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.

New Standards/Specifications

__Better than a lifetime cell phone number__ : The hot news in the public press these days is about the citizenry securing the right to lifetime ownership of cell phone numbers. But a more complex and interesting challenge is being tackled by the Liberty Alliance Project, which is addressing the sophisticated issues of "federated identity." As its standards are completed and implemented, users of Web services will enjoy greater convenience, greater security and flexibility.

Liberty Alliance Finalizes Phase 2 Specifications and Privacy Guidelines for Federated Identity

Madrid, Spain– November 12, 2003 – The Liberty Alliance, a consortium formed to develop open, interoperable federated identity standards, today announced approval and publication of its Phase 2 specifications which round out the existing Liberty Federation Framework and cement the foundation for the Liberty Identity Web Services Framework. The final Liberty Phase 2 specifications are now available for download to be used for Liberty-enabled product and service development. The Alliance also announced today initial member implementation plans for the Phase 2 specifications, a best practices "owners manual" to help Liberty implementers use the specifications in a privacy-compliant manner, and the formation of a new group, the Services Group, to develop service interface specifications that exploit the Liberty Identity Web Services Framework.

For the full story see: http://www.projectliberty.org/press/releases/2003-11-12.html

__To GIF or not to GIF?__ While almost everyone is familiar (and uses) the GIF format for creating and sharing images, the W3C has been at work for years on an independent format, due in part to the fact that the GIF format is proprietary. But now the patents on the GIF format are expiring, leaving many wondering if this will spell the end for the W3C offering. In the announcement below, the W3C announces the completion of the second edition of the PNG specification, and notes the functionalities that it provides that are not available with GIF.

PNG Second Edition Is a W3C Recommendation

November 10, 2003 -- The World Wide Web Consortium released the "Portable Network Graphics (PNG) Specification (Second Edition)" as a W3C Recommendation. The document has also become an International Standard, ISO/IEC 15948:2003. ...[PNG is], an extensible file format for the lossless, portable, well-compressed storage of raster images. PNG provides a patent-free replacement for GIF and can also replace many common uses of TIFF. Indexed-color, grayscale, and truecolor images are

supported, plus an optional alpha channel. Sample depths range from 1 to 16 bits. PNG is designed to work well in online viewing applications, such as the World Wide Web, so it is fully streamable with a progressive display option. PNG is robust, providing both full file integrity checking and simple detection of common transmission errors. Also, PNG can store gamma and chromaticity data for improved color matching on heterogeneous platforms. Read more about the Graphics Activity .

For the full story see: http://www.w3.org/TR/2003/REC-PNG-20031110/

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"Future-proofing" the transmission lines: Overinvestment in fiber optic lines provided one of the great train wrecks in the general telecommunications meltdown of the Internet bubble years, leading to vastly overbuilt capacity and the collapse of many companies with huge market caps. Nonetheless, the pace of standards development in this area continues. The good news is that the "fat pipes" that these standards are enabling will be able to accommodate any conceivable load of data for decades to come, ensuring that continuing investments in telecommunications infrastructure will reap rewards for many years to come. The next two items relate to the announcement of two new standards that will help to achieve this end.

ITU Standard quadruples fibre optic transmission capacity and lowers cost

Geneva, 7 November 2003 - The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has reached agreement on a new global standard that quadruples capacity of the optical transmission systems which link the nodes of telecommunication networks. The new standard, which allows a transmission speed of 40 Gbit/s, has been developed for carriers to be able to bring down the cost per bit (of data carried) and the costs of network maintenance and management. The standard - ITU-T Recommendation G.959.1 - increases the capacity for optical interfaces from the present maximum of 10 Gbit/s to 40 Gbit/s. The completed work goes hand-in-hand with other work by ITU in optical transport networks, which encourage a fair market for manufacturers and operators, and ultimately encourages better service for consumers. It is already finding it's way into optical interfaces developed to exploit the demand for high capacity Internet routers. The standard follows extensive field trials between a number of service providers and manufacturers.

For the complete story, see: http://www.itu.int/newsroom

New ITU standards make fat pipes fatter

Geneva, 5 November 2003 -- TU delegates from government and industry have agreed on a new global standard that will allow network operators to increase the capacity of optical fibre. The standard, created in response to industry needs, was developed under ITU's fast track approval process — AAP (Alternative Approval Process). The standard — ITU-T Recommendation G.695 — applies to a technology called Coarse Wave Division Multiplexing (CWDM), used most often in metropolitan networks. In today's cost-conscious telecommunications market CWDM is seen as a cheaper and simpler alternative to DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing). Less expensive uncooled lasers may be used in CWDM products because of wide channel spacing. These lasers require less precise wavelength control, as well as lower-cost passive components. Experts estimate that carriers with sufficient deployed fibre could make savings of up to 30 per cent deploying a CWDM solution compared with the DWDM alternative.

