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INFORMATION
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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

Technical Committee No. 3 Documentation and graphical symbols

Report to the Kyoto meeting on activities related to the IEC ISO UN/ECE MoU Management Group

1 Background

The ISO IEC UN/ECE Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO and UN/ECE in the field of electronic business was signed at the end of 1998.

In the document (MoU/MG N0001 Rev. 1) is i.a. understood that standards for **naming, defining and coding of data elements** are the responsibility of ISO and IEC (carried out in ISO/IEC JTC1/ SC 32 « Data Management and Interchange », ISO/ TC 184/ SC 4 « Industrial Data- Parts Libraries » and in IEC/ SC 3D - «Data sets for libraries of electric component data»), and that the standards for **technical documentation** are the responsibility of ISO and IEC (carried out in ISO/IEC JTC1/ SC 24 «Computer graphics and image processing », and in IEC/ SC 3B).

For the implementation of the MoU the IEC ISO UN/ECE Management Group was set up.

IEC TC3 is represented in this group by Mr. J. Bodin, TC3, Mr. F. Reuter, SC3B, Mr. D.E. Radley, SC3D.

The participation from IEC TC3 has so far been "passive". We are observing the activities and checking the documents.

2 Documents

MoU/MG documents are available at

http://isotc.iso.ch/livelink/livelink/fetch/2000/2489/Ittf_Home/ITTF.htm

(under Electronic Business - MoU/MG N-documents). The document list for document N1 to N50 are appended to this document.

3 Meetings

The MoU/MG has had three meetings:

- a plenary meeting in Geneva 1998-09-18;
- a plenary meeting in Concord, CA 1999-01-21 -- 22;
- an interim meeting in Geneva, 1999-06-18.

The next meeting is to be held in New Orleans, 1999-11-15 -- 16

4 Results

Results of special interest for TC3 are:

MoU matrix: A road map for electronic business (MoU/MG N0006 Rev.1), a matrix that shows where the activities of the different involved bodies fit into an overall general pattern. This document, with appendices, gives a good overview of the subject area.

CEN-ISSS Product and Business Data Harmonization (PBDH) (MoU/MG N00031, N00034, N00036), a project that studies especially STEP and EDIFACT.

This latter work has led to a proposal for a "Summit" on steps necessary to satisfy business requirements for the harmonization of technical, business and documentation information, originally planned to be held in November 1999 in New Orleans, but now postponed until the beginning of 2000.

The white paper on the summit (MoU/MG N00038) is attached for information.

A more active participation from TC3, either directly, or via the IEC representative, Mr. Barta, may be desirable to ensure that our results of relevance in this context (data element types from SC3D, the meta data work in SC3B) are not forgotten.

A: Approved
 FI: For information
 D: Draft
 FA: For approval
 FR: For review

MoU/MG List of Documents from MoU/MG/98 N0001 to MoU/MG/99 N0025
MoU/MG List of Documents from MoU/MG/98 N0026 to MoU/MG/99 N0050

Doc. Number	Rev., Cor., Att. if exist	Title	Originator	Date	Status
<u>0001</u>	Rev.1	Memorandum of Understanding between ISO/IEC/UN-ECE ex MoU/CC/98 N030	MoU/MG	98-09-18	A
<u>0002</u>	Rev.4	List of Participants	MoU/MG sec.	Sept. 99	FI
0003	Paper Only	Report of the Inter-Agency Working Group for Coordinated Open edi Standards Development	IAeG	August 93	FI
<u>0004</u>	<u>Annex C</u>	HLSGC Final Report	HLSGC	May 97	FI
<u>0005</u>		Draft agenda of the first meeting of MoU/MG	MoU/MG sec.	June 98	D
<u>0006</u>	Rev.1	ISO/IEC/UN-ECE MoU Matrix	MoU/MG sec.	Dec. 98	FR
<u>0007</u>		Council resolution 20/1998	MoU/MG sec.	June 98	FI
<u>0008</u>		ISO/IEC JTC 1 Resolutions	MoU/MG sec.	June 98	FI
<u>0009</u>		ISO/TC 184 Resolutions	ISO/TC 184	June 98	FI
<u>0010</u>		Resolutions from the first meeting of the ISO IEC UN/ECE MoU Management Group	MoU/MG sec.	98-09-18	A
<u>0011</u>		Minutes from the first meeting of the ISO IEC UN/ECE MoU Management Group	MoU/MG sec.	Dec.98	D
<u>0012</u>		Resolutions from the 15th meeting of ISO/TC 154	ISO/TC 154 sec.	98-11-10	FR
<u>0013</u>	Rev.1	Draft agenda of the second meeting of MoU/MG	MoU/MG sec.	99-01-11	D
<u>0014</u>		CGM Open Joins OASIS	OASIS	Dec. 98	FI
<u>0015</u>		ISO/TC 154 UN/CEFACT Syntax Working Group (JSWG)	JSWG sec.	Dec. 98	FI
0016	Paper only	European comments on the Preliminary Findings and Recommendations on the Representation of X12 Data Elements and Structures in XML prepared by the X12C Ad Hoc Task Group on the use of XML with X12 EDI	CEN/ISSS XML/EDI Project Group	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0017</u>		IEC TC 52 – TC 93 JWG11 Report on Electronic Data Transfer	IEC TC 52-TC 93 JWG11	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0018</u>		Summary of the IMS project for developing a CALS virtual Enterprise Model Handbook	ICC	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0019</u>		Outline description of the IMS project	ICC	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0020</u>		PBDH Project report	PBDH	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0021</u>		PBDH Guideline and Methodology for the Harmonisation	PBDH	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0022</u>		PBDH Management and Funding of a Repository on a Permanent Basis	PBDH	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0023</u>		PBDH Database Extract	PBDH	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0024</u>		SIMAC Report to CEFACT	SIMAC	Jan. 99	FI
<u>0025</u>		MoU/MG List of Documents from MoU/MG/98 N0001 to MoU/MG/99 N0025	MoU/MG sec.		

