

CEN/ISSS Electronic Commerce Workshop

ECIMF – E-Commerce Integration Meta-Framework

Project kick-off meeting

3 May 2001, CEN, Brussels

Participants:

Andrée Ahano, COFACE
Colin Barham, TIE
Andrzej Bialecki, WebGiro
Tony Fletcher, BT
Barbara Gatti, CEN
Man Sze LI, IC Focus
Hugo Lüders, euroVision IT Associates
Ambjörn Naeve, CID/KTH
Kana Sanjeevan, UPC
Fernard Simon, Fintech

Documents tabled:

- ECIMF project proposal (version 1.3) & Annex n2 “Comparison of modeling notations” (draft 0.3)
- Interoperability of enterprise software – Report of the Workshop held on 21 March 2001 in Brussels at the European Commission/DG InfoSoc

1 & 2 Welcome participants - Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with the inclusion of the following items:

- 4.1.bis Presentation of the Conzilla software tool
- 5. 2 Presentation of the Interoperability paper

3 Appointment of ECIMF Project Group Chair

Mr Bialecki was appointed Project Group Chair.

Mr Bialecki has a technical background. He has been involved in XML developments for some years and in the definition of home banking systems.

4 Presentation of contributions

4.1 Presentation of WebGiro and its partners

WebGiro is owned by the main Scandinavian insurance companies and has a partnership with key technological suppliers. It currently employs around 40 people plus a number of consultants.

The Swedish branches of Microsoft, HP (at global level) and MCI have confirmed their support to the project.

4.2 The need for inter-framework modeling and integration standard

The project addresses the need for a systematic approach to a standardized integration between e-commerce standards and purchasing/procurement/selling operations of SMEs. The current situation sees different vendors' solutions proposed to SMEs, reflecting the vendor's viewpoint of such operations and not the SMEs' view.

Reasons were given for changing the project name from DCML to ECIMF.

The project proposes a 3 layers' approach based on:

- semantics
- dynamics
- syntax

The project relates to UMM: while UMM is a methodology, defining a sequence of activities, ECIMF is a taxonomy of the model and does not concentrate on the sequence.

ECIML is within the family of UML – further developments of UML will be taken into account.

The navigator used is based on an Open source tool called Conzilla which has been developed by CID (the IT department) of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. The tool supports the users.

A specification of XML, Xmi, will be used to exchange the models.

For benefits of the project are clearly outlined in the project proposal.

Referring to the Powerpoint presentation: the project's aim is to provide all what is in yellow in slide n.10 as an open standard.

The process takes into account also the fact that there may be message "headings" on one side (i.e. the purchaser) which do not have any correspondence on the other side (the buyer). (Process modeling 2 – slide n16) .

This modelling meta-framework is independent from software (up to the second layer).

Final goal is to reach interoperability using a process mediator. The project will provide the basic implementation of process mediator.

An issue that arises is what happens if the mediator does not mediate well.

Project Deliverables will be:

- general methodology
- technical specification
- reference toolkit

Conzilla is an open source tool written in Java and based on XML.

The navigator will be an extension of Conzilla with a scripting language and a ECIMF code generator.

ECIMF will support the use and combination of different existing standards within industry.

4.3 Current approaches to business process modeling and integration

A comparison of the modeling notations for Business process and EAI modeling is contained in annex. It is suggested to include Arris and Oracle Workflow.

5 Discussion of the project proposal and the scope of work

Is there enough mature use of XML to require this kind of service? WebGiro and partners are convinced about that. With the experience of EDI, it is not straightforward that one single paradigm for XML will dominate, therefore the need for a mediator among different types.

6 Open invitation for contributions, appointment of external liaisons

The project needs to liaise with RosettaNet, ebXML, OASIS, OMG, etc.

7 Discussion on deliverables and timescales

A detailed scheme for deliverable will be presented at the next meeting.
The project will be running for 18 months.

8 Next steps

The next meeting will be held in Oslo on 12 June.

Action list

N°	Action	On	Deadline
01	To prepare an update version of the project proposal and related annex	Andrzej	By end May
02	To ask OASIS, RosettaNet, OMG for comments on project proposal	Andrzej	By Oslo meeting
03	To liaise with ebXML	Secretariat	By Oslo meeting
04	To comment on project proposal	all	By Oslo meeting