NEWS SHORTS

New Initiatives

OASIS Members to Create Framework for Global Sharing of Criminal and Terrorist Evidence; XML Specification Will Deliver Reliable Authentication and Auditing to Safeguard Privacy and Increase Effectiveness of Lawful Intercepts

Boston, MA, USA: 23 January 2003 - The OASIS standards consortium today announced the formation of a new technical committee to develop a universal global framework for supporting rapid discovery and sharing of suspected criminal and terrorist evidence by law enforcement agencies.: The OASIS LegalXML Lawful Intercept XML (LI-XML) Technical Committee was formed to meet critical needs emerging from several national and intergovernmental mandates around the world, including the recently passed United States Homeland Security Information Sharing Act of 2002, the new Lawful Intercept additional protocol of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, and e-Government mandates in Europe and the United States.

For the full press release, see: http://www.oasis-open.org/news/oasis_news_01_23_03.shtml

W3C Launches Timed Text Working Group

Cambridge, MA, USA: 17 January 2003: W3C announced the creation of the Timed Text Working Group (TTWG) within the SYMM (Synchronized Multimedia) Activity. The TTWG is chartered to develop an XML based format used to represent streamable text synchronized with timed media like audio or video. The Timed-Text specification is intended to cover all necessary aspects of timed text on the Web. Typical applications of timed text are the real time subtitling of foreign-language movies on the Web, captioning for people lacking audio devices or having hearing impairments, karaoke, scrolling news items or teleprompter applications. Currently, Today, there are a number of incompatible formats for captioning, subtitling and other forms of timed text used on the Web.

To read the full story, see: http://www.w3c.org/AudioVideo/TT/

For a third party article on this release, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1023-981491.html

OGC Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative enters Phase 2

Wayland, MA, USA, January 9, 2003 - In furtherance of its effort to enable government and industry to work together to manage emergency situations, the Open GIS Consortium (OGC) announced that Phase 2 of its Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative (CIPI-2) has begun. The CIPI aims to test the application of interoperable technology to help national, state, provincial, and other local governments, commercial, and non-government organizations better manage emergency situations. The initiative does this by coordinating geospatial data and services to meet critical infrastructure protection needs. The Geography Division of the U.S. Census Bureau is sponsoring CIPI-2 and will use OGC's rapid-prototyping process to develop two prototype systems: an online system to update governmental unit boundary information for existing incorporated places, and a system based on OpenGIS Specifications for serving Topologically

Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER®) data. The interest of government in the initiative underscores the increasingly critical role of geospatial information in both local as well as national emergency response situations.

For the full press release, see:
http://www.opengis.org/pressrm/pressrelease/20030115_CIPI_SPONSOR_PR.htm

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New Standards

Cable, TV Makers Agree on US Digital Standard

Washington, D.C., December 20, 2002 - In an announcement which received little press attention, Comcast Corp., Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and a variety of other cable and electronics manufacturers disclosed that they had reached agreement on a new digital standard which would allow most purchasers of a compliant television to avoid purchasing a set top box from their US cable provider. The accord follows lengthy discussions between cable companies and electronics manufacturers, and results partially from US governmental pressure to finally launch digital television, in order to free up more bandwidth for wireless services. The 21 companies that have already agreed to the standard have petitioned the FTC to make the standard mandatory on all involved industry participants.

This article, copyrighted by the NY Times, cites a Bloomsberg News source. It is available at:
http://digitalmass.boston.com/news/2002/12/20/digital_standard.html

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OASIS Members Launch Effort to Establish Common Identification Scheme for Distributed Directory Services

Boston, MA, USA; 8 January 2003 - In an effort to provided "URLs for everything" -- data, systems, organizations, services, and people -- the OASIS standards body announced an effort to address a key challenge in distributed directory services and data sharing--establishing a common identification scheme that can be used across all domains, applications, and transport protocols. The OASIS Extensible Resource Identifier (XRI) Technical Committee will define a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) scheme and a corresponding Uniform Resource (URN) namespace that meet these requirements, as well as basic mechanisms for resolving XRIs and exchanging data and metadata associated with XRI-identified resources. The work will be based on the Extensible Name Service (XNS), which will be contributed to OASIS by the XNS Public Trust Organization (XNSORG). This contribution represents a continuation of a trend of organizations turning to OASIS to help further their own missions.