For the complete story, see: http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2003/28.html

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It's not just for kids anymore: Whether systems administrators like it or not, instant messaging has infiltrated the workplace. At the same time, new work is being done to integrate IM into the workplace as

a tool, rather than a distraction and a security risk. The IETF is facilitating that progression with the announcement that it has approved five new specifications to permit seamless exchange of IM between disparate systems.

IETF Instant Messaging and Presence Protocol Specifications Approved

Cover Pages, October 31, 2003 -- A public message from the Internet Engineering Steering Group announces the approval of five proposed standard IETF Working Drafts from the Instant Messaging and Presence Protocol (IMPP) WG. The documents include "Presence Information Data Format (PIDF)," "Common Profile for Instant Messaging (CPIM)," "Common Presence and Instant Messaging: Message Format," "Address Resolution for Instant Messaging and Presence," and "Common Profile for Presence (CPP)." The IMPP WG specifications form the basis for a mechanism by which multiple distinct Instant Messaging applications may pass messages among the different systems while retaining the ability to use end-to-end encryption, integrity protection, and a shared framework for presence information.

For the full story, see: http://xml.coverpages.org/ni2003-10-31-a.html

***So much news, so many formats:** With the ability to share information electronically, news agencies and outlets of all types now have the ability to exchange vast quantities of news in real time. Ideally, such data flows can be dropped seamlessly into diverse print and web layouts - if the right standards are created and adopted. The following press release addresses a new specification that will allow those in the news industry to do just that.*

Industry Milestone: New Standard for Online Content Ready for Prime Time

Alexandria, VA, (October 27, 2003) - Publishers, aggregators, syndicators and other content companies are now ready to exchange content for secondary licensing using a standardized XML format - the newly released PRISM specification, the PRISM Aggregator DTD (Document Type Definition) Version 1.0....By providing the industry with a standardized vocabulary and rules for defining content electronically, the PRISM Aggregator DTD enables aggregators to lower their costs of bringing new sources of information online. It also enables them to publish the content online more quickly, making it more valuable both to them and to the owners of that content.

For the full story see: http://www.idealliance.org/prismtemp/news/2003/1024.asp

New Initiatives

***Web Services Standards Everywhere:** If a new IT standards working group is formed, there's an excellent chance that it will be formed in the area of Web services. A month is not likely to go by without one or several (or even many) new initiatives being launched by the various bodies active in this area. For an overview of who is doing what, see The Role of Web Services Bodies: In Their Own Words http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/may03.php#featured, and for the latest announcement, see the following.*

OASIS Members Advance Protocol for Monitoring and Controlling Asynchronous Web Services

Boston, MA, USA; 10 November 2003 -- Members of the OASIS international standards consortium have begun work on a specification to enable the control and monitoring of asynchronous or long-running Web services. The OASIS Asynchronous Service Access Protocol (ASAP) Technical Committee is developing an extension of the World Wide Web Consortium's Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)

that will accommodate latency between the request for a resource or service and its actual return. ASAP is applicable for areas as diverse as workflow, business process management, e-commerce, data mining, and mobile wireless devices.

OASIS ASAP Technical Committee http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=asap
Cover Pages Technology Report: Asynchronous Transactions and Web Services http://xml.coverpages.org/async.html

For the full story see: http://xml.coverpages.org/async.html

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Financial standards proliferate: An increasing number of standards bodies are active in setting standards that permit financial transactions to be executed in diverse settings, involving everything from smartcards and wireless devices to public company financial reporting. The following press release relates to a new initiative directed at ensuring that these various efforts are executed in a useful and coordinated fashion.

IFX FORUM TO DEVELOP STANDARDIZED XML PAYMENT MESSAGING WITH LEADING BANKS, OTHER STANDARDS GROUPS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. Nov. 10, 2003 The Interactive Financial eXchange (IFX) Forum expects to be a key player in the International Standards Team Harmonization (ISTH) initiative that was announced on Friday by Gartner, Inc. The IFX Forum, comprised of representatives of leaders in the financial services industry, has a strong track record in XML development and has already delivered robust, extensible financial messaging standards that are rich in payment content and designed for interoperability....[t]he formation of the ISTH group [was announced], with its goal to create a single Core Payment XML "Kernel" that can be used globally by any corporation and any servicing bank, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the four standards groups to cooperate and coordinate their message standards' content and use of a core payment kernel XML transaction. RosettaNet has also endorsed the ISTH's direction....The IFX standard, first published in April 2000 and now in its fifth release, is designed specifically for interoperability of systems seeking to exchange financial information internally and externally.

