



UBL Update

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Chair, OASIS UBL TC

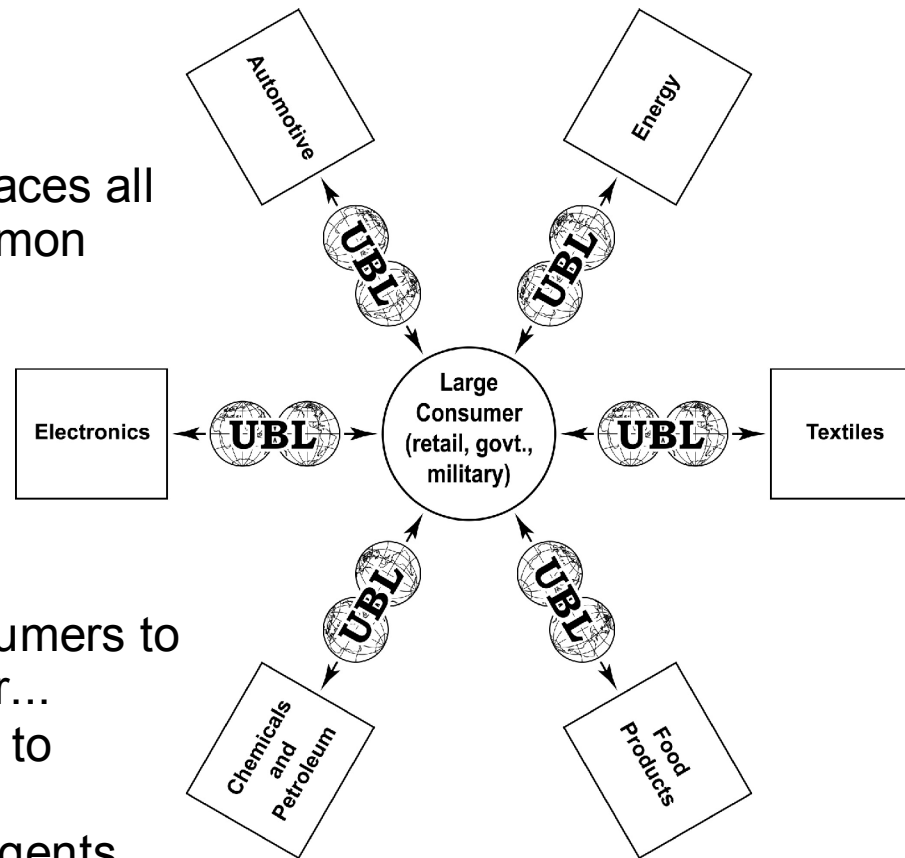
Eleventh MoU/MG Meeting
Southfield, 25 November 2003

[http://
oasis-
open.org/
committees/
ubl](http://oasis-open.org/committees/ubl)

OASIS

The role of a hub format

One adapter interfaces all suppliers to a common consumer...



as well as all consumers to a common supplier...
and *all businesses* to the tax authorities
and the customs agents
and the accountants
and the transporters ...

There appears to be no practical alternative to this plan.

