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WEB SERVICES UPDATE

Same Old, Same Old: *The Web Services news this year has settled into some predictable patterns, but new subpatterns are emerging all of the time. Our selection of news this month demonstrates one ongoing trend, the reemergence of an old issue, and a new discussion that is gaining strength.*

The ongoing trend is the continuing barrage of specifications, many of which continue to be created outside of the consortium process and then are offered into it. The old issue is the overlap among the consortia to which these specifications are offered (in this case, the W3C and OASIS, which early on in the Web Services saga were the subject of debate over who should have been offered the BPELS specification that had been created outside the process by the usual suspects). The new trend, represented by the two stories that bracket our selection, raises the question of whether the whole situation is getting out of hand. Whether this is a sign of a maturing Web Services environment or a process that is losing its way because so much is being done by so few outside of the normal consensus process is an interesting question to consider.

Web services standards - Is enough enough already?

InfoWorld, October 13, 2004 -- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) this week is holding a workshop on "Web services Constraints and Capabilities." The organization is striving toward a common vocabulary on the constraints of what a Web service can do and may develop a standard to address the issue. Once again, I have to ask, does the world need anymore Web services standards? Aren't there too many already? Well, officials at the two leading Web services standards organizations, the aforementioned W3C and OASIS, have different perspectives on this. ...[Full Story](#)



WS-Management's Success Depends on Wide, Deep Vendor Support

Gartner, October 11, 2004 -- Microsoft and its partners are introducing yet another standard definition for management that will overlap with Hewlett-Packard's and IBM's work with the OASIS -- a specification known as Web Services Distributed Management, or WSDM. Microsoft hopes to get element suppliers of servers, storage, networks and application software to use WS-Management to enable access to embedded management information via a standard protocol. On 8 October 2004, AMD, Dell, Intel, Microsoft and Sun Microsystems announced the publication of WS-Management (based on Microsoft's earlier WMX), a Web services standard that defines a common approach to exchanging management information across hardware, software and applications. ...[Full Story](#)



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AMD, Dell, Intel, Microsoft, and Sun Release Web Services for Management (WS-Management)

The Cover Pages, October 8, 2004 -- A new Web Services for Management (WS-Management) specification edited by Alan Geller (Microsoft) has been published. This initial joint publication of the specification names Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), Dell, Intel and Sun Microsystems as co-developers. A version of the specification was previously demonstrated at the WinHEC 2004 conference in Seattle under the title Web Services Management eXtensions (WMX). It is currently "a key part of the Microsoft Dynamic Systems Initiative (DSI)." ...[Full Story](#)



W3C Announces Formation of New Web Services Addressing Working Group.

The Cover Pages, October 7, 2004 -- W3C has chartered a new Web Services Addressing Working Group as part of the W3C Web Services Activity, under the W3C Architecture Domain. The TC Chair is Mark Nottingham (BEA), while Hugo Haas and Philippe Le Hégarret have been designated as W3C Team Contacts. The charter extends through 28-February-2006. The goal of the new Working Group is to produce a W3C Recommendation for Web Services Addressing by "refining the W3C Member Submission WS-Addressing based on consideration of the importance of this component in the Web Services architecture, implementation experience, and interoperability feedback." ...[Full Story](#)



Where's the simplicity in Web services?

By: Martin LaMonica

ZDNet, October 5, 2004 -- A debate is raging over whether the number of specifications based on Extensible Markup Language (XML), defining everything from how to add security to where to send data, has mushroomed out of control. Defenders of advanced Web services specifications say they are needed to ensure that new computing architectures are flexible enough to accommodate both sophisticated and smaller-scale applications. Detractors say that simpler application development methods are good enough. The rallying cry for people who favor simplicity is a technology approach called REST, or Representational State Transfer, a method of building applications by sending XML documents over existing Internet protocols. This allows programmers to construct applications with existing tools and computing infrastructure, notably HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol). ...[Full Story](#)



Open Source

Big fish swimming in the same school: One interesting trend to observe in the Open Source world this month was the actions of the largest traditional software and hardware vendors to align themselves with, support, and take advantage of the Open Source model. The following selection of articles present a range of examples of how this process is evolving up and down the stack of companies great and small.

