Process for Submitting Proposals to the OASIS/ebXML Registry TC

Introduction

Proposals made to the Registry TC may be one of the following:

- Changes to draft specifications
- New functionality to draft specifications
- White paper proposals
- Best practices proposals
- Others

The TC should have a fair and understood process for proposals to be submitted, discussed, approved/not approved, and resulting action taken. Additionally, a process should exist whereby these proposals are identified and tracked through the proposal's lifecycle.

To distinguish between various discussions (i.e., ideas, questions, comments, etc) on the mailing list from formal proposals, we need to be able to identify clearly the formal proposals.

Proposed process

1. A proposal is submitted to the TC mailing list by a member of the TC. The proposal should contain the following:
    a. A unique name
    b. Motivation for the proposal: Convince us why the proposal should be accepted. Motivation could be in terms of:
        i. Use-case – (highly recommended for new functionality or changes to existing functionality)
        ii. Correction to spec – ambiguity, inconsistency, error
        iii. Industry awareness (white papers/best practices)
    c. The relevant lines of the named specification
    d. The proposed change/addition to the specification
2. The chair will assign a unique number to the proposal and add it to the Registry TC Working Items List.
3. Depending on the nature of the proposal, discussion time will be set based by the chair based on TC member input.
4. Depending on the nature of the proposal, a date for TC vote on the proposal will be set by the chair based on discussions with relevant members. Votes may be taken in-person at face-to-face meetings, by voice during teleconferences, or via email ballots (with a 5 day vote period, based on OASIS recommendation - http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/process.shtml
5. If appropriate, the proposal may be broken into two pieces for voting purposes. For example, it may be appropriate to vote on the use case of

a proposal separate from the proposed change/addition to the specification.   This removes the bond of the use case from the proposed change/addition. The TC can then approve the use case and receive multiple proposals as solutions to the use case.

Voting numbers

The Registry TC determine the pass/fail of a proposal based on the following parameters:

Two options:
1. Option 1
    a. A simple majority of voting members must cast a ballot for the TC vote to be valid.
    b. A simple majority must approve the ballot based on number of votes cast.
2. Option 2 (Based on NCITS)
    a. Proposal passes if (1) affirmative votes are a simple majority of those eligible to vote and (2) there are 2/3 affirmative votes of the affirmative/negative votes cast (abstention votes don't factor in)

Voting Numbers for Committee Specification

According to http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/process.shtml : To become a Committee Specification, a draft requires at least 2/3 of the total TC membership voting to approve and no more than 1/4 voting to disapprove.