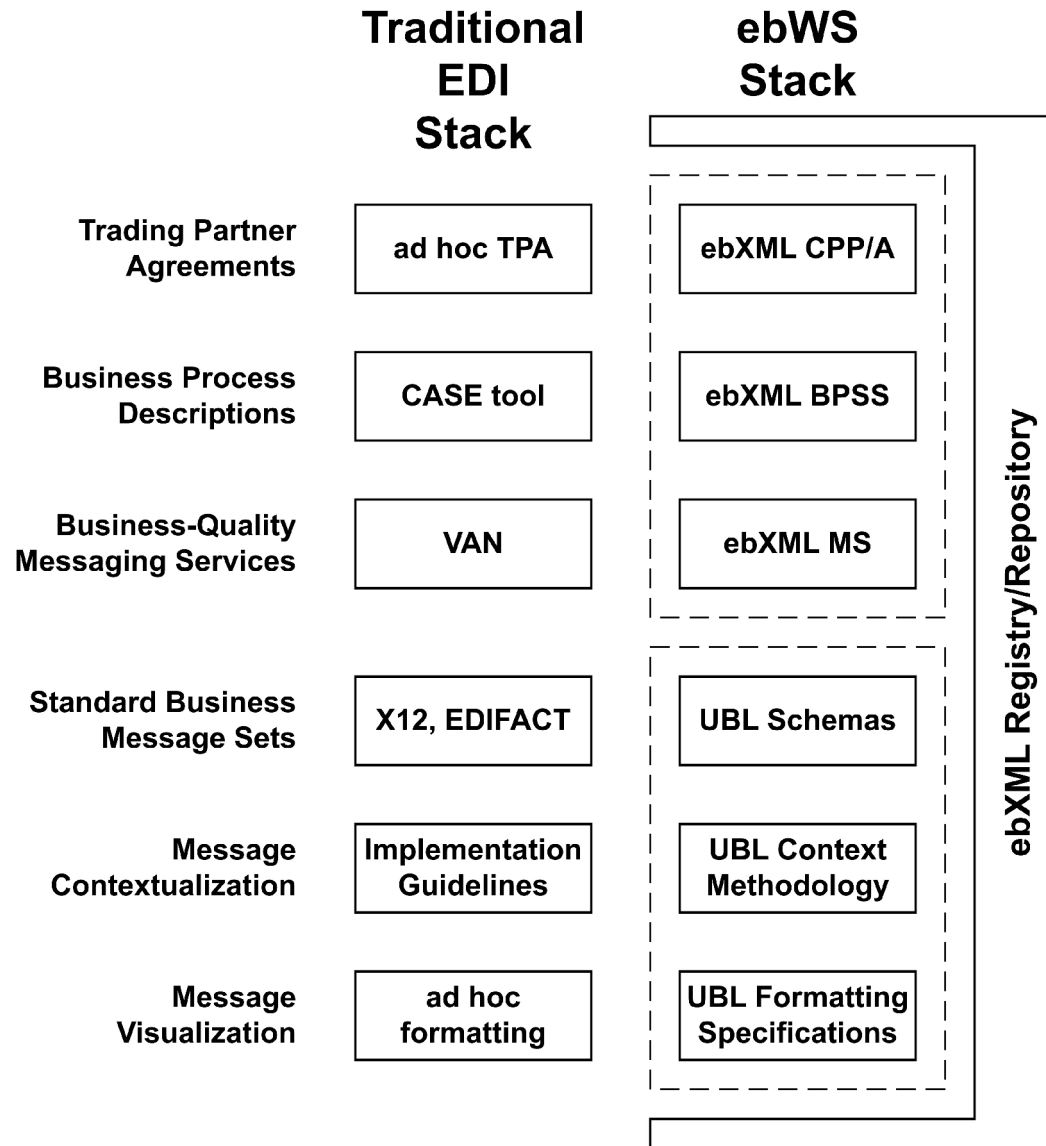


The Universal Business Language (UBL)

- International effort to define a royalty-free library of standard electronic business documents
- Designed in an open and accountable OASIS Technical Committee with participation from a variety of industry data standards organizations
- Plugs directly into existing traditional business, legal, and records management practices
- Extremely human-oriented, strong document focus, strong orientation to small and medium-size businesses
- Standard electronic documents eliminate re-keying of data in existing fax- and paper-based supply chains
- Solves the N(N-1) problem
- Fills the “payload” slot in XML-based B2B frameworks



EDI to ebWS (ebusiness web services)

