

**Subject: [egov] 2/26/2004: OASIS e-GOV TC : WORKFLOW STANDARD Comments**  
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**To: egov@lists.oasis-open.org**  
**Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2004 07:46:36 -0700**

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Everyone,

First we need to differentiate business process automation/mangement from workflow in our cope and the basis for our evaluation. Workflow typically involves a human-in-the-loop. As of late, we seem to infer with the increase in interest and technology development in this area that the lines between workflow and business process are graying. However, the question still stands here and therefore I'll call this area of interest 'thingy' until we come to consensus. The definitions on pg 5 are good but we mix these concepts in how we describe them and we should bound our area of interest.

Next here are some core questions related to our boundaries and scope of an proposed recommendations for 'thingy' standards:

Important 'thingy' capabilities include:

1. Business process management related
  - Choreography
  - Control flow
  - State alignment
  - Business semantics
2. Workflow related:
  - Work list maintenance
  - Delegation
  - User interface
3. General:
  - Governance and approval process

Important 'thingy' criteria include:

1. Portability
2. Interoperability
3. Core functional capabilities such as error or exception handling (given where you fall in talking about the 'thingy'), activity composition, correlation and conversation, etc.

General comments:

- Historically workflow has been an enterprise exercise. But today, the lines and definition of enterprise 'depends.' Saying internal and external doesn't help much either because we have become widely distributed and extended enterprises by design. Suggest you consider 'within or across domains of control.'
- No longer is workflow or business process limited to an 'IT system.'
- The diagram from WfMC you provided still needs further review. It was provided and feedback sought when I attended another TC meeting in December 2003. There were several changes/corrections suggested. We can decide if we review and comment back to WfMC or make changes for our own goals.
- Either way, this diagram requires re-evaluation. There is a difference here between process and business process, subtle but immensely important.

- We can more effectively evaluate the recommendation after we clearly understand what 'thingy' of which we speak. The diagram mixes these concepts which are interrelated, which could lead to confusion.