THE REST OF THE NEWS

Every day, we scan the web for all of the news and press releases that relate to standards, and aggregate that content at the <u>News Section</u> of ConsortiumInfo.org. For up to date information, book mark our News page, or take advantage of our RSS feed: http://www.consortiuminfo.org/news/rss/

The following are just a few of the many stories from the past month that you can find digested at ConsortiumInfo.org.

Who's Doing What to Whom

Department of "here we go again": Standards are good for everybody, right? You know, open playing field, compete on value-adds, all that stuff? Sure. But not everyone looks at it that way all the time. When they don't, there's trouble in River City. This time, its the wireless industry that's taking the Divide and Conquer hit.

Microsoft nabs Vodafone for mobile Web partnership: Alliance Expected to Fracture Industry's Standards Efforts.

RCR Wireless News, October 13, 2003 - Microsoft Corp. and Vodafone outlined a new partnership to push mobile Web services…Read More, and company executives called on the rest of the wireless industry to follow their lead-although they made no mention of existing industry efforts for Web services from the Open Mobile Alliance and the Parlay Group...The companies said developers will be able to access and integrate mobile network services, such as messaging, location, authentication and billing into their applications...Industry analysts blasted the plan as a way to further fracture wireless industry standards efforts. [One analyst commmented:] "The opening salvos at the first industry workshops planned for January will not be for those of a sensitive disposition."

For the full story see: http://rcrnews.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?newsId=15431

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They're at it again . When people play nice, standards are about leveling playing fields and improving the lot of end-users. Then there's the other way, where standards are used to counter market forces. Not infrequently, the companies on either side of this digital divide are Microsoft and Sun.

Sun Touts Liberty for Digital Rights Management

Computer Business Review Online, September 19, 2003 -- -- Sun Microsystems Inc hopes to replicate an industry initiative for federated identity in the field of Digital Rights Management (DRM), to stymie Microsoft Corp's own controversial plans to control distribution of electronic content. The company has

thrown its weight behind a wireless group's effort to define a DRM specification on mobile devices. Ultimately, though, Sun hopes to build a coalition of vendors and end-users similar to the Liberty Alliance Project to drive uptake of DRM. Sun's goal is to counter Windows software and hardware initiatives from Microsoft, which it says will leave that company in control of users' business data and other digital content. Sun CTO John Fowler said yesterday: "You can see what we do around Liberty as a similar effort for DRM. Then we will do what we did with Java, and promulgate that in volume."

For the full story see: http://www.cbronline.com/cbrnews/0c6050c7cc37124380256da60018cb81

What's Up/What's Down

Good news/bad news of the month: Software vendors suffering through what has seemed to be an endless sales drought have held on to one consoling thought through the dark days: when corporate profits pick up, so too, presumably will software sales. Well, maybe not - unless you're selling the right standards-based products. According to the Director of PWC's Global Technology Centre, 70% of IT spending next year may go solely to deploying regulatory compliance systems - especially those based on the new XRBL financial reporting standard. That's a pretty thin slice of total software product offerings.

Software Industry Faces Shake-Up

Electronic News, September 26, 2003 - Speaking at the launch of PwC's Technology Forecast 2003-2005, PricewaterhouseCoopers Global Technology Centre director Terry Retter warned that the majority of investments will be centered on technologies needed for legal or regulatory compliance, including the current 'hot topic' of corporate governance. Regulatory compliance-based investments could make up as much as 70 percent of the total IT spend next year. A significant portion of this could be on the emerging eXtensible business reporting language (XBRL) standard, which allow companies to present financial reports in standard electronics formats. "It's our belief that if beta testing with NASDAQ goes well, the exchange will require all companies to report financial information using XBRL in the future," Retter says. "Additionally, the UK could implement XBRL initiatives by the end of next year and Canada will also follow."

For the complete story, see: http://www.electronicsnews.com.au/articles/fb/0c01a1fb.asp

See also the CoverPages XBRL reference page : http://xml.coverpages.org/xbrl.html

A hard rain's (not) agonna fall: Standards provide both opportunity and risk: just as a forest fire permits thousands of seeds to begin a race for the sun, a new standards-based business paradigm can allow a host of startups to make a run for commercial success. As in the forest, only those that grow the fastest will survive. The rest will be overshadowed and must inevitably wither and die. Seedlings in a forest need rain, as well. To continue the analogy, when the ASP model took the market by storm several years ago, many more startups started up than actual commercial opportunity could sustain. What will be the fate of Web Services Management? The following commentator sees a dry future for the seeds that are sprouting in this emerging area.