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MoU/MG List of Documents from MoU/MG/98 N0026 to MoU/MG/99 N0050
MoU/MG List of Documents from MoU/MG/98 N0001 to MoU/MG/99 N0025

Doc. Number	Rev., Cor., Att. if exist	Title	Originator	Date	Status
<u>0026</u>		Status report on the Basic Semantics Register (BSR)	BSR	99-01-12	FI
<u>0027</u>		MoU Management Group procedures	MoU/MG	99-01-22	A
<u>0028</u>	<u>Att1</u> <u>Att2</u>	International harmonization of IETP standards	CALS International	99-01-22	FI
<u>0029</u>		OMG presentation (<u>.ppt</u>)	OMG Henry Lowe	99-01-22	FI
<u>0030</u>		Resolutions from the second meeting of the ISO IEC UN/ECE MoU Management Group	MoU/MG sec.	99-01-22	A
<u>0031</u>		CEN-ISSS PBDH Project	A. Bezos, PBDH Project	99-01-22	FI
<u>0032</u>		Minutes from the second meeting of the ISO IEC UN/ECE MoU Management Group	MoU/MG sec.	99-02-03	D
<u>0033</u>		Resolutions from the ISO/IEC JTC 1 Rio Meeting	JTC 1 HoD	99-02-22	FI
<u>0034</u>		Product and Business Data Harmonisation (PBDH) – CEN Workshop Agreement	PBDH project	99-03-03	FI
<u>0035</u>	Rev. 1	Draft agenda of the Interim meeting of MoU/MG	MoU/MG sec.	99-04-28	D
<u>0036</u>		Recommendations resulting from the panel discussion on Repositories at the CEN/ISSS Electronic Commerce Workshop	CEN/ISSS EC workshop	99-05-06	FI
<u>0037</u>		Resolutions from the interim meeting of the MoU MG group, Friday, 18 June 1999, Genève	MoU/MG sec	99-06-18	FA
<u>0038</u>		White Paper for CBO Summit	CBO task force	99-06	FA
<u>0039</u>		CEN and ISO work on architectures, frameworks, constructs for manufacturing enterprise modelling	CEN TC310 WG1	99-06-23	FI
<u>0040</u>		Minutes of the interim meeting of the MoU MG, Friday, 18 June 1999, Geneva	MoU/MG sec	99-06-23	D
<u>0041</u>		JTC1SC32 doc N0297, JTC1SC32 response to JTC1 request for input on work for MoU	JTC 1/SC 32	99-05-28	FR
<u>0042</u>		Draft agenda of the third MoU/MG meeting	MoU/MG sec.	99-09-15	D
<u>0043</u>		IEC comments on MoU/MG/99 N006 Rev1, MoU Matrix	IEC	99-09	FR
<u>0050</u>		List of MoU documents from N0026 to N0050	MoU/MG sec	99-07-05	D

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INTRODUCTION

The Management Committee of the IEC ISO UN/CEFACT MoU on Electronic Business is issuing a call for experts to meet at a Summit on steps necessary to satisfy the business requirement for the harmonization of technical, business and documentation information in New Orleans on November 13-15, 1999. This document is intended to act a white paper to support the call for experts.

Summit Goals

The MoU Management Committee has concluded that the development of standards to enable Electronic Commerce within and among electronic enterprises will require unambiguous and concise specification of the data required to support the enterprise. The Summit will seek agreement on an approach to seek a global synthesis of data specifications(requirements) that are represented in a variety of different standards and specifications. The goals of the Summit are three-fold: 1)Establish the scope of the need for a global synthesis of business objects, 2)Establish a statement of direction for addressing this need including both short and long term considerations, 3)Estimate the effort and resource level required and chart the steps needed.

Meeting of MoU Group-Concord, CA

At the meeting of the MoU Management Committee in Concord, CA, January 21,22, 1999, the group received a report(MoU/MG/99 N0032) from Alain Bezos of a project undertaken by the CEN/ISSS Electronic Commerce Workshop.

