Putting More Organization on the Continued Development of SBML

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Motivations

- Produce standards that meet people's needs
- Install a more systematic process
  - Less ambiguity
  - Less subjectiveness
  - More openness & transparency
  - More responsiveness to people's requests
- Involve people in a more organized fashion

Options

1. Continue doing as we have been; i.e., no change
2. Work through another organization
    1. OMG
    2. I3C
    3. other?
3. Install our own process (possibly borrowed from someone else's)

I3C: Interoperable Informatics Infrastructure Consortium

- *"… international collaborative [and non-profit organization as of March 2002] working together to facilitate data exchange and software interoperability across the entire life sciences community."*

- *"I3C is a consensus-based initiative for the community, by the community. Huge volumes of multi-format, multi-platform data from disparate sources create many productivity barriers; I3C was borne out of the need for informatics solutions that clear these barriers and allow the acceleration of life science discoveries and new products."*

I3C Organization

- Organized by Working Groups that focus on specific, critical, interoperability problems
- Working Groups produce reference solutions and technical recommendations that I3C makes available to the whole life sciences community
  - E.g.: LSID, Registry, Security, Ontology, "Pathways/Systems Biology"
- Working Groups meet face-to-face 3 times a year
  - Hold hackathons

Some Additional Points about the I3C

- **NOT** a standards organization
  - Want to develop real solutions
- Follow methods, protocols and specifications of other groups whenever possible
- Members must join (costs $)
- There are intellectual property terms
  - Inventions created under I3C auspices are licensed under royalty-free terms
- *"Specifications and official reference implementations … licensed according to an approved OSI license. For code produced under I3C's sponsorship, I3C recommends Apache."*

Another Option—Formulating Our Own Organizational Structure & Process:
A Possible Start

SBML Steering Committee & SBML Forum

- SBML Steering Committee
  - Small number of people charged with coordinating the SBML development process and writing final specification documents
- SBML Forum
  - Composed of technical groups who provide direct input to SBML Steering Committee
  - Direction of SBML development is set by the Forum

SBML Steering Committee

- Membership is voluntary
  - Probably should be fixed-term (e.g., 2 yrs?)
- No more than 5 people (probably 3)
- What the Committee would do:
  - Coordinate SBML development process
    - Organize general meetings, agenda, timetables
    - Manage standards-development process
  - Write final integrated specification documents
  - Coordinate development of validation suites and reference implementations
- Technical agenda would be set by SBML Forum

SBML Forum

- Provides direct input to SBML Committee
- Divided into Working Groups
  - Follow W3C process for Working Groups
  - Each Working Group has a charter delineating purpose of group, goals, deliverables, duration of group's existence
  - Each group has a chairman & a separate team contact
- A Working Group produces deliverables
  - Develops technical proposals for changes to SBML
  - Provides sample/reference implementations
- A Working Group is created in response to needs