For the full story, see: http://www.ifxforum.org/ifxforum.org/index.cfm

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Standards and productivity: One of the drivers of the current jobless recovery is a dramatic rise in productivity. One enabler of increased productivity that is not often mentioned is the development and deployment of standards that address manufacturing and other supply-chain processes. The following new work group formed by OASIS addresses communication between shop floor management and enterprise management, to permit real time adjustments to changing circumstances.

The OASIS PPS TC Is Being Formed

OASIS, October 24, 2003 -- The OASIS Production Planning and Scheduling (PPS) TC has been proposes and OASIS has issued a Call for Participation. In the current manufacturing environment, shop floor management should be collaborated with enterprise management in order to stay current with the customer needs that cannot be expected and frequently changed. Considering this situation, production planning software in the enterprise level and production scheduling software in the shop floor level are required to be integrated. The purpose of the OASIS PPS TC is to develop common object models and corresponding XML schemas for production planning and scheduling software. The OASIS PPS TC will conduct its business in Japanese. The first meeting will take place on 18 December in Tokyo

Open Source

Drumbeat for open source continues: *In the last issue of the Consortium Standards Bulletin, we reflected on the pernicious effects of "computer monocultures" (Alpha Predators and CyberInsecurity), as highlighted in the recently released report, "CyberInsecurity: the Cost of Monopoly" . The following report, commissioned by the Danish government, highlights other types of adverse effects that lack of competition causes, and recommends government action to break monopolies that become entrenched in the marketplace.*

Denmark urges government support for open source

ZDNet News, October 24, 2003 -- Open source software and open standards are vital for any attempt at e-government, argues a new report from Denmark. Open source software represents a serious alternative to proprietary products, and should be used as a tool to open up software markets to more competition, according to a report carried out under the auspices of the Danish government. The report, which stirred up controversy when it was published in Denmark earlier this month, was released in English this week by the Danish Board of Technology. While a number of governments in Europe and elsewhere are eyeing open source software as a way of cutting costs and stimulating localised software development, the Danish study goes a step further, arguing that public sector support for open-source and open standards may be necessary for there to be any real competition in the software market....The study recommended that governments take an active role in promoting standardised file formats and alternatives to dominant proprietary applications in order to help break a "de facto monopoly." "The ordinary market conditions for standard software will tend towards a very small number of suppliers or a monopoly," the Board of Technology stated in the report. "It will only be possible to achieve competition in such a situation by taking political decisions that assist new market participants in entering the market."

Story Updates

Another link in the chain: *We have been following RFID tag specifications and market testing for all of 2003, and the news in this area continues to issue rapidly. The following two stories show both sides of the buy/sell equation in this rapidly evolving area: a new standard from the Auto-ID Center has been released to enable the supply side, and another 900 pound gorilla is joining Wal-Mart on the demand side: the Department of Defense.*

Physical Markup Language (PML) Core Specification Version 1.0 for EPC Objects.

The Cover Pages, November 10, 2003 -- A "PML Core Specification Version 1.0" has been published as an Auto-ID Center Recommendation, documenting the core portion of the Physical Markup Language (PML Core). The PML vocabularies provide the XML definitions for data exchanged between components in the EPC Network system. EPC is an enabling technology designed to transform the global supply chain through a new, open global standard for real-time, automatic identification of traded items.

Feds, Wal-Mart Drive RFID Adoption

eWEEK, October 28, 2003 -- While still in its infancy, radio frequency identification technology is gaining momentum in business and now with the federal government. The Department of Defense last week

instituted a policy to require its suppliers to install radio frequency identification (RFID) tags on individual parts and pallets by 2005, a federal stamp of approval on the technology. The tags will enable an operator to wirelessly scan a package for asset management and tracking data. This move by the military follows on the heels of the world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which recently decided to require RFID from its suppliers by January 2005. Currently, the military mandate requires that radio frequency (RF) tags be installed at both the crate and pallet level, not on individual items, according to DOD spokeswoman Marcia Klein. The agency will work with its almost 24,000 suppliers to deploy the individual tags and the systems to monitor and analyze the data. See also PML for Radio Frequency Identification

