NEWS SHORTS

Advocacy

3G Americas Supports Regulator's Decision on Brazil's PCS Spectrum

Sao Paulo, Brazil, Bellevue, WA, April 11, 2003 - The recent decision by Brazil's Agência Nacional de Telecomuniçacões (ANATEL) to reaffirm the sole use of 1800 MHz for Personal Mobile Services (SMP) licenses will sustain continued growth of mobile services in not only Brazil, but in other countries in the Americas, in the opinion of the wireless association 3G Americas.

For the full story, see:
http://www.3gamericas.org/English/News_Room/DisplayPressRelease.cfm?id=468&s=ENG

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GSM Europe calls on Telecom Council to support Rollout of new mobile services

Brussels, Belgium, March 27, 2003 - GSM Europe, the European Interest Group of the GSM Association,...urges Member States to actively support the EC's mission to encourage new mobile service and network rollout. It warns that national regulation could hamper the development of new service business models and that regulatory intervention should be kept to the minimum necessary level bearing in mind key principles of sustainability and proportionality GSM Europe welcomes the Member States' recognition of the importance of electronic communications in achieving the Lisbon goals - to make Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based society in the world by 2010. GSM Europe's 130 network operator members also fully endorse the Commission's recognition that the mobile sector, in helping to achieve these goals, is best served by self-regulation and market innovation.

For the complete press release, see: http://www.gsmworld.com/news/press_2003/press_10.shtml

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Antitrust, Litigation and Policy News

New Standards Guidelines for Europe

http://www.dvb.org/, 28 Mar 2003 - European standardization policy has been brought up to date today as the result of the adoption of new guidelines between the European Commission (EC), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and the three official European Standards Organizations (ESOs).

For the full press release announced by the Digital Video Broadcasting Project, see:
http://www.dvb.org/index.php?id=10&nid=24

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Certification and Branding

OMG and the UML Technology Institute Announce UML Certification Program

Tokyo, Japan, April 17, 2003 - The Object Management Group™ (OMG™) and the UML Technology Institute (UTI) announced today at UML 2003 Forum in Tokyo, Japan, a joint Unified Modeling Language™ (UML™) Certification Program. The program will provide formal certification of expertise in UML. Targeted at analysts, programmers, developers and architects worldwide, UML certification will serve as a touchstone for enhancing levels of productivity and for determination of skill level for those hiring or wishing to measure their knowledge of UML. Since UML is the underlying de facto standard for analysis and design that drives the growing Model Driven Architecture™ (MDA®) standard, proficiency in UML is, and will continue to be, a highly valuable skill for IT professionals to possess.

For the full press release, see: http://www.omg.org/news/releases/pr2003/04-17-03.htm

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Two CMS and Additional PacketCable™ Devices Get Certified/Qualified in Wave 25

Louisville, Colorado, April 11, 2003 - Marking a second major PacketCable™ milestone, Call Management Servers (CMS) from Cisco and Syndeo gained qualification status. A total of nine PacketCable™ devices were certified or qualified in the CableLabs® Certification Test Wave 25 that concluded recently. These PacketCable devices are focused on helping cable operators deliver voice communications using Internet Protocol (IP), an efficient and cost effective means of service delivery.

For the full press release, see: http://www.cablelabs.org/news/pr/2003/03_pr_pc_cw25_041103.html

For a related news story, see: Thirteen More DOCSIS® 2.0 Modems Gain CableLabs® Certified™ Status http://www.cablelabs.org/news/pr/2003/03_pr_docsis_cw25_041003.html

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General

With the decision in Rambus v. Infineon, consortia would be wise to pay close attention to their voting and patent assertion processes. One way to be sure that patent positions are well documented is to implement an adequate platform to conduct the process electronically. See the following to see how this can be done.

Kavi Software Powers Expanded Web Portal for Global Standards Consortium: New System Allows 2,000+ Members in 100 Countries to Collaborate Virtually on Web Services and XML Standards

Portland, Ore, April 29, 2003 - Kavi Corporation announced the launch of an expanded web portal for OASIS, www.oasis-open.org, which supports OASIS' operations, the activities of more than 50 technical committees and serves as OASIS' communications and collaboration hub. The portal will facilitate voting, communication, and documentation across multiple organizations and locations.

For the full press release, see: http://www.kavi.com/press/

BSI Warns UK Business Ignoring Terrorist Threat to Information Security

http://www.bsi-global.com/, April 28, 2003 - In the wake of comments that only 85 UK companies have followed DTI and security service advice to meet the BS7799 Information Security (Infosec) Standard, and that the Government may fine businesses that fail to put infosec systems in place, BSI (the leading authority on BS7799) is calling for action.
For full press release, see: http://www.bsi-global.com/Corporate/News+Room/GRBS7799.xalter

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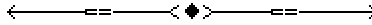
Airlines Look to Recommended Practices for Disinfection and SARS Protection

New York, April 18, 2003 - The recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has drastically affected travel and tourism in Southeast Asia, most notably in the air travel industry. As concern about the disease is felt around the world, the public is asking the air transport industry what kinds of precautions are carried out to protect the health and safety of passengers and crew.

