



Attorneys at Law

Consortium Standards Bulletin

A ConsortiumInfo.org publication

February 2003

Vol II, No. 2

NEWS SHORTS

Certification and Branding

The Open Group Introduces Certification for Its Architecture Framework

San Francisco, California, February 5, 2003 - The Open Group today introduced a certification program for The Open Group Architecture Framework Technical Edition (TOGAF 7). The new certification program enables the industry's architecture service providers and tools vendors to demonstrate how their products and services support the IT Architect using TOGAF Version 7. TOGAF 7, a detailed method and a set of supporting tools, is described in a document published by The Open Group on its public web server, and may be used freely by any organization wishing to develop an information systems architecture for use within that organization.

For the full press release, see: <http://www.opengroup.org/press/5feb03-a.htm>



Consortium Transitions

Memory Consortium Fades Away

CNET News.com, February 20, 2003, 6:06 AM PT - "Three years ago, Intel and the major memory manufacturers formed a group to hammer out future memory standards. Today, there's nothing left but a couple of folding chairs and some PowerPoint handouts...." *[In this article, Michael Kanelhos looks back on an unusual experiment in standards, consortia and litigation: how a consortium was formed in an effort to ameliorate the Rambus/JEDEC/Infineon debacle through a new organization (see the lead article above on Rambus for further background.)]*

For the complete story, see: http://news.com.com/2100-1001-985260.html?tag=fd_top



INCITS Enters 2003 as New Organization

Washington, D.C., February 10, 2003 - Following nine major announcements on new standards and projects, the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) stated today that it has become a new organization. INCITS, which boasts members from industry-leading technology companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Network Appliance and Oracle, now has a strengthened link to the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC). The new standards body supplants both 41-Year-Old INCITS (formerly ANSI-accredited X3) and Joint Technical Committee 1 Technical Advisory Group (JTC 1 TAG). The latter had carried the US position on many IT standards to ISO/IEC—a function that will now be performed by INCITS.

For the complete press release, see: www1.internetwork.com/iwire/release_html_b1?release_id=51040



New Standards/Specifications

XACML Access Control Markup Language Ratified as OASIS Open Standard; Universal Language for Authorization Policy Enables Secure Web Services

Boston, MA, USA, 18 February 2003 - The OASIS interoperability consortium today announced that its members have approved the Extensible Access Control Markup Language (XACML) as an OASIS Open Standard, a status that signifies the highest level of ratification. XACML allows developers to express and enforce policies for information access over the Internet....[The standard] is designed to enable the interoperability of a broad range of administration and authorization products by providing a universal language for authorization policy....Coupled with secure mechanisms for carrying requester attributes--such as SAML assertions, Java permissions, or WS-Security tokens--XACML is a key component in an authorization infrastructure that can span Web services, J2SE, and other e-business environments.

For the complete press release, see: http://www.oasis-open.org/news/oasis_news_02_18_03.shtml



Storage Networking Standard Wins Approval

CNET News.com, February 13, 2003 (09:21 EDT) - "A key standards body has given its blessing for a technology that allows storage area networks to be built using existing Ethernet networking. The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) has approved the iSCSI standard...." *[This unattributed article reports on the adoption of the SCSI interface, and assesses its benefits in comparison to the competing, and already established Fibre Channel Protocol.]*

For the complete story, see: <http://rtnews.globetechnology.com/servlet/ArticleNews/tech/RTGAM/20030213/gtiscsi/Technology/techBN/>



OGC Approves GML 3

Wayland, MA, USA, February 6, 2003 - The Open GIS Consortium (OGC) announces the approval and release of Geography Markup Language version 3.0 (GML 3). GML 3 defines a data encoding in XML that allows geographic data and its attributes to be moved between disparate systems with ease. The new release is modular, meaning that users can select out only the parts necessary for use, which simplifies and minimizes the size of implementations. New additions in GML 3 include support for complex geometries, spatial and temporal reference systems, topology, units of measure, metadata, gridded data, and default styles for feature and coverage visualization. GML 3 is almost entirely backwards compatible with GML 2, so that developers and users familiar with GML 2 can begin working immediately with GML 3. Like GML 2, GML 3 will play a key role in both spatial data encoding and transport, and in the description of geographic objects for geospatial Web services....The GML 3 specification was submitted by OGC member organizations CSIRO Australia, Galdos Systems (Canada), interactive instruments (Germany), BAE SYSTEMS Mission Solutions (U.S.), US Census Bureau, POSC (U.S.), MapInfo Corp. (U.S.), Oracle Corp. (U.S.), NTT Data Corp.(Japan), and Laser-Scan Ltd. (UK).