Opinion: Shakeout looms in Web services management
By James Kobielus, IDG News Service

ComputerWorld Australia, September 25, 2003 -- Web services management (WSM) is one of the most innovative sectors in today's IT industry. Despite the general economic slump, dozens of start-ups have ventured into the WSM market over the past few years. Consequently, enterprise customers can choose from many sophisticated tools for managing their complex Web services middleware environments…But today's WSM market is overcrowded and due for a serious shakeout. …Today's WSM

start-ups will need to aggressively partner, specialize and diversify if they want to survive the coming industry consolidation. Specialization will lead to profitability for some, and the WSM market will continue to splinter. Some WSM start-ups are positioning their products as special-purpose solutions such as Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) firewalls, content-aware SOAP routers and XML accelerators….WSM is an exciting, dynamic market. But it's also a battlefield in which many pioneers will perish,…

For the full story, see: http://www.computerworld.com.au/pp.php?id=971618132&taxid=2078095612

New Standards/Specifications

Next generation web forms (10 years after): 10 years ago, an Internet connection meant a desktop PC, a baud rate equivalent to a pea-shooter for data, and non-techie users were almost unknown. Today, noncommercial users want Web access (that wasn't there 10 years ago, either) everywhere, all the time. And those that serve this new, voracious need want to reuse their work and get it out there fast. The W3C has responded:

World Wide Web Consortium Publishes XForms 1.0 as a W3C Recommendation

W3C, October 14, 2003 - When HTML forms were introduced to the Web in 1993, they provided a means to gather information and perform transactions. The structure of forms served the needs of many users at that time, as well as the devices used to access the Web. Now, 10 years later, the original HTML form design is showing its limitations.... In contrast to HTML forms, in which functional and presentation markup are intertwined, XForms lets forms authors distinguish the descriptions of the purpose of the form; the presentation of the form, and how the results (the instance data) are written in XML....Practically speaking, XForms technologies make it possible to deliver the same form to a PDA, a cell phone, screen reader or conventional desktop machine—without loss of functionality for the end user...No W3C specification has been so widely implemented so early in its life cycle as XForms.

For the full press release see: http://www.w3.org/2003/10/xforms-pressrelease.html.en

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New Initiatives

Pick your sports analogy: Take your pick; a trifecta? A hat trick? Either way, OASIS has been busy, making an announcement of three new technical committees at once:

Three New OASIS Technical Committees Form

OASIS website, September 16, 2003 -- Call for Participations have been issued for the following TCs:

* OASIS Framework for Web Services Implementation (FWSI) The purpose of OASIS FWSI TC is to facilitate implementation of robust Web Services by defining a practical and extensible methodology consisting of implementation processes and common functional elements that practitioners can adopt to create high quality Web Services systems without re-inventing them for each implementation.

* OASIS Web Services Composite Application Framework (WS-CAF) The purpose of the OASIS Web Services Composite Application Framework TC is to define a generic and open framework for applications that contain multiple services used in combination (composite applications).

* OASIS ebXML Business Process Technical Committee (ebXML BP) The purpose of the OASIS ebXML Business Process TC is to continue work on a royalty-free technology representation and model compatible with an underlying generic metamodel for business processes, activities, and collaboration.

Story Updates

Why can't we be friends? Beginning with our May issue (<u>Who should set the Standards for Web Services?</u>), we have repeatedly focused on the jockeying between companies and standard setting bodies for primacy in setting the standards permitting the deployment of web services. Unfortunately, efforts to create winners inevitably create losers, and those losers inevitably include the end users that a standard is ultimately intended to serve. In the following Special Report, CIO magazine sees things getting worse before they get better.

The Battle for Web Services
By Christopher Koch, CIO Magazine

CIO Magazine, October 1, 2003 - Everyone wants Web services standards. CEOs think the technology will create new opportunities. CFOs believe it will save millions. Vendors see a pot of gold at the end of the Web services rainbow. And CIOs know that linking to customers and partners over the Internet will revolutionize both business and IT. So what's the holdup? The usual suspects: Politics. Ego. Suspicion. Fear. Greed. Research company Gartner predicts American business is going to squander $1 billion on misguided Web services projects by 2007. Exactly how much of that will come out of your pocket depends in part on how many confusing, overlapping Web services standards emerge in the next few years.

For the full story, see: http://www.cio.com/archive/100103/standards.html

See also "<u>Standards Bashing</u>"

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Big pond, big ripples: The repercussions from Microsoft's loss to Eolus in a patent suit affecting the web continue to echo. The following story reports on contingency planning on the assumption that the decision stands.

W3C Investigation Begins on HTML Standard
By Matt Hicks

eWEEK September 23, 2003-- W3C is now investigating whether the claims in the patent infringement lawsuit brought by Eolas Technologies Inc. and the University of California could require changes to both the current and future HTML specifications. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is investigating whether the claims in the patent infringement lawsuit brought by Eolas Technologies Inc. and the University of California could require changes to both the current and future HyperText Markup Language specifications, W3C officials said on Tuesday…. The W3C is forming a patent advisory group that will decide whether to recommend changes to HTML and could also call on the full standards body to conduct a formal legal analysis of the patent.

For the full story see: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,4149,1277713,00.asp

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Department of Strange Bedfellows: In our past several issues we have highlighted the scrambling going on Web Services standard setting. The following stories highlight two unusual dynamics at work in this area, each a product of the perceived size of the opportunity and the speed believed by the major players to be necessary to secure the greatest advantage. While historically, companies sought either to

set proprietary standards or work through SDOs or consortia to create open industry standards, those two techniques are now merging as ad hoc coalitions of companies race to create draft specifications, and then persuade existing bodies to take them up, complete them and endorse them. The second story highlights a different sort of ad hoc coalition, in this case one that hopes to convince customers that Web Services are real enough to buy. In both of these processes, some strange bedfellows are coming together.