In the first two items, Novell and IBM (each of which has heavily committed to Open Source in their core strategies) are seen to take internal and external actions consistent with that commitment. In the third, Microsoft (which is hardly a proponent of Open Source, for obvious reasons) is taking another baby step as it feels its way around this new and threatening reality. The fourth article reports on the activities of the "middlemen": the collaborative associations that are creating and promoting the wherewithal for vendors to make their moves. The final article focuses on yet another effort to create a specific flavor of Linux, tailored to a particular use. In this case, the French government is supporting

that effort.

Novell to Use Its Patents to Protect Open-Source Programs **By: Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols**

eWeek, October 12, 2004 -- On Tuesday, Novell Inc. announced that it will use its patent portfolio to protect its open-source software offerings. In a policy statement, Novell said it will utilize its patent portfolio to defend against potential intellectual property attacks on its open-source products. Software patent issues have increasingly become significant in both open- and closed-source programming circles. In Linux, Open Source Risk Management, a provider of open-source consulting and risk mitigation insurance, said in early August that there were 283 issued, but not yet court-validated, software patents that could conceivably be used in patent claims against Linux. ...[Full Story](#)



IBM Ratchets Up Attention To Open-Source And Standards-Based Software **By: Paul McDougall**

InformationWeek, October 4, 2004 -- IBM has quietly placed some of its most senior executives in a new unit that will develop a strategy to more precisely define the role the company will play in an IT market in which big business customers increasingly look to open-source and industry standards-based software to build their next-generation computing networks. The group will be headed by John Kelly, senior VP and group executive for IBM's Technology Group. Under the plan, Kelly's title becomes senior VP for technology and intellectual property. He will continue to oversee the company's Technology Group. Irving Wladawsky-Berger, general manager for IBM's E-business On Demand group, will also be part of the effort, as will Linux general manager Jim Stallings. Both executives will also retain their current responsibilities. ...[Full Story](#)



Microsoft open sources Web authoring application **By: Joris Evers**

nfoWorld, September 28, 2004 -- Continuing its flirtation with open source, Microsoft (Profile, Products, Articles) Corp. on Monday posted the code of a little-known collaboration application to open-source development site SourceForge.net. Microsoft is sharing the source of FlexWiki, a program for creating Web sites called wikis that allow users to add and edit content. It is Microsoft's third open-source code contribution, but the first time the company is sharing code for an actual application, said Jason Matusow, director of Microsoft's Shared Source Initiative. "We want to make sure that we continue to push our spectrum in terms of how far we go with different types of technologies and different types of licensing choices, and understand the benefits," he said. ...[Full Story](#)

The Free Standards Group and Open Source Development Labs Collaborate on Enterprise Linux Standards

DM Review, September 22, 2004 -- The Free Standards Group (FSG), a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing and promoting open source software standards, and the Open Source Development Labs (OSDL), a global consortium dedicated to accelerating the adoption of Linux in the enterprise, announced a collaboration to accelerate enterprise adoption of the Linux Standard Base (LSB) with new services to support software vendors developing applications for Linux. The two organizations already work closely with Linux distribution and independent software vendors. FSG partnered with OSDL on a new open project called the OSDL Working Set that aims to identify and quantify the most commonly deployed packages with Linux in enterprise production environments. FSG also helped create the conference program for the upcoming January, 2005 OSDL Enterprise Linux Summit in Burlingame, California. At this Summit, FSG will conduct a tutorial on developing LSB 2.0 compliant applications. ...[Full Story](#)