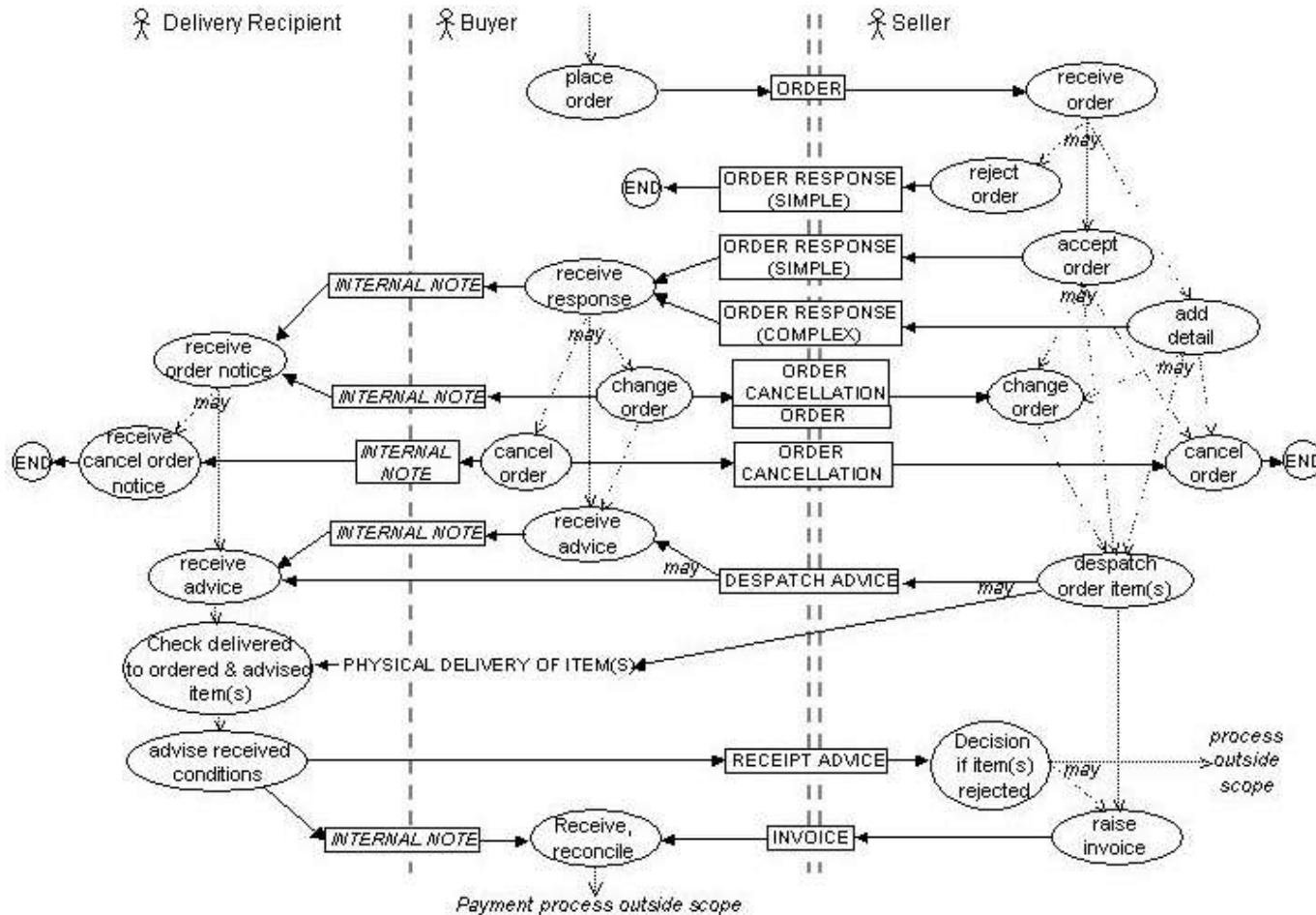


Advantages of a single format for basic business documents

- Lower cost of integration, both among and within enterprises, through reuse of common data structures
- Lower cost of commercial software (much lower than generic XML software)
- Easier learning curve (just a single library)
- Lower cost of entry and therefore quicker adoption by small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs)
- Standardized training, many skilled workers, universally available pool of system integrators
- Reprise: the World Wide Web
 - HTML + HTTP = The web for hypertext publishing
 - UBL + ebXML = The web for B2B



