

ECIMF

relationship to ebXML, RosettaNet & OAGIS

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ECIMF Scope

- Scope:
 - Interoperability of different e-commerce frameworks
 - Integration of internal business processes with external e-commerce interfaces
- Methodology:
 - Semantic mapping of corresponding concepts
 - Process mediation between differing business process definitions
 - Syntax mapping between differing message formats and transport protocols
- Primary goal:
 - e-commerce partners interoperability

ebXML, RN & OAG: scope

- Current ebXML scope:
 - no usable common Business Document definitions
 - no usable common dictionary (CC)
 - Well-specified BPSS, CPP/CPA and TRP
 - Primary goal: **e-commerce partners interoperability**
- Current RN scope:
 - No Reg/Rep, discovery, CPP/CPA
 - Continuing alignment with ebXML
 - Well-specified BP, TRP, business messages
 - Primary goal: **e-commerce partners interoperability**
- Current OAG scope:
 - TRP not in scope
 - Well-specified business messages
 - BP definitions: ? (loosely defined scenarios ???)
 - Primary goal: **e-commerce applications interoperability**

RosettaNet & OAG

- Common approach:
 - Development of unified dictionary, message and business process definitions
 - **Integration / interoperability achieved by partners' full conformance to the common model**
- Prerequisites:
 - Integration of internal processes & applications to conform to the common interface (using unspecified means...)
 - All parties **MUST** conform to the common framework in their external interfaces
- Areas of concern:
 - How to integrate internal processes to the required external interface?

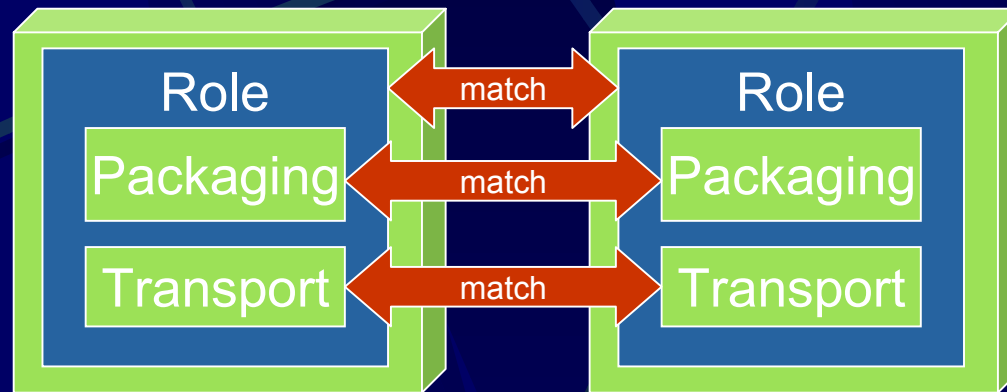
RN & OAG: Conclusions

- RosettaNet and OAG bring a wealth of industry-specific, concrete and common models and scenarios
- ECIMF addresses topics that are prerequisites to integration of RN or OAGIS interfaces with internal processes and applications
- **CONCLUSION:**
 - **Both RNIF and OAGIS should be considered as important reference frameworks to check the ECIMF concept**
 - **significant reuse of industry-specific models and scenarios will help ECIMF**
 - **ECIMF can help businesses to integrate RN or OAG specifications with their internal applications/processes**

ECIMF and ebXML

- Focus on Business Process Modeling and top-down approach
 - Formal methodology to model e-business interactions from BP to Message to Protocol levels
- Interoperability between differing specifications
 - Formal specification for achieving interoperability in case of different interfaces/preferences
 - ebXML: CPP/CPA
 - ECIMF: MANIFEST
 - Layered approach to interoperability

