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, bookmark our News page, or take advantage of our RSS feed: <u>www.consortiuminfo.org/news/rss</u>. Updates are usually posted on Mondays and Wednesdays. The following is a selection of the many stories from the past month that you can find digested at ConsortiumInfo.org.

New Consortia

More and more: Earlier this year we noted that a strengthening economy has led to a resurgence of consortium formation. That trend has not abated. This month's crop of new organizations includes entrants in the areas of anti-messaging abuse (see our feature article on the same topic), InfiniBand/Linux coordination, and governance, risk and compliance management in the age of Sarbanes-Oxley and the U.S. Patriot Act.

Global, Cross-Industry Leaders Assemble to Fight Online Identity Theft

TECF Press Release, San Francisco, June 16, 2004 -- A global, cross-industry consortium of industry leaders today announced the formation of the Trusted Electronic Communications Forum (TECF), a collaborative endeavor with the mission to help mitigate the risks posed by phishing, spoofing and other tactics of online identity fraud. The group will also focus on finding an immediate cross-geographic and industry-wide standard to protect consumers and businesses. The TECF brings together some of the most influential knowledge-leaders in retail, telecommunications, financial services, banking and technology to join forces to eliminate the threat of phishing to email and ecommerce. The TECF's founding member companies include ABN AMRO, AT&T Wireless, Best Buy, Charles Schwab, CipherTrust, DIRECTV, E*Trade, Fidelity Investments, GE Access, HSBC, IBM, National City Bank, PostX Corporation, Royal Bank of Scotland and Siebel Systems. "Identity theft is a multi-billion dollar per year problem, and phishing and spoofing seriously erodes consumers' trust in the Internet and enterprise brands," said Shawn Eldridge, Chairman, TECF. ...<u>Full Story</u>

Vendors, users launch Linux InfiniBand effort
By: Robert McMillan

InfoWorld, San Francisco, CA, June 14, 2004 -- A group of high-performance computing users and technology vendors led by Sun Microsystems Inc., Dell Inc., and Intel Corp. will launch on Tuesday an effort to make the InfiniBand input/output architecture easier to use with Linux, according to companies involved in the initiative. The effort, called the OpenIB Alliance, will work to build a common set of software utilities and InfiniBand hardware drivers as well as an implementation of a number of networking protocols, including IP (Internet Protocol) over InfiniBand, and the Message Passing Interface (MPI) protocol used in high-performance computing, members of the Alliance said. ...<u>Full Story</u>

Software, Consulting And Content Firms Form The Compliance Consortium

AxentisEnterprise.com, Cleveland, OH, June 7, 2004 - Axentis...today announced [the formation of] the Compliance Consortium (www.thecomplianceconsortium.org). The consortium will promote effective and efficient enterprise governance, risk and compliance management. In addition to Axentis, founding members include: Approva, Hyland Software, Inc., Hyperion Solutions Corp (NASDAQ:HYSL), Jefferson Wells International, Intuition, Navigant Consulting (NYSE:NCI), The Network, PLI-Corpedia, and Staffware (LSE:STW). By providing thought leadership, definitions of key components of a GRC

framework and standards for integration, the consortium will provide much needed clarity to a market currently hit with broad array of conflicting information. The consortium believes that establishing better GRC management practices has become imperative in response to dramatic growth in new regulations and market expectations such as Sarbanes-Oxley, the USA Patriot Act, Basel II and others. ...Full Story

New Initiatives

Web services: convergence or tomorrow technology? Over the past year, we have frequently reported on the rapid development of increasing numbers of Web services standards, as well as the highly distributed (and even unorthodox) fashion in which this process has been evolving. (See, for example, our May, 2003 issue: Who Should Set the Standards for Web Services?). The following stories highlight both the hopeful centripetal, as well as the less optimistic centrifugal, forces that continue to affect this interesting standards/business area.