French Firms Aim To Beef Up Linux Security

By: Elizabeth Millard

TechNewsWorld, September 24, 2004 -- A consortium of French Linux firms are poised to work on developing a highly secure Linux operating system for business, defense and government use. The effort is being funded by the French Ministry of Defense, which chose Paris-based Linux vendor Mandrakesoft as the project leader. The other French companies include Bertin Technologies, Surlog, Oppida and Jaluna. The contract is a US\$8.58 million, three-year deal. Mandrakesoft spokesperson Gael Duval told LinuxInsider that the consortium is important, because it will heighten open-source security. The other companies in the group echo Duval's sentiment. [...Full Story](#)



Wireless Update

***Where to begin?** Ah, wireless. Not so long ago, if you scanned the ICT press coverage of standard setting organizations, the venerable IEE would have garnered a rather modest market share. That's hardly the case now, as all things wireless continue to command attention in the media airspace. These days, it seems like there's nary a frequency that the IEEE isn't working with, or a device that could be putting out a signal that doesn't have its own working group beaver away to exploit it.*

Our sampling of wireless articles this month amply demonstrates just how hot wireless and the enabling IEEE standards are, beginning with an item reporting on IEEE efforts to exploit unused television frequencies to set up "wireless regional networks." The next two pieces focus on vendor hunger to make money from each new wireless standard as quickly as possible, whether its ready to roll or not. Since many of the wireless applications that these new standards are intended to support are in the consumer space, rushing products to market before certification programs are in place will certainly lead to much angst at the customer level when early release products fail to perform as their vendors have promised, or where configuration proves to be a tricky affair. Our last item in this array is intended to remind us that IEEE is active in a great many other areas besides wireless standards (okay, so this one is about a cellphone battery standard, but at least it's a battery).

Now if the engineers at IEEE could just come up with some new and easier names for their endless array of wireless standards, before we get to a specification with a name like 802.11.z.AAA.742

IEEE to develop wireless broadband standard for open TV spectrum

RCR Wireless News, Piscataway, NJ, October 12, 2004 -- The Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers said it has set up a working group for a standard to tap open channels in the television spectrum for wireless broadband applications and services. Known as 802.22, or wireless regional area networks, the new standard will not interfere with existing licensed TV bands but its coverage will reach 40 kilometers and more from a base station, according to the IEEE. "This is ideal spectrum for deploying regional networks to provide broadband service in sparsely populated areas, where vacant channels are available," said Carl R. Stevenson, interim chair of the IEEE P802.22 Working Group. "Our goal is to equal or exceed the quality of DSL or cable modem services, and to be able to provide that service in the areas where wireline service is economically infeasible, due to the distance between potential users." [...Full Story](#)



ZigBee Buzzes on Standard

Unstrung.com September 30, 2004 -- The ZigBee Alliance has fired a warning shot to vendors guilty of creating "market confusion" in their launch of pre-standard products. The Institute of Electrical and

Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE) last year finished work on standardizing the physical layer and media-access control for the low-power wireless data technology (otherwise known as 802.15.4), but the ZigBee Alliance is still working on the software stack and upper layers. Official ratification is expected in this year's fourth quarter (see ZigBee Ready to Buzz?). Despite the imminent specification release, a number of vendors have launched pre-standard products in an effort to gain an early market lead. In an email note received by Unstrung, the chair of the Alliance expresses concern over the marketing of such kit. ...[Full Story](#)



Wi-Fi Alliance Will Not Certify Pre-Standard 802.11n Features

Wi-Fi Alliance Press Release, Austin, TX, October 11, 2004 -- The Wi-Fi Alliance today announced that it will not certify data rate enhancement features based on the IEEE (Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers) 802.11n amendment to the 802.11 wireless LAN standard until the standard is ratified. No IEEE 802.11n products currently exist, and none are expected to exist until the standard is completed in approximately two years (November 2006). Due to the potential for customer confusion, the Wi-Fi Alliance strongly discourages use of the term "IEEE 802.11n" in association with any Wi-Fi CERTIFIED™ product. To help assure that Wi-Fi technology users continue to have a positive experience, the Wi-Fi Alliance will revoke the Wi-Fi certification of any product with claims of IEEE 802.11n capabilities if that product is proven to adversely impact the interoperability of other Wi-Fi CERTIFIED products. ...[Full Story](#)



