9/22 BPEL Use Case Subgroup Conf Call

Important Note: We will have a follow-up call next Monday (9/29) to review the pending Action Items from Sid, Harvey and Sally (see Action Items section below). This call will be held at 1 PM ET. The call-in number appears below:

- Toll-Free (US and Canada): +1 866 500 6738
- Toll: +1 203 480 8000
- Passcode: 600345

Attendees:

- Sid Askary
- Harvey Reed
- Rand Anderson
- Sally St. Amand
- Tony Fletcher
- Rajesh Manglani

Minutes:

Call started at 4 PM ET.

- Simpl-eb is the basic building block of e-business
  - Can be aggregated into larger, more complex scenarios
  - A good starting point for small-mid-sized processes
  - Go thru the data synchronization process first to ensure

- Sally: The template needs to be re-addressed
  - Template is from a business standpoint
    - Concerns about morphing it into the outcome – note the input
  - We should use a template that business users can relate to and react to. We may be drifting away from this and focusing more on how we would use this with BPEL. We may be “running with the ball before we catch it”
  - We need to develop use cases that already exist – not re-invent/rebuild ones that already exist
We need to identify a mechanism to solicit use cases – go out to likely suspects and harvest their use cases (perhaps other OASIS TCs and other standards organizations).

- We may want to align our efforts with the Issue Team, identifying issues that we should.

- Sally St. Amand:
  - The template is *not* a checklist, but a listing of possible issues/considerations that we need to convey an understanding of the use case.

- Rand departed but expressed interest in identifying/gathering use cases for the group.

- Harvey Reed explained his document:
  - Harvey’s document proposes explanative text to be added to the WS BPEL Use Case catalog to explain its purpose and the relationships between the different parts.
    - Document uses SimCity as a context for explaining the relationships
  - Harvey explained each of the diagrams (see accompanying presentation).
    - Sid expressed concerns about the use of the term “Actor” in Harvey’s presentation. Using the word “Actor” implies an endorsement of UML for BPM. We agreed to defer this discussion until the end of the call.
  - We need to create some documents – We should reuse where possible
    - UCC?
  - The “SimCity” becomes an index. Eg. Business Flow 1 that points to an existing business flow. A set of narrative text could also be included along with various schema, WSDL and BPEL.
  - Harvey thought the word “use case” should be part of a higher “business flow”.
- This reflects the group’s earlier discussion of how a usage scenario can be broken into multiple use cases.
  - Sally indicated that we must be careful with the wording we use
    - Simpl-eb is not necessarily a usage scenario because it is too simple.
    - Simpl-eb has many of the components that make up a Supply Chain scenario, but is not a scenario in and of itself.
    - One of the advantages of the Supply Chain is that we can identify and use “useful use cases”.
- Sid expressed some confusion about Sally’s remarks
  - Use Cases, regardless of their lexicon, is the “glue” between business and the notation – it is a common place to talk about things.
  - There appears to be an attempt to create common languages, catalogues, etc without understanding of how these items will work to benefit the TC. We must keep ourselves grounded.
  - B2B is one part of the issue – internal process integration is another.
- Harvey indicated that the first slide of his presentation could just as well be an EAI scenario. Additionally, the catalogue addresses internal and external integration issues facing the enterprise.
- Sid expressed interest in producing BPEL executable representations first, not abstract
- Harvey indicated that he thought that one of our main goals is to produce “useful”, realistic BPEL representations (abstract and executable)
  - Sid indicated that our main deliverable should be use cases, not BPEL
  - First and foremost we have to “finish the book”. We must “write the use case book” prior to developing BPEL implementations. The “book” will consist of verbiage and diagrams (not necessarily BPEL code).
We should not change the language to fit the use case

• Tony Fletcher was in agreement with the initial approach: choose a relatively simple but easily completed standard approach to Supply Chain. While there may not be something like this in the process/application integration space, we may still be able to harvest a number of “customer specific” use cases.
  o When harvesting these use cases we should try to identify:
    ▪ Anything significantly different from previous use cases
    ▪ Use cases that may require extensions/modifications to the spec
  o This group should produce the diagrams, not the BPEL itself. We should not be expected to produce the BPEL since there may be many different ways in which to do this.

• Sally indicated that any BPEL we produce may or may not necessarily reflect the consensus of the TC.
  o Any BPEL produced would be solely for communications.

• Sid indicated that our group should provide the means for people to submit their use cases directly into the TC (much like the issue subgroup is doing). Our group should not be in the business of documenting the use cases.
  o Sally indicated that when we ask for use cases we must make sure they are not “technically clouded over”

• John extended the call by 30 minutes to accommodate discussions between Harvey, Sid and Sally regarding semantics and scope.

• John expressed concerns that the subgroup is too focused on process and is not making any progress.

• Harvey indicated that he will get together with Sid and Sally to come up with a sample use case submission. The sample use case submission will may serve as a guide for future submissions.

• A special Use Case conference call will be held next Monday (9/29) to discuss the “sample use case” to be submitted by Harvey, Sid and Sally.
Call ended at 5:30 PM ET.

Action Items

- Rand expressed interest in working on Use Case submissions. Rand will write up some thoughts/recommendations regarding this process and forward them to the Use Case mailing list.
- Sid will write up/clarify his concerns and send them out to the list.
- Sid will document what he believes our deliverables should be and will send out a message to the list.
- Sid, Sally, and Harvey will submit a “sample use case” to the group by 9/26. The purpose of this “sample use case” is to provide an example of the artifacts that will be produced in a typical use case submission.
  - Sid, Sally and Harvey have been the most vocal participants regarding the use case process. The remaining subgroup members should plan to attend the 9/29 conference call to discuss the “sample use case” and prepare for a presentation of it to the entire BPEL TC. Members that are unable to attend the 9/29 conference call should plan to send feedback to the Use Case mailing list.
  - If there are no objections to the format and general structure of the “sample use case”, the “sample use case” will be populated and presented to the BPEL TC on 10/1.