
Call for Participation on New Technical Committee, Business Transactions (Announced January 18)

A new OASIS technical committee is being formed. The Business Transactions Technical Committee has been proposed by Rocky Stewart, BEA Systems (chair); Pal Takacsi-Nagy, BEA Systems; Frederick Carter, Sun Microsystems; and Mark Hale, Interwoven.

To become a member of this new TC you must notify Rocky Stewart (rocky.stewart@bea.com [1]), the committee chair, of your interest at least 15 days prior to the first meeting and then you must participate in the first meeting on March 13, 2001. You should also subscribe to the TC's discussion list. (For the procedure for joining after the first meeting see the TC process at <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/process.shtml> [2].)

The mail list business-transaction@lists.oasis-open.org [3] is for committee discussions. TC members as well as any other interested OASIS members should subscribe to the list. Do this by sending a message to business-transaction-request@lists.oasis-open.org [4] with the word "subscribe" as the body of the message. (Note that subscribing to the mail list does not make you a member of the TC; to become a member you must contact the TC chair as described in the preceding paragraph.)

Business Transactions Committee Proposal

BEA Systems, a member of OASIS, proposes to start a Technical Committee in OASIS to develop technology for business transactions on the Internet. Long lasting business transactions spanning multiple enterprises pose a unique challenge to B2B systems. The interdependent workflows managed among multiple trading partners, which drive business transactions, need to be coordinated to ensure that the outcome of the transaction is reliable. As an initial input, BEA intends to offer a specification for our Business Transaction Protocol (BTP), which provides this functionality and is implemented in our Weblogic Collaborate product. BTP is an eXtensible Markup Language (XML)-based protocol for representing and seamlessly managing complex, multi-step business-to-business (B2B) transactions over the Internet. The protocol allows complex XML message exchanges to be tracked and managed as loosely coupled "conversations" between and among businesses. BTP goes beyond the problem domain currently being addressed by ebXML and is independent of transport protocols and messaging frameworks. We believe that it can be layered on any underlying transport mechanism including ebXML Messaging, RosettaNet, or XML-PC (SOAP).

The purpose of this committee is:

- * To develop an agreed to set of requirements for a business transaction protocol
- * To evaluate the BEA technology submission and other available technologies made available to the committee and determine their suitability to the requirements identified by the committee
- * To produce a final specification for a business transaction protocol which works in conjunction with existing business messaging standards, particularly those being developed in the ebXML initiative

BEA will make its detailed submission available by the end of February 2001, before the first meeting, and will make a presentation describing the proposed BTP technology at the first meeting.

An initial schedule for the committee is summarized below:

- * January 19, 2001 - OASIS issues Call for Participation
- * March 13, 2001 - First Meeting to be hosted by BEA Systems at our San Jose headquarters
- * April 30, 2001 - Initial Requirements Document ready for review
- * May 31, 2001 - First Specification Draft available for review
- * July 31, 2001 - Final Specification Draft available for Version 1.0

We propose to set the detailed schedule at the first meeting of the committee to accommodate the needs of the members, including dates for conference calls (most likely bi-weekly) and at most two additional face-to-face meetings (one in the middle of the schedule and the latter to review the final draft). BEA Systems will host the first meeting in San Jose, California on March 13, 2001. For those unable to travel to San Jose, a dial-in number will be provided. BEA will assume responsibility for the setup of conference calls as required. The TC will conduct its business in English.

The initial committee membership will be as follows:

- * Rocky Stewart, BEA Systems (chair) - rocky.stewart@bea.com [1]
- * Pal Takacsi-Nagy, BEA Systems - - pal.takacsi@bea.com [5]
- * Frederick Carter, Sun Microsystems - frederick.carter@sun.com [6]
- * Mark Hale, Interwoven - mark.hale@interwoven.com [7]

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Links:

- [1] <mailto:rocky.stewart@bea.com>
- [2] <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/process.shtml>
- [3] <mailto:business-transaction@lists.oasis-open.org>
- [4] <mailto:business-transaction-request@lists.oasis-open.org>
- [5] <mailto:pal.takacsi@bea.com>
- [6] <mailto:frederick.carter@sun.com>
- [7] <mailto:mark.hale@interwoven.com>