For the complete press release, see: www.opengis.org/pressrm/pressrelease/20030205_GML3_PR.htm



The Open Group Announces Test Development for Single UNIX® Specification 3

San Francisco, California, February 3, 2002 - The Open Group has announced general availability of complete test coverage for the Single UNIX® Specification Version 3. These test suites are integral to the certification program for the Single UNIX Specification Version 3, due to be deployed in the first half of 2003....The certification program for the Single UNIX Specification Version 3 builds upon the existing

source application program interface (API) test tools. The test suites utilize The Open Group's Test Environment Toolkit and the VSXgen generic test frameworks, which provide a consistent and extensible environment for test execution.

For the complete press release, see: www.opengroup.org/press/03feb03-b.htm



Open Source

Embedded Linux Consortium unveils landmark standard

San Francisco, Calif., February 19, 2003 - The Embedded Linux Consortium (ELC) today released the ELC Platform Specification, aimed at rallying the industry around a single Linux development standard for new embedded products. The specification delivers a unified open platform for embedded operating systems, rewarding developers by substantially decreasing the time and expense needed to add differentiating value to their applications. Because Linux by its nature encourages widespread interoperability, the ELCPS can help unify the deeply fragmented embedded marketplace.

For the complete press release, see: www.embedded-linux.org/pressroom.php3#90

For a related news story, see: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/story/0,,t269-s2130789,00.html?rtag=znetukhomepage>



IBM's Newest Enterprise Storage Server Drives Open Standards

ARMONK, NY (INTERNET WIRE), February 3, 2003 - IBM today announced the delivery of the first industry standard interface for the IBM Enterprise Storage Server (codenamed "Shark") based on "Bluefin," a specification designed to help customers more easily manage storage systems in a multi-vendor storage network. IBM is also expanding storage support for mainframe customers running the open Linux platform, one of the fastest growing customer segments....As the use of Linux across customer's e-business infrastructure expands, storage needs will grow, especially in mainframe environments. IBM's ESS now supports IBM eServer zSeries customers running the Linux operating system with new FICON attachment for increased throughput, FlashCopy support for copying data and Peer to Peer Remote Copy support for disaster recovery.

For the complete press release, see: www1.internetwire.com/iwire/release_html_b1?release_id=50782



Desktop Linux Consortium Nears Launch

Internet, February 2, 2003 - [Peter Williams provides an update on the status of the formation of this newly-announced Linux effort, reporting on the anticipated structure, interim leadership, and emerging goal definitions of the DLC.]

For the complete story, see: <http://www.vnunet.com/News/1138607>



Legal Issues

CompTIA Says New EC Microsoft Inquiry Request Is Unnecessary

Washington, DC, February 11, 2003 - "CompTIA believes that it is unnecessary to expand the current European antitrust inquiry into Microsoft's business. The European Commission (EC) has placed Microsoft under its microscope for nearly four years, and has appropriately limited its current investigation. Though its ruling has yet to emerge, CompTIA is hopeful that the EC will seize the opportunity to reach expeditious settlement, instead of dragging the dispute out further as requested by a small minority of Microsoft's competitors....The peculiar underpinning of the newest complaint is that Microsoft has included too many features in Windows XP. The US Court of Appeals specifically held, however, that this practice is lawful, that it is pro-competitive, and, most importantly, it benefits consumers. Being a third-party intervener in Microsoft's EC antitrust case, CompTIA respectfully asks that the EC deny the new request to expand the scope of the current case. Consumers and the ICT industry deserve a consistent, timely and final decision, and broadening the scope of the investigation at this time would substantially delay and frustrate any final outcome."