IEEE Starts Cellular Phone Battery Standard; Standard to Take Systems Approach to Make Lithium-Ion Battery Cells and Packs in Mobile Phones More Reliable

Business Wire, Picataway, NJ, October 7, 2004 -- The proliferation of cell phones continues to push demand for their lithium-ion and lithium-ion polymer batteries to new highs and has prompted the development of a new standard at the IEEE to improve their reliability. The standard, IEEE P1725(TM), "Standard for Rechargeable Batteries for Cellular Telephones," will be developed within the IEEE Standards Association Corporate Program. The new standard will seek to make cellular phone batteries more robust by setting uniform criteria for their design, production and evaluation. It will consider battery and battery pack electrical and mechanical construction, chemistries, process control, qualification and packaging technologies, among other areas. It will be developed by companies that manufacture batteries, cells and handsets, as well as by carriers. ...[Full Story](#)



Intellectual Property

Meanwhile, back at the courthouse: All things wireless may be one of the hottest areas today, but wireless technology also inhabits some of the densest patent thickets around. While the intellectual property rights (IPR) policies of the standards bodies involved are trying to scope out the IPR landscape as the standards in question are developed, not all infringement issues (especially those involving non-members) can be resolved before products move into the marketplace. The following article reports in depth on what's happening on the wireless legal front, as patent owners and advocates of royalty free licensing spar over the emerging areas of 802.11 and RFID.

Patent landrush threatens Wi-Fi standards

The Register, October 4, 2004 -- We have examined before how patent lawsuits are threatening to stifle the adoption of wireless standards. Symbol, fresh from an intellectual property victory over rival Proxim,

is the latest to assert sweeping licensing rights in 802.11 technology, while VIA is seeking to extend its proposed 'intellectual property pool' to WiMAX. With the emerging WiMAX and RFID wireless technologies both subject to major patent claims, as well as numerous intellectual property disputes in Wi-Fi, the arguments are growing louder that standards are kept royalty-free. This would basically give companies – particularly start-ups – the choice of keeping their inventions proprietary and seeking to build a de facto standard with a full royalty revenue stream, Qualcomm-style; or donate the innovations to industry bodies for free, but with the hope of creating a far larger market in a shorter timescale, in which to sell products and services. ...[Full Story](#)



RFID Update

And (also) meanwhile, over in the mini-wireless space: The RFID tag marketplace is also having other types of interesting experiences these days: on the up side, it is enjoying increasing success in the marketplace. But on the downside, it is also experiencing headaches in grappling with the IPR rules under which standard setting efforts should operate.

In our first item, we see strong support for the deployment of RFID tags in European supply chains, while in the second, AIM (which is involved in all types of identification technologies, and not just RFID comments on the woes of EPC Global, another standards organization that focuses particularly on the RFID space. EPC Global is struggling with the issue of whether it can successfully maintain a royalty-free IPR policy, and is finding itself in what AIM characterizes as an "IPR Mess."

New ETSI Standard approved for the use of RFID in UHF Frequencies

ETSI Press Release, Sophia-Antipolis, France, October 18, 2004 -- The use of RFID tags in the European Supply Chain has taken a great step forward with the approval by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) of a new standard for the use of RFID in UHF frequencies. This news has even greater impact now that the Frequency Management Working Group of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations has approved the recommendation to make the frequency band associated with this standard available in their 46 Member countries. This new standard will allow companies to market High Power RFID tags and readers in all national markets of the European Union and EFTA...[Full Story](#).