For the full story see: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,4149,1365701,00.asp

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Legislation/Regulation/Advocacy

Two Way Street: *One feature of the Federal government is its enormous buying power. As a result of this economic influence, requirements adopted by the government can affect the uptake of standards in the private sector as well (see the "Story Updates" above for another example of this dynamic). On the other hand, one advantage to private sector standards bodies is that they generally can work faster than legislative bodies. Sometimes Congress will take advantage of a voluntary standard created by a consensus process, using it as the basis for a law or regulation. The stories below illustrate each of these phenomena.*

Draft Federal Guidelines Issued for Computer Security

NIST, November 3, 2003 -- Computer scientists at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released on Nov. 3 an initial public draft of *Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems* (NIST SP 800-53). The publication, which details controls that will become mandatory for most federal systems in 2005, is expected to have a wide audience beyond the federal government. NIST invites public comments on the new draft guidelines for three months. The agency will hold an open, public workshop in March 2004 to share comments and discuss possible revisions to the draft.

For the full story, see: http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/compsecurityguide.htm

Standards Key to Passage of Electronic Check Clearing Legislation

ANSI, October 29, 2003 -- In the age of instantaneous communication and automated teller machines, consumers often find themselves perplexed to be waiting days for a check to clear. Banks are currently required by law to physically transmit original paper checks between financial institutions for processing....This cumbersome delay was answered when Congress recently passed a Conference Report on HR 1474, otherwise known as the "Check 21 Act," which was signed into law by President Bush on October 28, 2003. HR 1474, now Public Law #108-100, will permit electronic checks to legally substitute their original paper copies in order to expedite processing. Rather than waiting for a check to be physically transported to the original institution and back, the information would be transmitted electronically...The electronic check clearing standards originated with the ANSI Accredited X9 Committee. X9 develops and publishes voluntary, consensus technical standards for the financial services industry, in the areas of check processing, electronic check exchange, PIN management and security, financial industry use of data encryption, and wholesale funds transfer, among others.

For the full story see: http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=542

Intellectual Property Issues

Interoperability and ownership rights: To some, it may come as a surprise that achieving interoperability may provide a right to violate another owner's copyright. But that right is narrow and evolving. The first article below highlights a situation where a court found that the right was not available, while the second describes a Copyright Office ruling that could undercut the same court's ruling. The third item is a link to an announcement by the Librarian of Congress, further defining the types of copying to achieve interoperability that are permissible under U.S. copyright law.

The DMCA and Interoperability: A Troubling
Legal Strategy in the Aftermarket Industries
By Peter Moldave

Technology Law Bulletin -- The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) prohibits technological devices that assist in the circumvention of copyright access controls. This "anti-circumvention" prohibition was enacted to prevent the manufacture of devices that could be used to circumvent "digital locks" on copyrighted materials such as books, films and music that are sold in digital form. However, a case decided early this year raises significant concerns about the ability of companies to use the DMCA not just to prevent the copying of music or other copyrighted media, but to use technology to lock-in consumers in order to prevent aftermarket competition.

For the full story, see: http://www.lgu.com/newsletter/articles/dmcainterop.shtml

DMCA grounds shaken in Lexmark cartridge case

IDG News Service, October 30, 2003 -- A ruling this week from the U.S. Copyright Office could strengthen manufacturer Static Control Components Inc.'s (SCC's) defense against a copyright infringement lawsuit by Lexmark International Inc. that is expected to have a broad impact on the market for low-cost, third-party printer cartridges. SCC, in Sanford, North Carolina, makes computer chips that allow manufacturers to create clones of toner cartridges used in Lexmark printers. Lexmark sued SCC last year, charging that SCC's chips include copyright Lexmark computer code and violate the Digital Millennium Copyright Act's (DMCA) ban on circumventing digital technology that protects copyright material. Without taking a position on whether SCC's chips illegally incorporate Lexmark code, the Copyright Office ruled that the DMCA does not block software developers from using reverse engineering to circumvent digital protection of copyright material if they do so to achieve interoperability with an independently created computer program.

For the full story click here.

Rulemaking on Exemptions from Prohibition on Circumvention of Technological Measures that Control Access to Copyrighted Works

On **October 28, 2003,** the Librarian of Congress, on the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, announced the classes of works subject to the exemption from the prohibition against circumvention of technological measures that control access to copyrighted works...

Full the full story see: http://www.copyright.gov/1201/