UBL 1.0 business context



UBL history

- Preliminary discussions at ebXML meeting in Brussels May 2000
- First organizational meeting at Sun Microsystems April 2001
- Proposal to form EDIFACT SWG May 2001
- Formation of bl-discussion@lists.commerce.net June 2001
- Second organizational meeting in Montréal August 2001
- First meeting of OASIS UBL TC October 2001
- First report to MoU/MG November 2001
- Weekly two-hour phone conferences in NDRSC and LCSC over a span of two years, others (CMSC, CDSC, TTSC, MSC) less often; FPSC formed in second year
- Ten “quarterly” F2F meetings in two years:
 - 2001.10.29 – 11.01 Menlo Park, hosted by Sun Microsystems
 - 2002.01.22 – 01.25 Menlo Park, hosted by Sun Microsystems
 - 2002.03.18 – 03.22 Barcelona, hosted by UN/CEFACT EWG
 - 2002.06.03 – 06.07 Minneapolis, hosted by ASC X12
 - 2002.10.01 – 10.04 Burlington, hosted by Sun Microsystems
 - 2002.11.18 – 11.22 Menlo Park, hosted by Sun Microsystems
 - 2003.02.03 – 02.07 Denver, hosted by ASC X12
 - 2003.04.28 – 05.02 London, hosted by APACS
 - 2003.07.28 – 08.01 Montréal, hosted by IDEAlliance
 - 2003.11.03 – 11.07 San Francisco, hosted by Sun Microsystems



UBL liaisons

- ACORD (insurance)
- ARTS (retail)
- ebXML Asia Committee
- e.centre
- EIDX (electronics)
- HL7 (healthcare)
- Information Technology Standards Committee of Singapore
- NACS (petroleum and convenience stores)
- Open Applications Group, Inc.
- RosettaNet
- SWIFT (banking)
- UIG (utilities)
- VCA (eyewear)
- UN/CEFACT TBG
- UN/CEFACT ATG
- X12 COTG
- XBRL (accounting)
- OASIS eGov TC
- OASIS CIQ TC



UBL milestones

- ✓ August – September 2002: Public sanity check of UBL 0.65 (UBL Order and Order Response schemas)
- ✓ January – March 2003: UBL 0.7 public review (complete package)
- ✓ June – July 2003: Semantic review of UBL 0.8 data model by RosettaNet, OAG, and OASIS eGov TC experts; UBL/OAG collaboration in CCTS
- ✓ August – October 2003: Data model revision, code list work, CCTS 2.0 alignment
- ✓ November 2003: Completion of UBL 1.0 Beta: UBL data model, UBL XSD component library (~240 data elements), UBL XSD document schemas, XML example instances, UML class diagrams, ASN.1 specification, formatting specifications, XSL-FO stylesheets for HTML and PDF output, documentation
- ✓ 26 November 2003: Committee Draft balloting ends



UBL schedule

- UBL 1.0 beta implementation testing begins mid-November and ends mid-February
- UBL TC will meet at LMI in Washington D.C. 23-27 Feb 2004 to incorporate the results of implementation testing
- We intend to submit UBL 1.0 for OASIS standardization in April/May 2004
- On its approval as an OASIS Standard, we will request the submission of UBL to ISO via the OASIS Class A Liaison with ISO TC 154



UBL and UN/CEFACT

- Negotiations between November 2002 and August 2003 laid the groundwork for a transfer of UBL to UN/CEFACT for versions later than UBL 1.0; see the public record at

<http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/ubl-cefact/>

- We achieved a real breakthrough with the distinction between “document-centric” (UBL) and “process-centric” (UMM) approaches
- Talks are on hold following the termination of ebXML as a joint effort between OASIS and UN/CEFACT
- We await with interest the outcome of further UN/CEFACT reorganization following the UN/CEFACT Plenary meeting next spring
- In the meantime, we intend to maintain our strict adherence to CCTS 2.0 and to work as closely as possible with the business domain and harmonization groups in UN/CEFACT TBG. *We actively solicit the establishment of liaisons between UBL and all interested TBG working groups.*



UBL and MoU/MG resolutions

- 02/05 (5.2 of N0113): It is recommended that the UBL initiative take into account the international nature of its liaison bodies when progressing work that is intended to be international in nature. In particular, it was noted that TC 154 already has liaisons to most of the relevant external bodies.
- 02/06 (5.2 of N0113): It is recommended that bodies working on data definitions, in particular ISO TCs, liaise with the UBL initiative, to ensure that established experience is exploited.
 - *We invite such bodies to appoint representatives to the UBL Liaison SC (but OASIS will require the representatives to obtain individual OASIS memberships)*
- 02/07 (6.4 of N0113): It is recommended that RELAX NG, ASN.1, and XSD be considered as important and to some extent complementary candidates for XML schema definitions.
- 02/08 (6.4 of N0113): It is recommended that groups producing XML schemas for E-business should consider parallel specification using at least two of the above in order to maximize the tools available to developers, and in order to benefit from efficient binary encoding (currently available only in ASN.1).
 - *UBL has included an ASN.1 binding since 0.7; a team has been formed under the direction of Professor Naito at the Osaka Institute of Technology to create RELAX NG equivalents of the UBL 1.0 XSD schemas*