For the complete article, see:
http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=382

New Consortia

Physical and IT Security Leaders Collaborate

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, RSA Conference, April 14, 2003 - Four leading security solutions providers today announced the formation of the Open Security Exchange, a collaborative group that is defining best practices and promoting vendor-neutral specifications for integrating the management of security devices and policies across the enterprise. By promoting more effective exchange of enterprise-wide security data, the Open Security Exchange will enable organizations to significantly reduce both their exposure to a diverse range of threats and their total operation costs. Initially, the Open Security Exchange will focus on the integration of physical and IT security technologies. Lack of assimilation between these two primary aspects of enterprise security is perhaps the most glaring example of how security management remains fragmented at most organizations today.

For the full press release, see:
http://www.smartcardalliance.org/industry_news/industry_news_item.cfm?itemID=759

For a related story, see: http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=8800116

Tech Titans Team for 'Trusted Computing'

CNET News.com, April 9, 2003, 4:18 AM PT - A bevy of the biggest computer hardware and software companies, formerly members of the Trusted Computer Platform Alliance (TCPA), announced on Tuesday that they had reconstituted themselves under a new name: the Trusted Computing Group. *[In this article by Robert Lemos, the author details what led a new organization to be formed to succeed to the work of the Trusted Computing Platform Alliance, of which Microsoft and some other TCG founders are members. He also tells how the action caught some members of the old organization by surprise.]*

For the complete story, see: http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105-996032.html

For the new Group's own press release, see:
http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/events/news/2003_04_08_tcg_formed.pdf

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New Initiatives

Meeting Emergency Communications Needs - Project MESA Approves Aggressive Roadmap for Technical Development

Ottawa, Canada, 28 April 2003 - An aggressive work plan to revolutionize communications for organizations within the public protection and disaster relief sector has been adopted by Project MESA, foreseeing completion of technical specifications in 2004. Project MESA is a partnership project between the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) of the USA.

For the complete press release, see:
http://www.etsi.org/frameset/home.htm?/pressroom/Previous/2003/MESA.htm

OASIS Guides Development of Global Electronic Procurement Standardization

Boston, MA, 28 April 2003 - The OASIS interoperability consortium announced that it is providing a forum for government agencies, organizations and companies to guide the coordinated development of global e-procurement standards. The OASIS Electronic Procurement Standardization (EPS) Technical Committee will work to analyze requirements for electronic procurement processes, identify gaps, and recommend new standards as needed.

For the complete press release, see: http://www.oasis-open.org/news/oasis_news_04_28_03.php

Additional Information:
OASIS EPS Technical Committee:
http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=eps

Cover Pages Technology Report: Electronic Procurement Standardization:
http://xml.coverpages.org/eps.html

Further documentation on the EPS Technical Committee, see: http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/
members/200304/msg00004.html

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OASIS Members Form Web Services Business Process Execution Language (WSBPEL) Technical Committee

Boston, MA, USA; 29 April -- Members of the OASIS open standards consortium will advance a specification to formally describe interoperable business processes and business interaction protocols for Web services orchestration....BEA, IBM, Microsoft, and SAP intend to formally submit BPEL4WS version 1.1 under royalty free terms to the new OASIS Technical Committee at its first meeting on 16 May 2003. The committee is open to submissions of other in-scope contributions and will establish liaison relationships with related Web services efforts within OASIS and other standards organizations including the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

For the full press release, see: http://www.oasis-open.org/news/oasis_news_04_29_03.php

For a related story, see: http://www.cbdiforum.com/public/news/index.php3?id=1232

Additional Information:
OASIS WSBPEL Technical Committee: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev
=wsbpel

Also see a related press release by the Liberty Alliance below under "New Standards/Specifications"

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OASIS Members Collaborate to Address Security Vulnerabilities for Web Services and Web Applications

San Francisco, CA (RSA Security Conference), April 14, 2003 - Members of the OASIS interoperability consortium announced plans to define a standard method of exchanging information concerning security vulnerabilities within Web services and Web applications. The new OASIS Application Vulnerability Description Language (AVDL)Technical Committee will address the challenge of how businesses manage ongoing application security risk on a day-to-day basis.

For additional information on the OASIS AVDL Technical Committee, see:
http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=avdl

For additional information on application security, see: http://xml.coverpages.org/appSecurity.html

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INCITS Biometrics Workload Drives Formation of Four New Groups: Demand for Biometrics Standards Soars Due to Heightened Security, ID Theft Concerns

Washington, D.C., April 3, 2003 - The International Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) announced today that it has launched four new Task Groups to handle increased activity in biometrics. The Task Groups are part of INCITS Technical Committee M1, formed in November 2001, which currently has 55 organizational members from business, government, and academia.

