

OASIS - Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards

Panel Statement

Widespread global adoption of open standards requires both sanction (official endorsement) and traction (implementation within available software).

Organization Background

OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards) is a not-for-profit, international consortium that drives the development, convergence, and adoption of e-business standards. The consortium produces more Web services standards than any other organization along with standards for security, e-business, and standardization efforts in the public sector and for application-specific markets. Founded in 1993, OASIS has more than 3,500 participants representing over 600 organizations and individual members in 100 countries.

OASIS is distinguished by its transparent governance and operating procedures. Members themselves set the OASIS technical agenda, using a lightweight process expressly designed to promote industry consensus and unite disparate efforts. Completed work is ratified by open ballot. Governance is accountable and unrestricted. Officers of both the OASIS Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Board are chosen by democratic election to serve two-year terms. Consortium leadership is based on individual merit and is not tied to financial contribution, corporate standing, or special appointment.

The Consortium hosts two of the most widely respected information portals on XML and Web services standards, Cover Pages and XML.org. OASIS Member Sections include CGM Open, DCML, LegalXML, PKI, and UDDI.

SGML Open

OASIS was founded in 1993 under the name SGML Open as a consortium of vendors and users devoted to developing guidelines for interoperability among products that support the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). OASIS changed its name in 1998 to reflect an expanded scope of technical work, including the Extensible Markup Language (XML) and other related standards.

Speaker Information

Patrick J. Gannon is President and CEO of OASIS. He has served on the OASIS Board of Directors since July 2000. Patrick has also served since 2000 with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as Chairman of the Team of Specialists for Internet Enterprise Development, which advises governments in transitional economies on best practices for electronic business. He has worked for BEA Systems, as Senior Vice President in the E-Commerce Integration Division. Patrick also served as Vice President of Marketing and Industry Programs at Netfish Technologies and as Vice President of Strategic Programs for the CommerceNet Consortium, directing research and development efforts in new Internet commerce standards such as XML. While at CommerceNet, he was the first Project Leader for RosettaNet and served as Executive Director for the Open Buying on the Internet (OBI) initiative. Patrick is co-author of the book: Building Database-Driven Web Catalogs, and is an international speaker on electronic business and Web Services standards.

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