Web Services Management Heats Up

CNET News.com, September 17, 2003 -- The development of a Web services management standard continued to move forward, in a technology area fast becoming the next major competitive race among Web services providers. Computer Associates International, IBM and Web services management start-up Talking Blocks last Thursday submitted a technical specification to the standards group OASIS for consideration as an eventual industry standard. The goal of the Web Services Distributed Management (WSDM) technical committee at OASIS is to write a technical blueprint for products that track the performance of applications written according to Web services standards. The standard, due in January of next year, will ensure that Web services management wares from different companies will interoperate.

For the full story see: http://news.com.com/2100-7345_3-5077906.html

Microsoft, IBM Toast Next Era of Web Services

CRN.Com, September 17, 2003 -- Microsoft and IBM united in New York to demonstrate preview code for the next set of Web service protocols designed to enable more complex, secure, cross-company e-business transactions. Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, on hand with top IBM software executive Steve Mills, said the forthcoming WS-Security, WS-Reliable Messaging and WS-Transaction protocols are designed to enable the kind of e-business relationships many dot.com vendors hyped during the late 1990s. Microsoft and IBM together demonstrated early WS-Security, WS-Reliable Messaging and Web service application among a car dealer, manufacturer and supplier. The Web service application was running on disparate systems -- a Windows 2003 Server, a Linux-based Websphere server from IBM and Linux-based wireless handheld.

For the full story see:
http://www.channelweb.com/sections/Newscenters/Article.asp?newscenterID=88&ArticleID=44591

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Advocacy and Legislation

Standards and Security: *One of the many sobering lessons of 911 was the degree to which standards failures can lead to loss of life. From lax and poorly adhered-to screening standards at the airports from which the fateful flights departed, to ineffective wireless communications between emergency workers in the Twin Towers, it was a day of realization of what proper standards, carefully adhered to, might have prevented. A new, bipartisan bill has been introduced in the House that would augment the work that has already been done to plug this gap.*

New Legislation Would Amend Homeland Security Act to Create Preparedness Standards

ANSI, New York October 3, 2003 - Introduced into the House of Representatives on October 2, 2003, the National Preparedness Standards Act (H.R. 3227) aims to assist the Secretary of Homeland Security in establishing clearly defined standards and guidelines for federal, state, and local government emergency preparedness and response capabilities…. t would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by adding Section 510, "Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards," which sets forth a requirement that the Secretary, "in consultation with other Federal agencies, State and local emergency responder agencies and officials, and standard-setting bodies from the emergency responder community,

shall establish clearly defined standards and guidelines for Federal, State, and local government emergency preparedness and response capability, including for training, interoperable communication systems, and response equipment."

For the full story: http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=516

Standards in Society

Europe and adaptors: You already know that you have to take a grab bag of adaptors with you if you travel to Europe with a hair dryer. But what if you have a wireless controlled pacemaker? That would be rather awkward. In response, ETSI is tackling the necessary work to permit new, more advanced, wireless controlled medical devices to be used without regard to border crossings.

ETSI STANDARDS FOR ULTRA LOW POWER ACTIVE MEDICAL IMPLANTS NEAR

Sophia-Antipolis, France, 15th October 2003 - The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) has completed the majority of the standardization programme necessary for the harmonized use of Ultra Low Power Active Medical Implants (ULP-AMIs) in Europe. The medical world will then just need the harmonization of frequency bands to enable implanted medical devices, such as pacemakers, defibrillators and insulin pumps, to be used by patients when traveling from one European country to another....Without common standards, combined with national frequency allocations, usage of such devices can be prohibited in certain countries....

For the full press release, see: http://www.etsi.org/pressroom/Previous/2003/2003_10_lpra1.htm

Putting things back together: In an earlier CSB, we noted that the US government was putting the reestablishment of a standards infrastructure in Iraq on a high priority. The following press release shows how standards-based telecommunications systems can restore communications much more rapidly than wire-line based systems.

GSM - The Global Mobile System to Lead Iraq's Reconstruction

London, UK: 6th October 2003 -- The GSM Association, the global trade association for the world's GSM mobile operators, today welcomed the news that GSM has been confirmed as the mobile communications system of choice for Iraq's new commercial mobile networks…The decision to use the GSM system for the country's commercial networks is fundamental to reconnecting Iraq internally and to the rest of the world in the shortest possible time…GSM can be deployed and become operational faster than any other mobile technology: the CPA's tendering process stipulated that network deployment must commence within 20 days of licenses being issued…The CPA has awarded licenses in three regions. As well as providing service to foreign visitors, GSM's roaming capabilities will ensure that customers of one regional operator will be able roam on to any of the other regional networks.

For the full press release, see: http://www.gsmworld.com/news/press_2003/press_27.shtml