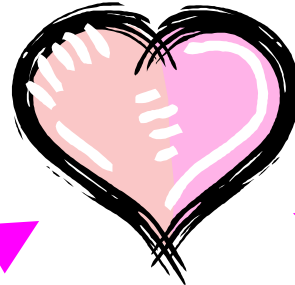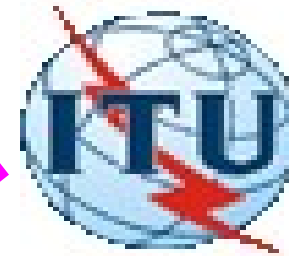
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

UN/CEFACT

SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE PROCESSES FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

ISO International Organization for Standardization

OASIS UBL

Specific Technology Consortia

- OASIS

  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

OASIS **UBL**

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.

OASIS UBL

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.

OASIS UBL

Localization Subcommittees

- Translation of UBL semantics.

- Fostering requirements for local implementations.
  - Chinese
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Spanish
  - Italian
  - Danish

UN/CEFACT

UN/CEFACT
SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE PROCESSES
FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

CEFACT Plenary
(Shareholders)

Bureau *(Board of Directors)*

Forum

Forum Management Group *(Board of Management)*

TMG (CCTS, UMM)

TBG (1-19)

ICG

Permanent Groups
(Corporate Divisions)

ATG (1-2)

OASIS   UBL

UN/CEFACT

OASIS/UBL

CEFACT Plenary
(Shareholders)

Bureau *(Board of Directors)*

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Forum
Management
Group *(Board
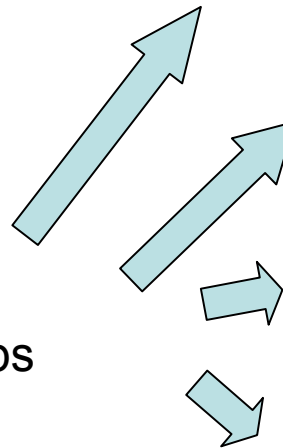of Management)*
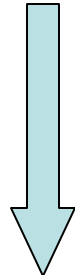
Permanent Groups
(Corporate Divisions)

OASIS Membership
(Shareholders

Board
(Board of Directors)

Technical
Commitees
(Corporate Divisions)

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.

OASIS

"Indeed we must all hang together, otherwise we shall most assuredly hang separately."

Tak - Thank You

UBL International 2006

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http://www.ublconference.com/200611/UBLInternational2006Presentations-20061124.zip

From the UBL International 2006 Home Page
http://www.ublconference.com/200611/index.html

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!