New UBL subcommittees

- Code List Subcommittee (CLSC)
- Implementation Subcommittee (ISC)
- Japanese Localization Subcommittee (JPLSC)
- Chinese Localization Subcommittee (CNLSC)



Code List Subcommittee

- Co-chairs: Mavis Cournane, G. Ken Holman, Sue Probert
- Members: Marty Burns, Chee-Kai Chin, Tony Coates, Arofan Gregory, Anne Hendry, Gunther Stuhec
- Meetings: every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. California time (following the NDRSC meeting)
- Tasks:
 - Complete the code list position paper in light of input received and publish it as a TC Draft
 - Define a standard schema template for code lists (and possibly adjunct data) based on existing NDR specifications
 - Work with NDRSC on any changes to the NDRs
 - Work with LCSC to create “standard” and “stock” code lists for inclusion with UBL 1.0 FCS
 - Define a maintenance and versioning strategy for the code lists included in UBL



Implementation SC

- Co-chairs: Bill French and Anne Hendry
- Members: Bill Meadows, Dean Burson, Lars Opperman, other representatives of companies implementing UBL products
- Meetings: Every Friday at 9 a.m. California time
- Tasks:
 - Monitor the ubl-dev list and develop the UBL response to salient postings
 - Collate issues discovered during the implementation phase and convey them to LCSC, NDRSC, FPSC



Generic localization SC charter (1)

- Operation:
 - Operate in target language
 - Meet on local schedule
 - Report monthly to UBL TC list
 - Report quarterly at UBL TC meetings
- Essential tasks:
 - Translate UBL specifications and documentation into target language
 - Create language-specific lookup table (vocabulary reference guide) for UBL element and attribute names
 - Propose extensions to UBL to accommodate local legal and business practices
 - Assist FPSC in the creation of language-specific formatting specifications



Generic localization SC charter (2)

- Additional authorizations:
 - Build and maintain UBL web site in the target language
 - Publicize UBL in the target language
 - Hold workshops and other activities in the target language
 - Conduct studies of actual and potential UBL use in the target locale for input to the UBL TC
- Restrictions:
 - Must follow our standing rules for technical committees



JPLSC Membership (in progress)

- Chair Noboru Itoh (EA-ECA)
- Vice Chair Yukinori Saito (ECOM)
- Members Mr.Makino (FutureSystemConsulting)
Mr.Horikawa (NTTCom)
Mr.Tsukakoshi (SAP Japan)
Mr.Ogikawa (ITFrontier)
Mr.Sato (Askul)
Mr.Ogawara (EA-ECA)
Mr.Ohhara (EA-ECA)
- Observer Mr. Okabe (OASIS Japan Rep.)



CNLSC Membership (in progress)

- Co-chairs:
 - Mr. Patrick Yee, Senior Technology Officer, Center for E-Commerce Infrastructure Development (CECID) at the University of Hong Kong
 - Mr. William Chan, CTO, China National Registry of Product and Service Codes (CNRPSC), a subsidiary of the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS)
- Members:
 - Mr. Bisong Liu, Director of the Sub-Institute of Information Standardization, CNIS
 - Mr. Hong Wei, Director of e-Business Standardization Dept, Information Standardization Institute, CNIS



2004 UBL TC meeting schedule

- 23-27 Feb 2004 at LMI in Washington, D.C.
- 10-14 May 2004 at HKU in Hong Kong
- 16-20 August 2004 at Danish Bankers Association in Copenhagen
- 1-5 November 2004 at Sun Microsystems in San Francisco



For more information

UBL: <http://oasis-open.org>

ebXML: <http://ebxml.org>

freebXML: <http://www.freebxml.org>

OpenOffice: <http://openoffice.org>

xmlroff: <http://xmlroff.sourceforge.net/>

To join UBL, contact the chair, Jon Bosak:

jon.bosak@sun.com