Trying to make Web services make sense
By Martin LaMonica

CNET News.com, June 22, 2004 -- The company embraced the technology to do exactly what it was designed for: sharing information with business partners over the Internet. But even this leading-edge user is staying clear of the most recent Web services standards for security and more--because they're too confusing. "A lot of different organizations have gotten involved in Web services specifications, and some of them overlap," said Andy Miller, vice president of technical architecture at Corporate Express. Instead of experimenting with the latest capabilities, Corporate Express is sticking with the most basic communication and data-formatting Web services standards. "We're just trying to keep it simple because we have no idea how this stuff is going to go," he said. ..."Until we see more clarity and unification of Web service standards, then our IT purse strings will stay closed on new investments," said a publishing company's security expert, who wished to remain anonymous....Full Story

Proposed Technical Specification for Web Services Addressing and Referencing Framework

The Cover Pages, June 3, 2004 -- In an open letter the W3C AC Forum, eleven major companies have proposed the creation of a new technical activity to bring about industry convergence in the area of Web Service Referencing and Addressing. A draft "strawman" proposal calls for a new working group that would have the participation of the entire web service community. The WG would produce a WS-Addressing and Referencing Framework Recommendation based upon WS-Addressing (BEA, IBM, Microsoft) and WS-MessageDelivery (W3C Member Submission). ...Full Story

Story Updates

Trade barriers redux - up or down? Our last issue focused extensively on the use by some countries of standards as trade barriers, as well as the United States government's plans for confronting that practice. The three articles below are examples of the good news and the bad news on that front that has been released during the intervening month. On the glass half full side, ANSI reports in the first article on IPR-based trade barriers, while the second piece describes IPC's assault on Capitol Hill to drive home the same point. More hopefully, the third piece is a press release from the GSM Association, announcing the signing of an agreement between that standard setting organization and the TD-SCMA Forum, a Chinese standards organization. The collaboration shows important progress regarding the 3G mobile standards that will hopefully be globally adopted.

ANSI Submits Analysis of IPR Policies on Trade with China

ANSI News and Publications, New York, NY, June 11, 2004 -- "The trade challenges facing U.S. industry can be tied directly to intellectual property rights (IPR) concerns in certain standards-

development organizations," cautions a group of experts organized by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The analysis comes from a white paper highlighting potential trade barriers that result when other countries mandate conformance to national standards developed in a closed process. Often, these countries may also be developing and implementing related IPR policies that are not transparent to U.S. companies and in many cases run counter to international norms. ...Full Story

IPC's Lobbying Efforts Extend

IPC Press Release, Northbrook, Ill., May 26, 2004 -- Led by its members, IPC-Association Connecting Electronics Industries* carried high the banner for a fair, open and rules-based international trading system at its recent Capitol Hill Day-the industry's premier lobbying event. In more than 50 appointments with lawmakers, senators and their staff, IPC's Government Relations Committee and more than 40 industry leaders ardently lobbied Congress to enforce the United States' international trade agreements and more aggressively officiate U.S. trading partners' obligations under the World Trade Organization and other international trade agreements. In particular, Capitol Hill Day attendees asked Congress to keep the pressure on U.S. trading partners that manipulate their currency in order to gain a competitive and trade advantage over their U.S. counterparts. During his keynote address, Rep. Donald Manzullo, chairman of the House Small Business Committee, expounded on this issue, emphasizing that lower business costs, not protectionist trade policies, will revitalize the U.S. manufacturing sector. Congressman Phil English (R-Pa.) concurred with Manzullo in his address, as he discussed his countervailing duty bill and other congressional efforts that help level the playing field with foreign competition. ...Full Story

