OASIS

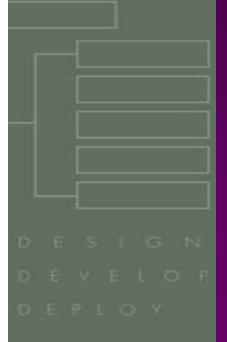# Recent Technical Developments

John Borras

Office of e-Envoy

Cabinet Office

UK Government   June 2003

Agenda

- What is OASIS?

- Which Standards?

- Emerging technologies

- E-Government Technical Committee

OASIS

OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATION

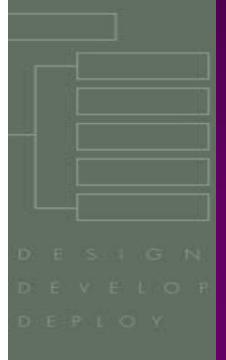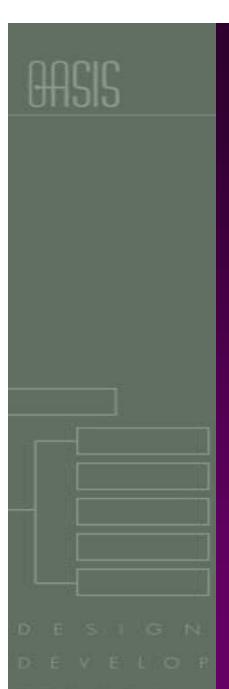http://www.oasis-open.org

Mission

OASIS drives the development, convergence & adoption

of e-business standards.

Overview

- OASIS is a member consortium dedicated to building systems interoperability specifications
- Members of OASIS are providers, users and specialists of standards-based technologies
  - Include organisations, individuals, industry groups and governments
  - More than 500 members
- International, Not-for-profit, Open, Independent
- Successful through industry and government wide collaboration

OASIS Value

- **Ten years demonstrated success**
- **Neutral and independent**
- **Technical and procedural competence**
- **Worldwide visibility and outreach**
- **Close coordination with peer standards organisations on a global level**
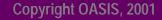
OASIS technical agenda

- The OASIS technical agenda is set by the members; bottom-up approach

- Technical committees formed by the proposal of members

- Attempt to cooperate and liaise with other standards organisations as much as possible

OASIS standards process

- **Standards are created under an open, democratic, vendor-neutral process**
  - Any interested parties may participate, comment
  - No one organisation can dictate the standard
  - Ensures that standards meet everyone's needs, not just largest players'
- **Open to all interested parties**
- **All discussion open to public comment**
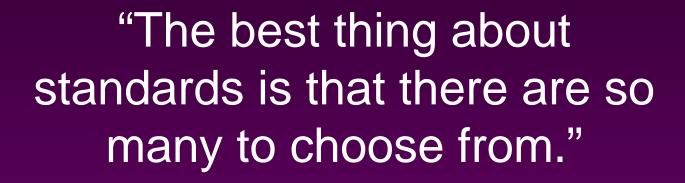- **Resulting work is guaranteed to be representative of OASIS as a whole, not just any one vendor's view**

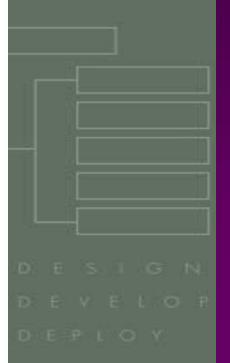# Which Standards?

"The best thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from."

Difference between Specification and Standard

- **Specification is the technical document**
- **Standard has agreement or approval under some process**

Types of Standards

- *De Jure*
  - Force of law; approved by one of the four recognized international standards organizations (ISO, IEC, ITU, UN/ECE)

- Open
  - Approved under an open process where all interested parties have input, results are publicly viewable, etc.; the organization who developed the standard may be *de jure* or not.

- *De Facto*
  - A standard only because of common usage, or by proclamation of a dominant vendor
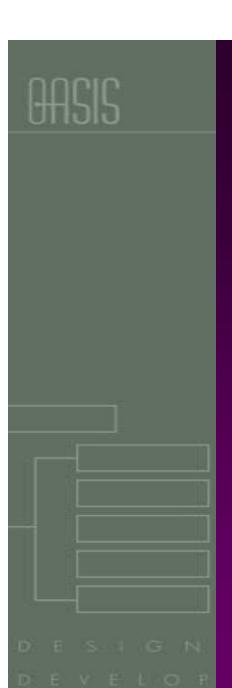
- Joint Commercial Venture
  - A specification resulting from the (usually private and secret) joint development work of a small number of vendors

Benefits of Using Standards

- Increase efficiencies with information exchange
  - Eliminate re-keying of information
- Unify and expand markets, allow markets to grow
- Preventing/delaying product obsolescence
  - Proprietary solutions become obsolete quickly
- More users/consumer choice
  - Vendors compete with value-add on top of interoperable core technologies rather than on incompatible technologies.
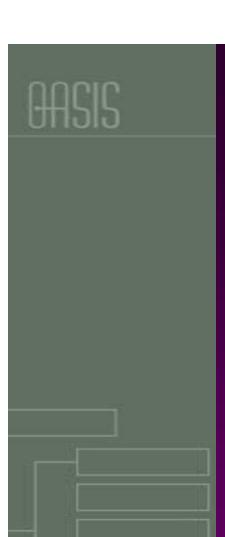
ROI to Vendors for Standards Participation

- Avoid reinventing the wheel; save development costs for core technologies (by sharing with other participants)

- Demonstration of leadership in the industry

- Interoperability

- Learning from other participants

- Influencing industry direction

- Early to market

How Should Standards Be Developed?