The press release comprises an extended quote by Lars Liebeler, Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) antitrust counsel.

For the complete press release, see: www.comptia.org/pressroom/get_news_item.asp?id=193



Wireless

[Consistent with our recent focus on wireless standards and the degree of activity which is current in that market niche, we will report on this area as a separate category while the situation continues]

Bluetooth SIG Unveils Mobile Operators Strategy

3GSM World Congress 2003, Cannes, France, February 18, 2003 – The Bluetooth SIG announced today that it is providing mobile operators with a range of new measures and technologies designed to speed the adoption of Bluetooth™ wireless technology in the mobile market place. These efforts include a newly released version of the Hands-Free profile that allows car drivers to make mobile phone calls without taking their hands off the wheel..., and support for the N-Gage Bluetooth wireless enabled gaming device from Nokia....[T]he Bluetooth Hands-Free profile will open the way for a host of in-car applications, such as internet-based infotainment, telematics, remote diagnosis of mechanical problems, electronic toll collection and the ability to make calls without taking your eyes off the road. This last feature will be particularly critical as governments move towards legislation restricting or banning the use of mobile phones at the wheel, for safety reasons...Announced earlier this month, the Nokia N-Gage™ mobile game deck is a wireless gaming platform that allows users to enjoy rich, console-quality games in either a near-distance multiplayer environment using Bluetooth wireless technology, or a wide-area environment using cellular networks. It also features a digital music player (MP3/AAC) and stereo FM radio, as well as a tri-band GSM 900/1800/1900 mobile phone.

For the complete press release, see: www.bluetooth.com/news/press/sigpress.asp?A=2&PID=549&ARC=1&WHERE=&TENS=s



Standards: Truce Pays Off for Rivals

CNET News.com, February 7, 2003, 4:00 AM PT – “As fast wireless technologies hit store shelves, networking companies that survived an earlier standards war in the booming market are determined to prevent another one from erupting...” [In last month's issue of Consortium Standards Bulletin, we reported on the proliferation of wireless standards, including the multiple Wi-Fi specifications. In this

article by CNET News.com staff writers Wylie Wong and Richard Shim, the authors report on efforts by vendors to adapt to the fast-evolving Wi-Fi specifications. One strategy is to build multiple-specification enabled devices in order to provide immediately available products, thereby avoiding consumer confusion and disillusion in the evolving wireless marketplace.

For the complete story, see: http://news.com.com/2009-1033-982341.html?tag=cd_mh



New Wireless 11g 'Standard' Ends in Tears

NewsWireless.net, February 2, 2003 (08:43 GMT) - "It is nearly a year since NewsWireless Net warned of the disasters looming if American wireless manufacturers went ahead with 802.11g - the go-faster WiFi standard. Now, we hear of incompatibility problems between rival 11g products - discovered in "secret" testing sessions. Are we really supposed to be surprised?... *[In our previous issues, we have noted the vital importance of launching products which are credibly interoperable, and the damage which can be done to the credibility of new technologies and the products based upon them if this imperative is not given due respect. In this article, Guy Kewney takes a jaundiced [re]view of the situation, reporting on the potential adverse impact of premature claims of interoperability, efforts to launch products before final standards are released and compatibility testing becomes available, and the efforts of groups like the WiFi Alliance to deal with the situation.]*

For the complete story, see: <http://212.100.234.54/content/59/29250.html>



IEEE Advances Wireless MAN Standard

Internetnews.com, January 31, 2003 - "The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) this week passed a key amendment to a standard which may open the floodgates for the creation of wireless metropolitan area networks (MANs)...." [In this article, Thor Olavsrud analyzes the possible impact of the approval by IEEE of 802.16a, an amendment to the 802.16-2001 standard approved in April of 2002. The new amendment makes the much-awaited advent of building-focused, fixed Broadband Wireless Access more real, thus providing a solution for the "last mile" transmission speed gap between the fiber optic backbone and the office network. The crucial gap which the amendment fills is the ability to go beyond "line of sight" access.]

For the complete story, see: <http://www.internetnews.com/xSP/article.php/1577591>