

UMF & NIEM Meeting Notes

4/22/13

UMF Presentation

- There are many law enforcement organizations in the EU, and they each have several databases to store and collect information systems. This is the problem that UMF tries to address
 - Prum is one initiative that deals with automatic DNA and fingerprint match retrieval across European countries, it is the pilot for UMF, where they created a tool for police cooperation by building
- When starting UMF, they aim to start small (only in the Justice space) and do not make a complicated model (use business rules specification to implement UMF)
 - 80/20 rule is followed, they only try to cover the most used definitions within police exchanges
 - NIEM is too complicated-seeming and turned off decision makers when it was first presented to them
- UMF up until this point is actually a project, they only had funding until 4/30/14 to assess requirements and create a model. They have to submit request to European Commission for more funding to actually stand up a governance structure for the UMF model in May. The following was due in May 2014:
 - Info Model
 - Rules of use for the Info Model
 - Pilot implementation (PRUM)
 - Proposal for permanent governance structure
- Challenges they face include:
 - Difference in systems in Europe
 - Difficulty in implementation because there are few good use cases that can be shared publicly to all users, how to make the decision to update old systems or just leave them be
 - They have had difficulty generating buy-in from different country CIOs, mostly because of misunderstandings of the program and also because both the implementers and the execs do not see the need for a common exchange language like UMF
 - Securing resources, the EC is much more willing to give out money for research but not for sustaining a program indefinitely

NIEM Presentation

- Reviewed the difference between a major and minor release
- Would you ever tell anyone to use a certain version of NIEM?
 - No, that is up to the implementer to decide, PMO would never mandate a certain version but it would most likely be in the best interests of users to use the most updated (and they would have to use 3.0 if they want certain domain content)

- The PMO provides nothing but the UML specifications, which then tool vendors build into their tools for community use
 - SparksEA is in Beta
- There may be some parallels in the Entry/Exit Data Exchange that NIEM was used in, UMF would like to do something similar
 - NIEM to share use case and supporting documentation with UMF for the Entry/Exit Data Exchange with CBP/Canada
- UMF model is actually not top-down or bottom-up made, but rather middle-out.
 - There was no grassroots movement or push from the country state/local level like in NIEM
 - Medium level CIOs of police organizations pushed for common standard to use
 - Top level execs still do not understand what UMF is or what the benefits to one standard is
- What is a good participant in NIEM?
 - Someone who implements it in an exchange
 - Someone who follows IEPD development lifecycle and then publishes to repository
- How do you verify compliance?
 - Grants that dictate “you must use NIEM” guarantee compliance
 - No one from the PMO will go around checking exchanges for compliance, nor does the PMO have the ability to do so
 - Use Springboard platform to have some insight into compliance
- Does a PDF or Web service have to be NIEM-conformant?
 - NIEM does not define those at this time, working on it

DoD Presentation

- In July in London, there will be a conference with DoD to form a working group with Great Britain
 - They are working a pilot with Them
 - Pilots or demonstrations have been very useful in the past to demonstrate value
- DoD hasn’t been able to go ‘cross domain’
- Geo4NIEM is very valuable to DoD and there are cool demos available
- DoD has a mandated environment
 - Must use NIEM unless it is operationally, fiscally or technically unsuitable and this must be presented as a business case
- One issue is that there are still a lot of people within DoD that do not understand NIEM
- Implementation organization (the technical assistance) is still not funded until FY 15, so it will be stood up then and help with IEPD creation and train the trainer
- Most of the work currently is going to speeding up already existing exchanges within DoD
 - They want to automate many exchanges, but this is a lot of effort and poses many challenges
- The MilOps domain struggles to deal with scalability, for calls 70-80 members dial in

- Afghan Mission Network
 - Was warfighter, but now is moving into medical areas instead
 - Won't be all in the military space
 - They would like to engage UMF military contacts and collaborate with them
- NATO- when forces join they bring their national command and control (France, Poland and Italy working with them to test NIEM IEPD approach in the IE testing facilities in Poland where they want to identify and access management of IEPDs and redacted content)

NIEM Presentation

- Problem for EU is that several countries are lacking technical experts (although they may have funding)
- Do you have a permanent PMO staffer who deals with training?
 - No, it is infrequent and level of effort increases as we build on the model (releases)
 - Usually volunteers train the trainers for a travel/board stipend
 - Community is active, so it is possible to leverage their knowledge
 - Challenge remains with people who come to NIEM without a level of XML knowledge
- Concerns with data quality
 - Naturally happens with NIEM
 - Code lists and schema rules marginally help
 - NIEM is just the bridge and tries not to concern itself what is in the exchange itself
- UMF does not have the ability to create a help desk function ground up, they would need to do it within an already existing organization with some of the capabilities needed
- UMF aware that they have need for Lead Developers

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- The US and Europe independently come to the same place due to what the common problems for information sharing are. This means there are many opportunities to collaborate
 - Interoperability frameworks are long term efforts
 - Now we can be focused on developing a maturity model
 - Recognize parallels between join-up site and Project Interoperability and also Github site with packaged tools
- Potential includes:
 - Maritime Domain Awareness: already working with European Partners
 - Cyber security (threat and modeling) ability to do more NIEM activities in standards bodies to advance our governance
 - Open Geospatial (ie Geo4NIEM)
 - Law enforcement (which is a traditional strength of NIEM)- take your interest and leverage standard activity between Europe and PM ISE
- Need to create better understanding of our similarities and principals that are the same
- Understand why we do some things differently so we can better work together- does harm not to work together

- KP is a fan of SDOs and bringing NIEM into OMG. There was resistance on both sides although UML is a must because it is the way of the future
- NIEM is about reuse, not reinventing the wheel
- Future NIEM justice may learn best practices from UMF elements

Feedback

- How can NIEM adapt to better engage international participation?
- Do not see how they can achieve interoperability with NIEM. This is not pushback, but need to find catalyst to do so
 - Produce standards for info sharing. Need to find that sustainability which NIEM has managed and have not seen in Europe yet
- How does UMF get to the operational point, including getting enough stakeholders to join

Day Conclusions

- UMF governing body may not exist after April 2014, did not seem to have a set plan yet for securing funding or maintaining that funding
- UMF concerned with the NIEM=National vs UMF=International Only
- UMF concerned with NIEM's "Americanisms" like program vs programme and conveyance and seem to think it is a real obstacle to leveraging the model and that NIEM is not at least searchable/discoverable in multiple languages
- NIEM seems "just too complex to use" even if it is really not. Specs are basically too many pages
- They would like to leverage NIEM, especially use cases like Entry/Exit Boarder Protection
- UMF concerned with Data Quality as much as ease of exchange
- Not exactly sure what the path forward for interoperability with NIEM is