

UBL Meeting Mapping Committee Report

29 October through 1 November 2001
Menlo Park, California

Terms of Reference

This committee was formed to undertake a review of xCBL 3.0 with respect to the semantic registry that has been developed by the X12/EWG Joint Core Component initiative. The initial work product was to be a mapping of every xCBL construct into a corresponding JCC construct and vice versa, identifying such changes to xCBL and the JCC definitions as are necessary to support a workable mapping.

The team was subsequently asked to develop a set of recommendations regarding the development of the UBL core library to be presented at the OASIS TC inaugural meeting (October 29th) to assist in the formation of working groups within the new TC.

Participants

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Schedule

- Team announced September 18th
- Team List started September 28th
- Draft discussion paper circulated October 5th
- Teleconferences on October 16th and October 23rd

Team Library

- Mapping Strategy Recommendation (attached)
- Draft Core Component Types to xCBL Datatypes Mapping Table
- OAG Core Components Design Approach presentation (courtesy Tim Thomasma)
- SAP Global Types and Entities proposal (courtesy Gunther Stuhlec)

These documents, together with correspondence within the team are available from the UBL Mapping Discussion List Archive at: <http://lists.commerce.net/archives/bl-mapping>
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Summary of Findings and Recommendations

1. The relationship between the concepts of Core Components and xCBL are:
 - Core Component (semantic model) + Context = Business Information Entity (semantic model).
 - Business Information Entities (semantic models, refined) + specific syntax binding = specific business vocabulary in XML (e.g. xCBL 3.0).
2. Our initial focus will be to map the "80%" documents for a range of common processes.
3. The team propose a mapping methodology as follows.
 - A. Start by mapping every simple data-level core component as well as any obvious higher-level constructs of the current CC library to what is in xCBL.
 - B. Using the mappings from step A., and the existing xCBL library, we reverse-engineer the process, to:
 - a. Look for "in-context" matches between mapped items found in step A and establish the Business Information Entity and contexts involved.
 - b. Document syntax-binding rules to help in deciphering the rest of the Core Component library.
 - C. Identify the xCBL structures that aren't yet mapped, and determine:
 - a. Which of these constructs can usefully be assembled from lower-level core components that exist.
 - b. Any structures that may be absent from the CC library. It should be noted that the CC library is a work-in-progress and these missing items should be submitted as candidate core components to expand the library.
 - c. Any inconsistencies in the xCBL library. We should not assume that xCBL definitions consistently follow their own constructs. These items should be identified for modification.
 - D. Produce a map that has xCBL elements, sets of context drivers and their values, and the Core Component(s) involved.
4. As a validation of this methodology, we suggest that steps B, C and D be initially prototyped using a constrained set of xCBL structures (for example, the xCBL construct, ItemDetail). This could be a work item for UBL workshops in the week commencing October 29th 2001.