oBIX XML Standards Teleconference
September 8, 2004, 11:00am – 11:30pm (EST)

Overview
Discussed status, “about” and alarming.

Attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Hansen</td>
<td>Tridium</td>
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<td>Brian Frank</td>
<td>Tridium</td>
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<td>Dr. Ken Wacks</td>
<td>Ken Wacks Associates</td>
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<td>Ganesh Markale</td>
<td>Honeywell</td>
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<td>Jeremy Roberts</td>
<td>LonMark</td>
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<td>Peter Manolescue</td>
<td>SecurityXML</td>
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<td>Rob Zivney</td>
<td>Hirsh</td>
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<td>Samuel Yang</td>
<td>Echelon</td>
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Discussion

- What's new:
  - Status
  - About (server summary)
- Status
  - Combination of ideas from OPC, BACnet and Tridium's experience.
  - Quality is an enum that tells how trustworthy a data value is.
  - Alarm condition is only summary information. Alarm service handles the details.
  - Timestamp is when the oBIX server actually acquired the value.
  - Generic name-value pairs.
- What is “mask” status in security?
  - Consider access control. When a door is opened an alarm should be fired unless a proper card has been swiped. The card swipe typically creates a timed mask.
  - Masking seems to be a local matter of the native control system. It doesn't need to be exposed, only the end result, which is whether a piece of data is in alarm or not.
- How does one acknowledge an alarm?
  - The alarm service.
  - So is the alarm service required?
- For future consideration: In addition to receiving and acknowledging alarms, consider the ability to clear one.
  - What is the difference between acknowledgement and clearing?
    Acknowledgement only means a human has seen something, the data might still be in alarm. Clearing it is a separate function.
- What documents are out there for alarming?
  - NFPA 72D from NFPA.org.
  - UL 1076 “Proprietary Burglar Alarms” from UL.org.
  - LonMark and BACnet both have alarming.
- Is the “params” element in status for extensibility?
• Yes. Status seems to be one area where people will want to add additional information.
• Do people like this pattern, generic name value pairs?
• How will we address extensibility in general?
  • Can we have a display string in status?
    • If a point is in fault, a string describing why it is in fault is very helpful.
    • Well, there is the display element on the object. Do we want a display string for the data value and a separate display string for the status?
    • We'll add an optional display string to status. The idea is that the display at the object level is a summary, which may say the value if in fault. The display in the status would give a more verbose reason as to why the value is in fault.
• Will we add server start time to the about structure. This informs clients when the server has been restarted.
• Is the about result for locale a list? Yes.

Action Items

• Peter M will research alarming specifications in Europe to determine if they differ from their American counterparts.
• Brian will straw man "writes" or history for next time.
• Doug Ransom will discuss his research on asynchronous messaging.