JB introduced the subject of Core Components to the workshop, explaining that in the UK ‘core components’ are known as ‘data standards’, and the metadata for the data is contained within a standard. Governments exchange data internally and externally, and therefore there must be a core set of data which needs to be defined. JB questioned whether this would be possible or whether there has been work previously undertaken in this area.

FN demonstrated the role and functions of an ebXML registry, with the focus on controlled vocabularies, specifically looking at a UI tool (for registry). FN gave the example of ISO 3166 (language code), highlighting the discovery and submission features. FN demonstrated to the workshop how to make a scheme on the registry. FN underlined that no previous knowledge of XML would be necessary, and the level of detail can be expanded by using ‘slots’; ‘identifiers’; ‘external links’.
FN then demonstrated how to create a service by simply adding an object, such as a classification.

FN concluded that the registry is versatile and adaptable and has a rich access control mechanism. Masks and formatting are used and queries can be very precise and/or very complicated. It is also possible to make application specific queries. The request and response of the queries can be made using different types of channels. Another feature is content cataloguing (automatic content specific indexing) which enables content based queries. FN demonstrated the events notification feature, which notifies a subscription as to news/changes on objects. Additional features can be added to objects, making it extensible. The registry uses PKI, so integrity holds.
FN added that the registry can create associations across other registries.

DN presented to the workshop on the subject of Core Components. Core components are not just things but are complete methodologies as to how to define things. Initial investigations resulted in further issues being raised. The e-Gov TC only focused on the methodology.

Core components captures semantic information about real-world concepts. This information can either be atomic or aggregate as it must occur in many levels of business.
DN demonstrated an ebXML meta-model, highlighting that the core components are driven by UMM. DN browsed through the specifications for core components and the use of BIE (Business Information Entities).

DN reported that the application of this work has been taken on by the UBL TC. DN proposed that the project team begin work based on the existing documentation produced by the TC regarding core component serialisation and storage. The next step will be to invite input from the e-Gov TC for further work, focusing on the Canadian government exercise. Inputting and exporting the data from the registry would naturally produce a methodology which can be then considered by the TC.

JB emphasised the two aspects of the project; the technology to handle it and the business issues. JB elaborated this by demonstrating the UK Government Data Standards Catalogue.

JB requested that the project would investigate the business aspect of core components, questioning what would be necessary for governments entering data into the registry.

BN confirmed that the Danish government uses core components.

PB questioned how the TC could contribute in this area, suggesting reconciling the meta-model and identifying what core components and types are common across borders.

JB proposed to develop a recommendation as to what core components to use, or at least attempt to start working from the same roadmap.

PB reported on the proposal to the European Parliament for the development of an ebXML registry.

It was reported that the Tax XML TC is in the process of choosing core components. This work will be finished in June 2004.

AW suggested the project focuses on producing a core component usage guide, but admitted this itself would be a complicated task.

PB stressed the importance of raising awareness and educating, as the knowledge base in this area is very thin at the moment.

JB reported on the registry proof of concept currently being undertaken in the UK. This pilot is investigating the infrastructure aspect, but could possibly look into other areas.

The workshop agreed that the UK pilot should link with the work carried out by the Canadian government.

The workshop agreed on the following work to be included in the proof of concept scope:

1. Recommendation of ebXML registry as way forward, to provide guidance and business case for usage.
2. Define business definitions of the elements.