EPC™, ISO and IP

AIM Global Press Release, October 5, 2004 -- Despite having made real progress in moving its intellectual property (IP) policy forward, EPCglobal may be involved in a time-consuming waste of time that will slow eventual adoption of a Gen2 standard. The EPCglobal policy of requiring royalty-free IP from its participating members is laudable, from one perspective, but incomplete from all others. Why? Because it is neither inclusive nor enforceable. And the IP policy is just part of the problem. THE IP MESS 1. There are many holders of fundamental IPs that are not EPCglobal participants. EPCglobal cannot indemnify manufacturers or users against infringement suits from these IP holders. ...[Full Story](#).



Next Gen Video Update

Will this video never end? Well yes, it will, and it won't be that long before a likely winner becomes clear. That's because the end game in the DVD standards wars is beginning, as content developers finally start to place their bets on which format they wish to support.

Accordingly, our first story in this category reports that 20th Century Fox has come out in favor of Blu-ray, following

in the footsteps of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, which just happens to have accepted the acquisition bid of Blu-ray camp proponent Sony. But few things in standards are ever that simple, and in our second item John Dvorak reflects on the fact that while the standards wars are being fought, the standards themselves may not be receiving the type of attention that they should. Meanwhile, the audio technology of perennial favorite Dolby Laboratories has been declared mandatory under both the Blu-ray and the HD DVD format standards, as celebrated in the Dolby press release that next follows. (Which only goes to show that the only thing better than backing the right standard is owning the right standard.) Our final item, from The Japan Times Online, looks ahead to the next Japanese consumer electronics battle: this time over large screen TVs, where vendors in various camps hope to score "An Early Mortal Blow."

20th Century Fox to adopt Blu-ray disc standard for new DVD

Japan Today, Tokyo, October 3, 2004 -- Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp, a major U.S. movie distributor, will adopt the Blu-ray disc standard for next-generation DVD players developed by Sony Corp and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co and other companies, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported Sunday. The economic daily said Twentieth Century Fox's move may give the Blu-ray disc standard an advantage over HD DVD, another format for DVD players developed by Toshiba Corp, NEC Corp and other companies. (Kyodo News) ...[Full Story](#)



Suspicious Battle Dept. By: John C. Dvorak

PC Magazine, October 6, 2004 -- The Blu-ray disc standard continues to battle with the HD-DVD standards in the back alleys of Asia. The final spec for HD-DVD should appear early next year. Though the Blu-ray group has a final standard, they are now adding to it. This process of creating constant additional standards within standards makes a mockery of the concept of standards. This problem is rampant in the current crop of DVD players—in case you haven't noticed. These incorporate different sound standards and playback schemes, and some DVD players can read writable discs while others cannot. It's amazing that these things manage to work at all. Most work poorly. ...[Full Story](#)



Dolby Technologies Mandatory on both HD DVD and Blu-ray Disc Next-Generation Packaged Media Formats

Dolby.com, San Francisco, CA, September 23, 2004 -- As evidence of its pioneering efforts in multichannel audio entertainment, Dolby Laboratories announces that Dolby® audio technologies have been selected as mandatory formats for both High-Definition Digital Versatile Disc (HD DVD) and Blu-ray Disc. The DVD Forum has selected Dolby Digital Plus and MLP Lossless™ as mandatory audio formats for HD DVD. The Blu-ray Disc Association announced that Dolby Digital will be a mandatory technology on its new format, the Blu-ray Disc. Both discs are next-generation packaged media formats designed to deliver high-definition picture quality. "Dolby is a recognized leader in multichannel audio technologies. ...[Full Story](#)



Firms learn from VCR war, seek early mortal blow

The Japan Times Online, October 16, 2004 -- Japanese electronics makers are waging battles in various digital home appliance sectors, aware that those who claim initial victories will likely remain dominant. A Sony corp. employee showcases a Blu-ray disc recorder and its disc package at a Sony showroom in Tokyo in this file photo taken in June. Manufacturers such as Sharp Corp. and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. showed off their latest technologies earlier this month at Ceatec Japan 2004, one of the biggest digital consumer electronics exhibitions in Asia. The event was held in Chiba through Oct. 9. ...[Full Story](#)