GSM Association Announces Alliance With TD-SCDMA Forum

GSM Association, Beijing, 15 June 2004 -- The GSM Association and the TD-SCDMA Forum today signed an agreement to co-ordinate the development of the two 3G standards. Through closer co-operation, the two organisations will promote interoperability and international roaming between the two technologies and so maximise economies of scale for the benefit of end-users, operators and manufacturers. The GSM Association is the global trade association representing more than 630 GSM and 3GSM mobile operators world-wide, while TD-SCDMA Forum was established in China to promote the development and commercialisation of TD-SCDMA. Chosen by 98% of operators who have been allocated radio spectrum in the 2GHz band identified by the International Telecommunications Union for 3G, 3GSM exploits "paired" spectrum, with users speaking or transmitting data on one radio channel and hearing responses or receiving data on a second radio channel. By contrast, TD-SCDMA transmits and receives data in different time-slots on "unpaired" radio channels. ...Full Story

Blu-Ray loses a round: Dedicated readers of the CSB know that we have been watching the face-off between two competing DVD formats with close attention, due to the déjà vu aspects of the situation (which harks back to the VHS-Betamax standoff of 25 years ago, and even involves many of the same players). The latest news involves the continuing support by the DVD Forum for one of the two rival formats.

HD-DVD Spec Approved

ExtremeTech.com, June 11, 2004 -- The DVD Forum this week approved HD-DVD 1.0, a specification that will compete with Blu-Ray for the future of the DVD disc format. According to the DVD Forum's web site, the DVD Forum approved the specification on June 9 or 10. In November, the consortium approved version 0.9, which defines a 15-Gbyte single layer DVD disc and a 30-Gbyte dual-layer disc. The approval appears to set the stage for yet another optical storage standards battle. The DVD Forum's member list includes companies like NEC and Toshiba, who developed the current DVD-R and DVD-RW specifications. ...Full Story

When RSS met Atom: The continuing saga of the RSS and Atom web publishing formats continues, like a sitcom serial or soap opera. Earlier in this season, you will recall, Google had dissed RSS in favor of Atom. Last month, viewers will recall that RSS was making nice to Atom. Now, it seems, Google is flirting with RSS again. Will RSS and Atom's fragile friendship survive? Stay tuned.

Google Mulls RSS Support
By: Stefanie Olsen and Evan Hansen

CNET News.com, June 9, 2004 -- Google is considering renewing support for the popular RSS Web publishing format in some services. Along with rival Atom, RSS is a leading candidate to form the basis of an industry standard for a new style of Web publishing that lets readers easily compile news headlines on the fly. Were Google to support both RSS and Atom equally, it might help ease growing pains for a swiftly rising movement of Web publishing. It would also restore Google to the status of a neutral party in the midst of a bitter fight between backers of RSS and Atom, who have been divided since last summer when critics of RSS banded together to create the alternative format. Since then, many blog sites and individuals have rallied behind Atom. Google is central to the debate because of its mounting influence in the online community and within Web publishing circles as the owner of Blogger. ...Full Story

Big brother or Uncle Sam? Privacy concerns about RFID chips refuse to go away. The following story reports on efforts by everyone from Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy to the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation to focus attention on this issue. The good news? The cost of RFID tags is still too high to permit their use in actual consumer sales, allowing (we hope) a comfortable period of time for the debate to continue and acceptable practices to be agreed upon.

RFID and Privacy: Debate Heating Up in Washington
By: Grant Gross

InfoWorld May 28, 2004 -- Privacy advocates and some lawmakers are pushing a debate over potential privacy abuses from the growing use of radio frequency identification chips as huge retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. move toward large-scale use of the technology. RFID uses small computer chips and antennas that are integrated into a paper or plastic label. Those chips can then be read by an electronic scanner, and unlike barcodes, RFID chips withstand dirt and scratches and can be scanned from distances upward of 25 feet (750 centimeters). Privacy advocates worry that the technology will allow other uses, such as real-time tracking of customers in stores, or even after they leave stores. Privacy advocates see the potential for retailers and other companies to be able to track consumers long after a consumer purchases an item -- for example, a tennis shoe manufacturer scanning a sporting event for the number of people wearing its product. ...Full Story

Who's Doing What to Whom

Browsers fight back: Remember Netscape? Well, the browser that brought the Web to the Everyman still has its loyal followers, as does newer entrant Opera. Recently they banded together on the standards front to bolster their beachhead in the browser wars.