- Participation should be open to all interested parties

- Participants should include broad representation from a range of interested parties, including both vendors and end users

- Standards should be approved by consensus or majority decision

- Standards should implementable and implemented

How Can You as a User Influence Vendors?

- Examine and understand standards that are pertinent to your industry

- Help vendors understand interoperability needs

- Help vendors understand what standards you rely upon today and in the future…and why

- Participate in standards bodies that relate to your business practices

- Do not purchase products from vendors who do not support the standards you need

Emerging Technologies

- XML
- ebXML
- Web Interoperability Services

What is XML?

- ## A way of making data:

  - Portable & reusable
  - Structured & unambiguous
  - Long lasting & valuable

- ## W3C Specification based on SGML (itself an ISO Standards)

  - Language to describe rules for enforce document structure
  - Separates Structure from Presentation
  - Language for defining application-specific vocabularies

Information May Consist of 3 Things

- **Data**
  - Information elements & values
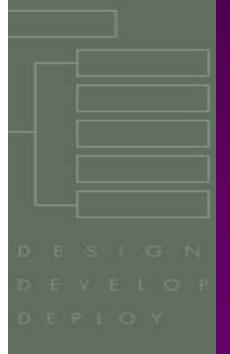 - The "Content"

- **Structure**
  - Relationship / location of information
  - The "Markup"

- **Presentation**
  - Formatting for easy consumption
  - The "Style"

XML tells us "What" not "How"

- XML describes what data "is" not what you want done to it

  - Separates "structure & naming" from "processing & format"

Major Benefits of XML

- Information is described in a way understood by different types of systems

- Documents & messages exchanged regardless of different environments

- Leverages investment in legacy systems

- Data easily reorganized & transformed into different delivery formats

- Metadata can be included with content

- Re-keying effort & errors are reduced

- Business process changes enabled with less impact

ebXML

The Global Standard for Electronic Business, and eBusiness Web Services

ebXML Provides a Standard Way to:

- Exchange business messages
- Conduct trading relationships
- Communicate data in common terms
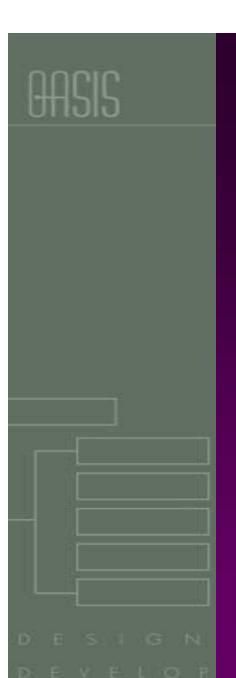- Define and register business processes

What does ebXML do?

- Lowers the cost/complexity of electronic business

- Facilitates global trade and puts SMEs and developing nations in the picture

- Expands electronic business to new and existing trading partners

- Converges current and emerging XML efforts

- Eliminates dependence by supporting any language, any payload, any transport

Main ebXML concepts

- Business Processes – Defined as models, Expressed in XML

- Business Messages – Expressed in XML

- Trading Partner Agreement – Specifies parameters for businesses to interface with each other – Expressed in XML

- Business Service Interface – Implements Trading Partner Agreement – Expressed in XML

- Transport and Routing Layer – Moves the actual XML data between trading partners

- Registry/Repository - Provides a "container" for process models, vocabularies, and partner profiles.

Web Interoperability Services

- Tomorrow's web enabled e-business platform
- Built on XML and other open standards
  - **XML**
  - **UDDI**
  - **WSDL**
  - **SOAP**
- An agreed set of vocabularies and interactions for specific industries or common functions
- Coordination of cross-industry adoption of enabling infrastructure standards
  - resource management, security, identity, business process, etc.

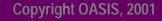# e-Government Technical Committee

Overview & Progress

http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/egov

Committee Membership

- Approx 120 to date
- Governments
  - UK, USA, Finland, Denmark, Canada, Germany
- ICT providers – small and large
- Members of other TCs and other Standards Bodies
- Many others

Committee Charter

- provide a forum for governments internationally to voice their needs and requirements with respect to XML-based standards

- provide a mechanism for the creation of best practice documents relative to the adoption of OASIS specifications/standards and other related standards within Governments internationally

- promote the adoption of OASIS specifications/standards within Governments which could include the creation of implementation-oriented pilot projects to involve software vendors and participating government agencies to demonstrate the use of OASIS specifications/standards

- work with other OASIS channels and other international standards bodies' channels (e.g. XML.org for schema registry and/or information portal), to act as a clearinghouse of information related to applicable specifications/standards as well as activities and projects being conducted by Governments in the adoption of XML-based systems and standards

Deliverables

- **Recommended standards for delivery of e-Government Services**
  - **Either existing standards, or enhancements of existing ones, or new ones,**
- **Best Practice, Case Studies**
- **Pilots**
- **Specifications for support tools**

e-Government : benefits of using Open Standards

- More choice of products and suppliers

- Less dependency on a single supplier

- Avoid proprietary lock-in

- Stability or reduction in costs

- Accommodate future changes more easily

Thank you for your attention

john.borras@e-envoy.gsi.gov.uk
Tel no. +44 (0)20 7276 3101

http://www.oasis-open.org

OASIS

DESIGN
DEVELOP
DEPLOY