And about that content: *Not all of the action in the content space has to do with which format it will be incorporated into. There's also the threat of illegal copying to contend with. The following article reports on a new consortium that has been formed to bridge the gap between competing digital rights management systems, to ensure interoperability between products that use different copy protection mechanisms.*

Tide turns in DRM wars with the creation of Coral Consortium **By: Peter White**

DM Europe, October 7, 2004 -- Intertrust, Philips and Sony have added more top consumer electronics, content and technology heavyweights to its attempt to create an open interoperable Digital Rights Management environment. The system promised at the turn of the year has taken a step closer to becoming a reality with a new DRM clustering of companies calling itself the Coral Consortium. Lining up with the expected triumvirate of Intertrust and its two owners Philips and Sony, are more powerful names in the form of Panasonic, Samsung, Hewlett-Packard and the News Corp controlled film company Twentieth Century Fox. ...[Full Story](#)

Milestones

What a difference a decade makes: *On the first of December, the World Wide Web Consortium will be throwing itself a party. And well it might, given the revolution in global information sharing that it has helped to create. Tim Berners-Lee and his crew will doubtless look forward as well as backwards, as they celebrate past victories and project what the future may hold for their work, and for our continuing enjoyment of it.*

W3C Celebrates Ten Years Leading the Web

W3C Press Release, October 13, 2004 -- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) will mark the ten year anniversary of its founding with a symposium on 1 December 2004, at Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel. The day-long event will feature presentations by and discussions with luminaries from around the world whose contributions have played a key role in creating the Web, ensuring that the Web is open and accessible to everyone worldwide, and helping the Web to reach its full potential. Although attendance to the event is limited to W3C Members and invited guests, plans are being made to make the content of the day's lectures and talks available to the public. ...[Full Story](#)



Story Updates

Creative commons continues to catch on: *In our September issue this year, we focused on collaborative efforts of all kinds, including the Creative Commons project, an ambitious effort to facilitate content sharing on flexible, non-economic conditions. Since that issue of the CSB, the Creative Commons organization has launched efforts in the United Kingdom, and also, in the article below, reports that the use of its creative copyright licensing alternatives continues to enjoy robust growth.*

Creative Licensing Scheme Grabs Artists' Attention **By: Chris Nolan**

eWeek, September 29, 2004 -- Is the intellectual property licensing scheme known as Creative Commons picking up steam? The answer, it seems, is a cautious "yes." And that—despite the organization's demurring—could have political implications. "It's picking up," Commons director Glenn Otis Brown says. "The last six months, we feel like it's a completely different organization." The licensing

scheme's popularity is clearly growing, increasing by a steady 50 percent every fiscal quarter for the past year, according to the Commons' traffic and other records. More than 4 million sites—of the 5 billion searched regularly the Web—have some kind of license. ...[Full Story](#)

Trying to turn the tide: *In our June issue this year, we focused on Standards and Security, including the rising tide of spam. The following article reports on a meeting co-hosted by the FTC and NIST to be held in early November. The meeting agenda acknowledges the fact that technology, rather than traditional legislative prohibitions, hold the key (if there is one) to finally curbing the spread of spam.*

FTC, NIST to Host E-mail Authentication Summit

Linux Electronics, September 16, 2004 -- The Federal Trade Commission and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will co-host a two-day 'summit' November 9-10 to explore the development and deployment of technology that could reduce spam. The E-mail Authentication Summit will focus on challenges in the development, testing, evaluation, and deployment of domain-level authentication systems. A Federal Register Notice to be published today notes that the FTC's National Do Not E-mail Registry Report to Congress stated that "significant security, enforcement, practical and technical challenges rendered a registry an ineffective solution to the spam problem." ...[Full Story](#)