Mozilla, Opera Join Forces for New W3C Proposal
Sean Michael Kerner

InternetNews.com, May 31, 2004 -- Two of Microsoft's rivals in the browser space have joined forces on a standards proposal slated to be presented to a W3C workshop. The Mozilla Foundation and Opera Software collaborated on the document, which represents their "consensus" opinion in the context of standards for Web Applications, and Compound Documents. The working document of the draft specification is titled Web Forms 2.0 which is in its essence an extension of the way forms are defined in the existing HTML 4.01 forms chapter, though it will apply equally to XHTML user agents as well. The

proposed specifications include new attributes, DOM interfaces and events for validation and dependency tracking as well as XML form submission and initialization. The specification also aims to document existing practices in the forms area that have not yet been officially standardized. ...Full Story

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Standards and Your Business

Wireless and wide: While technology never stops moving forward, and standards along with them, these changes are often incremental rather than dramatic. Two standards-based technology trends are in the news lately, however, that may have a more profound impact on a wide variety of businesses. The first article below focuses on the increasing availability of wireless broadband access, while the second addresses the release of a new set of standards that will allow businesses to deploy Ethernet connectivity across carriers to wide area networks.

WiMax starting to make its move
By: Stephen Lawson

InfoWorld, June 16, 2004 -- With phones and LANs steadily going wireless and consumer electronics not far behind, one part of the networked world - broadband to the home or business - has stubbornly remained wired in most cases. Cost, complexity and proprietary systems have held back wireless broadband services that would compete against DSL, cable modem and leased lines. But WiMax, an emerging standards-based set of technologies, could unify the fragmented industry and bring down prices, according to vendors and analysts. ...Full Story

Ethernet Breaks Free of the Office

ITU International Press Release, Geneva, 8 June 2004 -- ITU has approved a set of global industry standards for Ethernet that will extend its flexibility and simplicity to carrier networks. The standards outline a way for Ethernet - a widely used local area network (LAN) - to link any number of endpoints in a wide area network (WAN), or simply as a service delivery mechanism. The news marks Ethernet's progress from a LAN connectivity technology to a carrier class service delivery technology. The ability to offer Ethernet services means that carriers will be able to offer considerably improved flexibility to customers through a much simpler and lower cost interface. It will allow users to specify exactly how much bandwidth they want between the 10Mbit/s and 1Gbit/s range currently offered. Further, the standards provide reduced operation complexity and improved scalability for carriers. The work according to Peter Wery, chairman of the ITU Study Group responsible, is driven by common sense, "Ethernet is the access interface of choice. 95 per cent of LAN infrastructure is based on Ethernet. It's quite simply the most logical next step to extend its reach beyond the enterprise." ...Full Story

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Standards in Society

Building a new energy infrastructure: If a hydrogen-based economy is in fact to be created, an almost unimaginable number of standards will need to be developed in order to specify how the fuel itself will be produced, transported, stored, dispensed and actually used to power vehicles. The following initiative will help marshal and provide public access to the massive amounts of data that will need to be referred to in order to help manage this long-term process.

Standards Community Launches Partnership with DoE and NREL to Support Hydrogen Fuel Initiative

ANSI News and Publications, New York, NY, June 10, 2004 -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and members of the U.S. codes and standards community have finalized plans for a partnership project to develop a comprehensive online hydrogen fuel cell portal. The collaboration will support the

advancement of the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative announced by President George W. Bush in his 2003 State of the Union Address. This online portal is intended to serve as an entry point to other websites and will provide a search engine that will connect the user community to U.S. hydrogen-centric standards. The President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative commits a total of $1.7 billion over a five-year period to the development of hydrogen-powered fuel cells, hydrogen infrastructure and advanced automotive technologies. Fuel cells combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electric power while emitting only pure water as exhaust. ...Full Story

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Open Source

Linux marches on: Each month sees new successes for Linux, and the SCO litigation has been less in the news as well. The following story highlights the continuing conversion of German government customers to the ranks of the inexorable penguin, as well as the tactics used by those customers to convert their own employees. The second reports on the efforts of the Open Source Development Labs to ready another market for invasion by Linux: telecommunications.