ebXML CPP: CPA formation



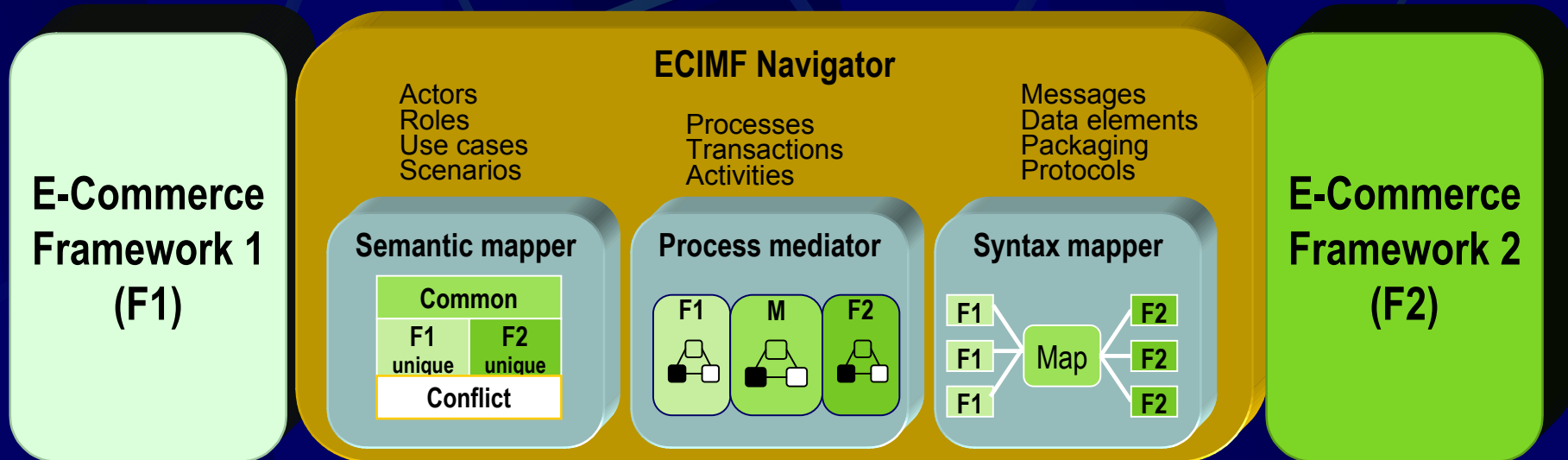
● Prerequisites:

- Use of common semantics, BP model and syntax (based on e.g. ebBPSS)
- Use of common business document formats (implied)

● Areas of concern:

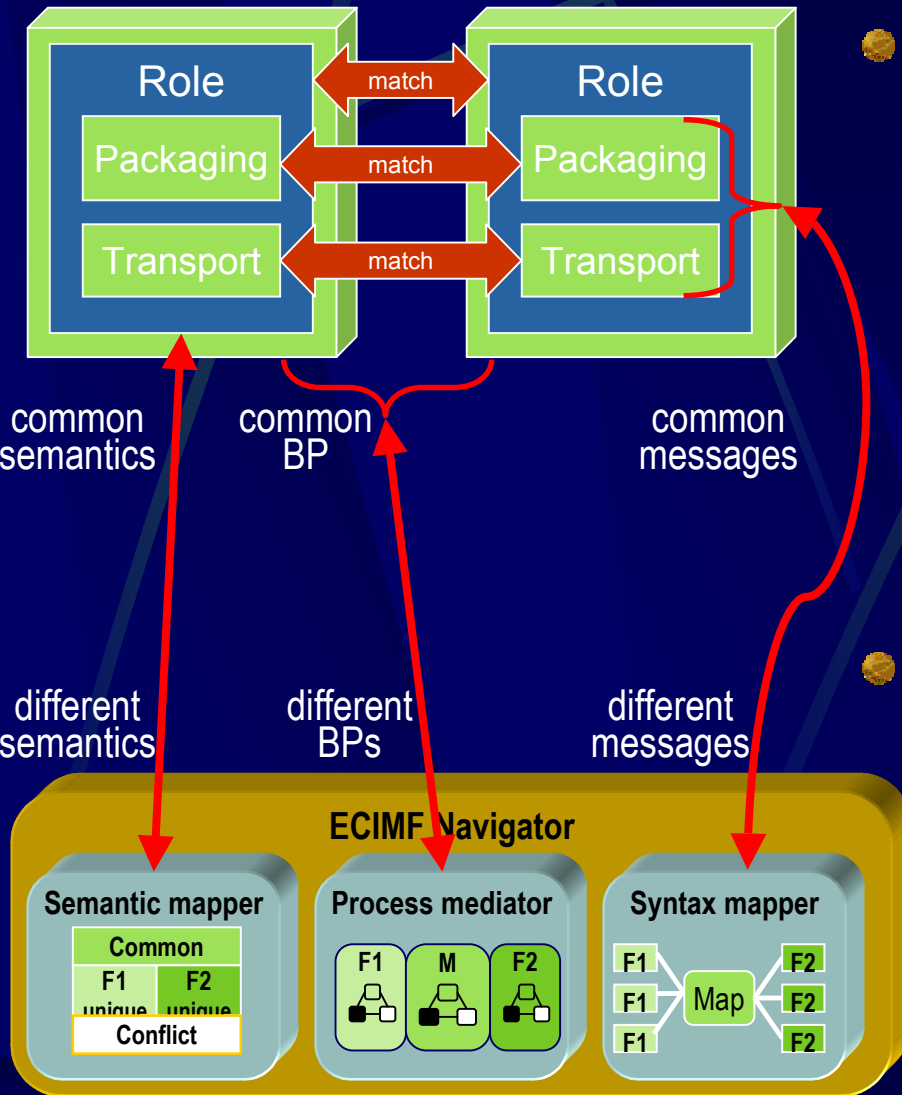
- How the “match” is defined and established?
 - ebCCP p. 85 describes only very simple example, where the BP specs don't differ
- How to “match” BPs based on different standards (e.g. RosettaNet PIP and OAG BOD)? (different semantics, models and interactions)
- How to express message format transformations, if needed?