Standards in Health

Stop, now, what's that (ultra) sound? *While healthcare has historically been the province of regulations rather than consensus-based standards, more and more of the latter are being created as healthcare incorporates more and more technology into its delivery systems. The following two items are representative of the work that is being done in this area on two fronts: standards that relate to diagnostic equipment, and standards needs that relate to managing the ever growing amount of data that the health system needs to create, analyze, store and access.*

NEMA Releases Two Revised Diagnostic Ultrasound Standards

NEMA Press Release, Rosslyn, VA, September 23, 2004 -- NEMA, The National Electrical Manufacturers Association, has released two standards for users in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices who want to measure the performance of their diagnostic imaging equipment: UD 2-2004, Acoustic Output Measurement Standard for Diagnostic Ultrasound Equipment, and UD 3-2004, Standard for Real-Time Display of Thermal and Mechanical Acoustic Output Indices on Diagnostic Ultrasound Equipment. UD 2-2004 describes a set of measurement procedures for ultrasonic output parameters. The standard achieves this objective by setting forth precise definitions of quantities, primarily those relating to acoustic output levels, and specifying standard procedures for measuring them. ...[Full Story](#)



OASIS Members Form International Health Continuum Technical Committee.

Cover Pages, September 23, 2004 -- OASIS has announced the creation of a new International Health Continuum Technical Committee as a "forum for companies on the Healthcare continuum internationally to voice their needs and requirements with respect to XML and Web Services." OASIS member sponsors of the IHC TC include CommerceNet, BT, National Insurance Administration of Norway, ReadIMinds, Webify Solutions, and SeeBeyond. DeLeys Brandman (CommerceNet Consortium) is the TC Convener and Proposed TC Chair. A principal motivation for the TC activity is that many standards organizations are working to standardize transactions in the healthcare vertical space but "little attention is being paid to the continuum of health, viz., to horizontal standards allowing all related verticals to interoperate through the use of web services tools and technologies." ...[Full Story](#)

The Business of Standards

So that's where they come from: *The standards of accredited standards bodies, in contrast to those of consortia, are almost always sold, rather than being made available without charge – which means that someone has to provide the fulfillment function. One of the biggest players in that space is IHS, which has just gotten bigger with its acquisition of USA Information Systems..*

IHS Acquires USA Information Systems

IHS Press Release, Englewood, CO, September 20, 2004 – Information Handling Services, Inc. (IHS - www.ihs.com), the leading international provider of content integration and decision support tools, technical standards, codes and product specifications, parts management and logistics solutions, today announced that it has acquired USA Information Systems, Inc. (USAInfo - www.usainfo.com). The move augments the world's largest published collection of engineering standards, military specs and parts logistics solutions from IHS, which has served worldwide engineering communities and customers for nearly 45 years. "This acquisition is about industry leadership and customer choice," said Charles Picasso, president and COO, IHS. "USAInfo has a successful track record of product innovation and customer focus and will be a complement to our existing logistics and government document products and services. ...[Full Story](#)



Standards and Society

Your very own black box: For many years, valuable data has been recovered from the famous "black boxes" that are mandatory on passenger aircraft above a certain size. That data is essential not only to learn why a specific disaster occurred, but more importantly, how such an event can be prevented in the future. Now the same technology may be on the way for passenger cars, augmenting "crash dummy" information with field data from actual accidents in real, as compared to simulated, road conditions.

World's First Motor Vehicle 'Black Box' Standard Created At IEEE

Business Wire, Piscataway, N.J. September 23, 2004 – Driven by a lack of the uniform scientific crash data needed to make vehicle and highway transportation safer and reduce fatalities, the IEEE has created IEEE 1616(TM), the first universal standard for motor vehicle event data recorders (MVEDR) much like those that monitor crashes on aircraft and trains. National Safety Council statistics show that motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death in those between one and 33 years in the U.S. They are the nation's largest public health problem, causing a death every 12 minutes and a disabling injury every 14 seconds. Worldwide, someone dies in a motor vehicle crash each minute. Road crash fatalities have claimed about 30 million lives globally since 1896. ...[Full Story](#)