The project, Product and Business Data Harmonization(PBHD), was driven by the business requirement to harmonize technical, business and documentation information between STEP and EDIFACT. The strategy recognized that STEP and EDIFACT are complementary and address different applications. The project was not intended to make changes to standards. The project was to provide a mapping at the semantic level for information in both standards, using the Basic Semantic Repository(BSR) as a tool to provide both the dictionary and bridge to the existing standards. The project was based only on STEP AP's 203, 208, 214 and their supporting Integrated Resources and on the EDIFACT PRODAT message and Directory D.97B.

The key lessons learned form the project were that the project timescale was too short, the work needs experts from all sectors and that the definition of semantics in standards is complex. Only 15% of approximately 1000 entities were considered in the time allotted for the project.

The project sought advice on how to proceed at the international level. Key points included:

-The difficulty of natural language comparison. A key issue is obtaining resources for the process of understanding.

-The BSR or equivalent need to be fed from a harmonization process, recognizing that meanings are generally dependent on context.

-The PBHD project provided a test for the BSU concept, but recommended that a better structure was required in the BSR.

-An object oriented approach would be different, with a hierarchy of object classes, with inheritance. Such an approach is being developed by CEFACT and JTC1/SC32/WG1.

MoU Resolution

In recognition of the above discussion, and in consideration of the magnitude of effort required to achieve the business requirement for the harmonization of technical, business and documentation information, the MoU Management Committee adopted a resolution to convene a summit of experts in the field in New Orleans on November 13-15, 1999. This document is intended to act a white paper to support the call for experts.

SUMMIT GOALS

The goals of the Summit are three-fold: 1)Establish the scope of the need for a global synthesis of business objects, 2)Establish a statement of direction for addressing this need including both short and long term considerations, 3)Estimate the effort and resource level required and chart the steps needed.

Scope

The first goal of the Summit is to establish the scope of the need for maintaining consistency and interoperability.

The text below will use specific examples that probably should be included in the scope. An outcome of the Summit would be a ratification, modification and extension of these examples to more clearly establish the scope.

The PBDH project established on a high level that there is an extensive overlap between the data specifications found in the STEP and the EDIFACT standards. The reasons that this overlap exists can be easily comprehended when one considers that the two standards arise from very different views of the data needs as considered by different processes of the enterprise. Each standardization committee has been addressing the need of its constituency based on their view of data requirements to support the enterprise. As electronic commerce becomes more pervasive throughout and among enterprises a collision of views is seen as becoming more and more of an impediment to reaping the benefits of electronic commerce. Standards bodies will be seen as having a responsibility to responding to the needs of electronic commerce address and resolve this conflict. The first step is to identify the scope of this collision.

The scope of this collision has two aspects. These two aspect are: 1)with a standards committee and 2) among standards committee.

Within a Standards Committee

As standards committees had evolved they have tended to address a collection of opportunities as perceived from their view of the enterprise. In the case of TC184/SC4, the STEP standard originally concentrated on the aspects of electronic exchange of information between CAD systems. This primarily addresses the work of the Design Department. As the work of this committee has evolved, the impact of this information across the rest of the enterprise into departments such as Engineering Analysis and Manufacturing and across the entirety of a product lifecycle from conceptual development to support, maintenance and recycling are being considered. In the case of the EDIFACT work, a suite of message types has been developed. Maintaining consistency and interoperability has become an ever increasing problem in each committee. Tools to support this effort should benefit the work of the individual standards committees.

Among Standards Committees

The PBHD project established the need for tools to address consistency among the standards committees responsible for STEP and EDIFACT. The work has suggested that committees responsible for SWIFT, XML-EDI and ANSI ASC X12 among others need to be addressed. In the STEP arena, there is overlap with IEC standards of Electrical/Electronic product data as well the work of other ISO committees for example in TC211, TC59 and TC10 that primarily address the business requirements in industry segments. Again, maintaining consistency and interoperability is an increasing problem. Tools to support these efforts should benefit the industry segments.

Statement of Direction

Second, having established the scope for harmonization and the kinds of tools needed to satisfy the requirement, the Summit should provide an unambiguous statement of direction to guide the development of the necessary tools. At the MoU Management Committee meeting at which the results of the PBDH effort two different approaches were discussed. There may be others.

a)One is approach was taken in the PBDH study using the BSR approach. As a result of the project it became clear that there was need for further development of those tools to achieve even that project's limited objective.

b)At the meeting JTC1 suggested that another object oriented approach was being taken by JTC1/SC32/WG1 and UN/CEFACT. A prototype will be available for demonstration in New Orleans.

It is anticipated that the pursuit of either approach will take a substantial commitment of funds. There may also be other approaches that need to be evaluated against the requirements. There may also be some issues of long term and short term results. Because of the importance of satisfying the need and the availability of funds standardization bodies should seek agreement on a single long term approach with intermediate results as required.

Estimate of effort

Once the scope and direction of the required effort are established, the outline of a plan and an estimate of the effort required to move in the established direction will be required in order to make progress. Achieving the goal of harmonization will be a long term effort. The plan should be formulated so that the necessary organizations can take the necessary steps.