For the full press release, see: http://www.oasis-open.org/news/oasis_news_01_08_03.shtml

For a third party article on this release, see: http://www.internetnews.com/dev-news/article.php/1566101

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PICMG Adopts AdvancedTCA Specification

WAKEFIELD, Mass., Jan. 7, 2003 - While standards for software and Internet applications garner most of the attention of the technical press, standards efforts remain equally important in the world of tangible products. Recently, the 600 member PCI Industrial Computer Manufacturers Group (PICMG) adopted Revision 1.0 of PICMG 3.0, the base specification for its new AdvancedTCA family of specifications. The Advanced Telecom Computing Architecture is the first open industry specification for carrier grade equipment incorporating high speed switched fabric technology, allowing compliant systems to switch and

process 2.5 terabits per second in a single shelf. The specification development effort involved contributions from over 100 companies, and more than 11,000 person-hours of meetings and calls.

For the full press release, see: http://www.picmg.org/news.stm#pr010703

What's Up/What's Down

Market Uncertain Whether to Embrace 802.11a Wi-Fi Standard

CNET News.com, January 8, 2003 - The alphabetic confusion and competition among available Wi-Fi standards continues, as Apple Computer announced that it would not build products to the new (and faster) 802.11a flavor of the successful 802.11b wireless network standard. The issue is the hardware cost of upgrading modems and access points, since the two standards are incompatible. An alternative, 802.11g, however, provides equally fast transmission speeds without requiring modem upgrades. While Apple has announced that it will not implement 802.11a, some other vendors are opting for "dual" use products, which would be usable in both 802.11a as well as 802.11b environments.

For the full story, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1033-979748.html?tag=cd_mh

United Linux to Deliver Enhanced Linux Platform for Telecommunications Carriers

WAKEFIELD, Mass., January 16, 2003 - In a further example of how the Linux platform is becoming appropriate for a broader and broader range of commercial purposes, UnitedLinux today announced plans to make its commercial Linux product available to telecommunications carriers. Under the initiative announced by the Linux consortium, it will integrate the full Open Source Development Lab (OSDL) Carrier Grade Linux (CGL) 1.1 feature set for UnitedLinux 1.0, delivering enhanced abilities to develop and deploy advanced carrier-grade applications in a standardized Linux environment. Developed by UnitedLinux integration partner SuSE Linux with HP, IBM and Intel, the features enable telecommunications providers to develop and deploy new products and services on standards-based, modular communications platforms.

For the full press release, see: http://www.unitedlinux.com/en/press/pr011603.html

For a third party article on this press release, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1001-980949.html?tag=fd_top

Dissolutions and Withdrawals

HomeRF Working Group Disbands

CNET News.com, January 7, 2003 - The rivalry among wireless network standards was officially narrowed to two principal players (Bluetooth and the family of Wi-Fi standards) with the announcement that the HomeRF Working Group, formed to promote a home networking specification, would be disbanded. At one time, the specification - which can carry voice as well as data - was hoped by its proponents to be the first standard to be embodied in commercially available products. However, support for the standard eroded when Intel shifted its allegiance to Wi-Fi, and other companies followed suit. The formal disbanding of the group acknowledges what had already become apparent - that HomeRF was not destined to become an influential specification in the marketplace.

For the full news story, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1039-979611.html?tag=cd_mh

Certification and Branding

Wi-Fi "Hot Spot" Seal of Approval Program Launched to Identify Compliant Sites

CNET News.com, January 9, 2003 - In a move to allow laptop owners with wireless cards to know when they can and can't expect a satisfactory user experience, the Wi-Fi Alliance has launched a "Wi-Fi Zone" certification program. Only sites which use 100% certified Wi-Fi compliant products, provide minimum 128 kbps connection speeds, and which enable users of Virtual Private Networks to connect will be able to display a seal of approval assuring users of what to expect. Further conditions include the ability to remain connected to the Web at least 95% of the time, and provision of on-site or 1-800 telphonic support. The program will facilitate the anticipated burgeoning of the 4,000 commercial "hot spots" which already exist.

For the complete story, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1033-979959.html