For the full press release, see: http://www.incits.org/press/2003/pr200304m1tgs.htm

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WS-I Charters Basic Security Profile Working Group

PALO ALTO, Calif., April 1, 2003 - The Web Services Interoperability Organization ("WS-I") today announced the formation of the Basic Security Profile Working Group (BSPWG). The BSPWG was chartered following the organization's fourth plenary session held recently in Salt Lake City... The Basic Security Work Plan Working Group, formed in late November 2002, created a work plan prioritizing and scoping key security interoperability issues. The Basic Security Work Plan Working Group presented its recommendations to the membership at the recent plenary session.

For the full press release, see: http://www.ws-i.org/docs/20030401wsipr.htm

For related stories, see: http://xml.coverpages.org/ni2003-04-01-a.html
http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,3959,988799,00.asp
http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/04/01/HNwsisecurity_1.html

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New Standards/Specifications

Leading ITU Specification Language Delivers Major Advances: New version of ASN.1 incorporated in biometrics and banking standards

Geneva, 25 April 2003 - The latest version of industry shaping specification language Abstract Syntax Notation 1 (ASN.1) has now been released by ITU. One of the first areas to benefit is biometrics, the practice of verifying identity based on physiological or behavioral characteristics, such as fingerprints, handwriting or retinal scans. ASN. 1 is also increasingly being used outside the telecommunication industry in areas such as security, transportation, banking or genetic research.
For complete press release, see: http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2003/14.html

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International Benchmark for Personnel Certification Schemes

http://www.iso.ch/, April 14, 2003 - A new International Standard aims to harmonize the various procedures used around the world for certifying the competence of personnel in different professions. It will provide a global benchmark for certification schemes to ensure that they operate in a consistent, comparable and reliable manner worldwide, thus establishing an environment for the mutual recognition of schemes and facilitating the global mobility of personnel.

For the full press release, see: http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2003/Ref847.html

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ISO/IEC Finishes Fast-Track Standardization of ECMA Standards for C# Programming Language, Common Language Infrastructure ITWeb

Johannesburg, April 7, 2003 - The publications for C# and CLI were enabled by ECMA International, which secured industry support and fast-tracked the specifications through the relevant ISO procedures. Specifications for each technology were developed by Microsoft and co-submitted by Microsoft, Intel, and Hewlett-Packard.

For the complete story, see: http://www.itweb.co.za/sections/software/2003/0304070751.asp

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Liberty Alliance Submits New Web Services Specification to OASIS

http://www.infoworld.com/, April 15, 2003 - "OASIS to Get BPEL4WS Jurisdiction. Web Services Specification Finally Goes to Standards Body." Microsoft, IBM, and BEA Systems plan to submit their Web services choreography and business process specification to a standards body later this week; the Business Process Execution Language for Web Services (BPEL4WS) specification is expected to be submitted to Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS).

For the complete story, see: http://infoworld.com/article/03/04/15/HNbpel_1.html

For a related story, see: http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/04/11/HNlibert_1.html

For a related article on this story, see: http://www.atnewyork.com/news/article.php/2189821

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Liberty Alliance Releases Phase 2 Specifications, Demos Vendor Interoperability

San Francisco, April 15, 2003 - The Liberty Alliance released Phase 2 of its draft identity-based Web services specifications and demonstrated interoperability of services with 20 of its member companies.
For the complete story, see:
http://www.crn.com/sections/BreakingNews/breakingnews.asp?ArticleID=41292

For related coverage, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1013-997019.html?tag=lh

For related coverage, also see: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,3959,1025551,00.asp

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Open Source

Linux Founder Opens Door to DRM

CNET News.com, April 24, 2003 - Linus Torvalds, the founder of the Linux operating system, threw a curve ball to the open-source programming community. In a posting sent to a key Linux-focused e-mail list, Torvalds outlined a controversial proposal: Nothing in the basic rules for the Linux operating system should block developers from using digital rights management (DRM) technology.
For the full story, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1016-998292.html

OpenOffice.org Releases Version 1.1 Beta for Open Source Office Productivity Suite

http://www.coverpages.com/, March 28, 2003 - OpenOffice.org version 1.1 Beta has been released, incorporating many new features and changes introduced with the developer builds over the past year. It supports new import/export formats such as PDF, Macromedia Flash, DocBook, several PDA Office file formats, flat XML, and XHTML. Complex Text Layout (CTL) now supports languages such as Thai, Hindi, Arabic, and Hebrew. The product uses open-component based APIs and an XML-based file format.

For the complete story, see: http://xml.coverpages.org/ni2003-03-28-a.html