UBL: XML Takes on the Vertical Industries

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http://oasis-open.org/committees/ubl
XML and documents

- XML provides a standard framework for defining an unlimited number of document languages for different purposes.
- XML allows us to put business documents into a machine-readable form that is widely supported by generic XML tools.
- So... What's the problem?
XML in verticals

- **Electronics Mfr A**
  - *RosettaNet*
  - A's Industry Partners

- **Auto Mfr B**
  - *OAGIS*
  - B's Industry Partners

- **Chemical Mfr C**
  - *CIDX*
  - C's Industry Partners
The problem


RosettaNet  ↓  A's Industry Partners

OAGIS  ↓  B's Industry Partners

CIDX  ↓  C's Industry Partners
The solution

Electronics Mfr A  UBL  Auto Mfr B  UBL  Chemical Mfr C

RosettaNet  OAGIS  CIDX

A's Industry Partners  B's Industry Partners  C's Industry Partners
The role of a hub format

One adapter interfaces all suppliers to a common consumer...

as well as all consumers to a common supplier... and all businesses to the tax authorities and the customs agents and the accountants and the transporters ...

There appears to be no practical alternative to this plan.
The Universal Business Language (UBL)

- International effort to define a royalty-free library of standard electronic business documents
- Designed in an open and accountable OASIS Technical Committee with participation from a variety of industry data standards organizations
- Plugs directly into existing traditional business, legal, and records management practices
- Standard electronic documents eliminate re-keying of data in existing fax- and paper-based supply chains
- Solves the N(N-1) problem
- Fills the “payload” slot in XML-based B2B frameworks
EDI to eBWS (ebusiness web services)
Advantages of a single business format

- Lower cost of integration, both among and within enterprises, through reuse of common data structures
- Lower cost of commercial software (much lower than generic XML software)
- Easier learning curve (just a single library)
- Lower cost of entry and therefore quicker adoption by small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs)
- Standardized training, many skilled workers, universally available pool of system integrators
- Reprise: the World Wide Web
  - HTML + HTTP = The web for hypertext publishing
  - UBL + ebXML = The web for B2B
UBL timeline

Recent milestones:

- January – March 2003: UBL 0.7 public review
- June – July 2003: UBL 0.8 RosettaNet, OAG, and eGov review

1.0 schedule:

- August – October 2003: UBL 1.0 beta construction (normative schemas, data models, UML class diagrams, ASN.1 binding, formatting specifications, stylesheets, documentation, example instances, etc.)
- November 2003 – January 2004: UBL 1.0 beta testing
- February 2004: Submit UBL 1.0 for OASIS standardization
For more information

**UBL**: http://oasis-open.org

**ebXML**: http://ebxml.org

**freebXML**: http://www.freebxml.org

**OpenOffice**: http://openoffice.org

**xmlroff**: http://xmlroff.sourceforge.net/

To join UBL, contact the chair, Jon Bosak:
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