Interoperability: ECIMF approach



- Meta-framework for defining the transformation rules between similar Business Processes, but expressed using different frameworks
- Uses semantic alignment, process mediation and syntax mapping to ensure interoperability even between different frameworks
- Applicable also to integration of internal processes to external interfaces (which is a special case of differing frameworks)
- Areas of concern:
 - Complex – needs good tools to simplify the task for end-users
 - Partially overlaps with other approaches
 - needs coordination with widely recognized methodologies, most of all with UMM

Interoperability: ECIMF vs. CPP/CPA approach



● ebXML CPP/CPA

- Uses fixed (common) semantics
- Uses common BP specification for both parties
- Assumes that parties are able to (somehow) interface internal processes to the common BP
- Allows for negotiation of interoperability on the Role level (choosing from a list), and transport/packaging level (part of ECIMF Syntax level).

● ECIMF

- Aligns the semantics of different frameworks
- Uses mediation between different BP specifications
- Can be applied to integrate internal processes with external interfaces
- Specifies transformations of different message formats, packaging and protocols

ECIMF and ebXML: conclusions

- Currently CPA addresses only simple cases of common models and semantics
 - It doesn't specify formal process/approach to form CPA in case of differing semantics and process definition
 - It doesn't specify more complex transformations between incompatible message formats and data elements
 - It doesn't address the issue of interfacing internal processes to common external BP specifications
- ECIMF will address these issues by semantic mapping, process mediation and syntax mapping
- ECIMF could use extended CPP/CPA and BPSS to express the transformation rules
- **CONCLUSION: Alignment and close cooperation between ECIMF and ebXML (CPP/CPA & BP work) is very desirable and should benefit both projects.**

Alignment of ECIMF with UMM

- More and more frameworks use RUP and UMM
 - RosettaNet and ebXML
- UMM represents accumulated knowledge of many domain experts
- UMM is based on widely accepted industry standard (RUP)
- Current status:
 - ECIMF: Semantics ↔ UMM: BOV + FSV
 - ECIMF: Dynamics ↔ UMM: FSV + BOV + IFV
 - ECIMF: Syntax ↔ UMM: IFV

Summary

- ECIMF project needs very close cooperation with ebXML, RosettaNet, OAG and TMWG
- All projects should benefit from the cooperation, because the strengths of one seem to match the weaknesses of others
- Significant reuse of concepts and experiences is expected, desirable and much welcome
- **Proposed action point:**
 - Establish a task force team including representatives from each project to work on common strategy

Questions & comments

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