German city reveals Linux migration tactics
By: Graeme Wearden

ZDNet UK, February 11, 2004 -- A local council in Germany may have found the secret to overcoming user reluctance to Linux -- stuffed penguins and powerful women. The small southern Germany city of Schwäbisch Hall ditched Microsoft's software in favour of open source back in late 2002. On Wednesday, Horst Bräuner, the civil servant responsible for implementing the migration, revealed the tactics used to get the council workers of Schwäbisch Hall onside...Schwäbisch Hall was the first German city to abandon Windows in favour of open source. It was soon followed by Munich, and yesterday the German Federal Finance Office signed up with Linux -- a deal thought to be one the largest Linux-based mainframe deployments in Europe...Full Story

Carrier Grade Linux Bulking Up
By: Sean Michael Kerner

Internetnews.com, June 18, 2004 -- Few industries have the same demands for high availability and scalable services as telecommunications providers, which helps define the term "carrier grade" in the industry. Now, the Open Source Development Labs' (OSDL) Carrier Grade Linux (CGL) working group which counts 22 member companies, is flagging its effort to bring Linux into that elite designation. Carrier Grade Linux (CGL) is an effort led by the OSDL to help create a Linux standard that meets the needs of network carriers. The CGL working group is intended to help foster specifications and development requirements that facilitate the adoption of Linux in carrier infrastructure. ...Full Story

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Miscellaneous

Sir Tim honored again: The irrepressible Tim Berners-Lee received another homage this month. This one bestows not only honor, but also a long overdue financial reward for the vision and selflessness he demonstrated in releasing his handiwork to the world without charge.

Tim Berners-Lee Receives Millennium Technology Prize in Helsinki

W3C Press Release, June 15, 2004 -- The first-ever Millennium Technology Prize was today awarded to Tim Berners-Lee for the invention of the WWW service on the Internet. The prize of one million euros and the prize trophy, "The Peak", were presented by the President of The Republic of Finland, Ms. Tarja Halonen, in Finlandia Hall. "We must remember that the web is a long way from revealing it's full potential. The extension from human-readable to include also machine-readable information is just one direction of development," Tim Berners-Lee said in his acceptance speech. Berners-Lee, an Englishman and a graduate of the University of Oxford, is currently working on further development of the web at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He created the WWW, which was first released in 1991, at CERN in Switzerland. ...Full Story

Consortia Rule! *The Editors of SD Times recently released their annual list of the 100 "Best of the Best" companies. The list is broken down into ten categories, with ten companies to a category. What groups were viewed as having the "greatest influence" in raising the bar? Tellingly, six out of ten groups in this category are collaborative efforts, from traditional consortia, to open source groups to groups that define specification suites, but don't create the standards themselves. The six groups are: OASIS and the W3C (standards consortia), Apache Software Foundation, Eclipse Foundation and Open Source development Labs, Inc. (Open Source initiatives) and Web Services Interoperability Organization (specification profile consortium). All in all, a convincing demonstration of the great influence that consortia and consortia-like efforts are having on the IT world.*

The Best of the Best

SDTimes.com -- Trying to select a list of the industry's movers and shakers are not an easy task. So many companies are doing truly remarkable things to raise the bar for creating quality software, from design and architecture initiatives to more powerful development, testing and collaboration tools to broader deployment platforms as well as to mobile devices....But of those, a few really stand out as leaders and influencers in the industry. Some, of course, are the industry giants, who set the agenda by "owning" the markets in which they live. Others are start-ups that distinguished themselves in the previous calendar year with their ideas and foresight. In one way or another, the editors of SD Times have judged them to be the top 100 companies in plotting a course for the industry to follow. Some of our choices will seem obvious-others may be surprising, even controversial. ...Full Story