XML Working Group
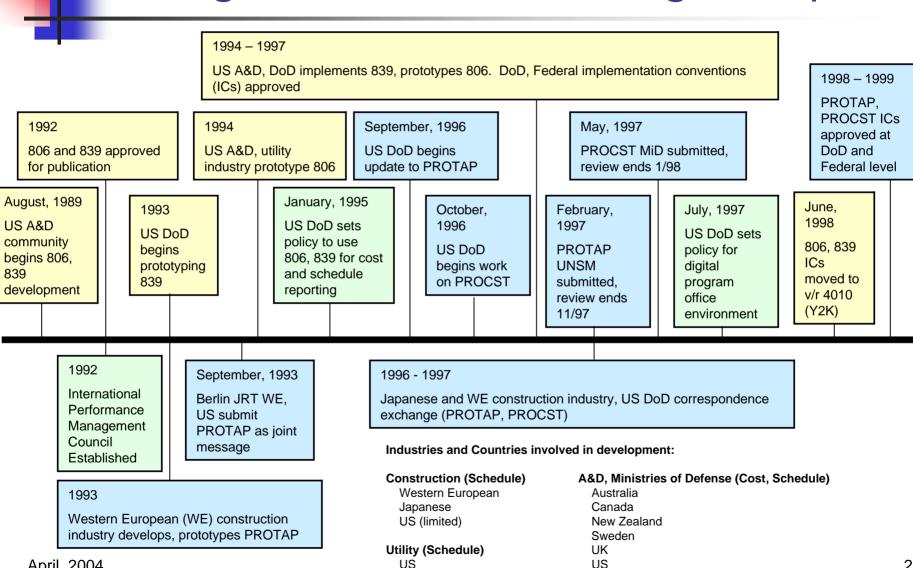
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Background – EDI Working Group

1994 – 1997

US A&D, DoD implements 839, prototypes 806. DoD, Federal implementation conventions (ICs) approved

1998 – 1999

PROTAP, PROCST ICs approved at DoD and Federal level

1992

806 and 839 approved for publication

1994

US A&D, utility industry prototype 806

September, 1996

US DoD begins update to PROTAP

May, 1997

PROCST MiD submitted, review ends 1/98

August, 1989

US A&D community begins 806, 839 development

1993

US DoD begins prototyping 839

January, 1995

US DoD sets policy to use 806, 839 for cost and schedule reporting

October, 1996

US DoD begins work on PROCST

February, 1997

PROTAP UNSM submitted, review ends 11/97

July, 1997

US DoD sets policy for digital program office environment

June, 1998

806, 839 ICs moved to v/r 4010 (Y2K)

1992

International Performance Management Council Established

September, 1993

Berlin JRT WE, US submit PROTAP as joint message

1996 - 1997

Japanese and WE construction industry, US DoD correspondence exchange (PROTAP, PROCST)

1993

Western European (WE) construction industry develops, prototypes PROTAP

Industries and Countries involved in development:

Construction (Schedule)
  Western European
  Japanese
  US (limited)

A&D, Ministries of Defense (Cost, Schedule)
  Australia
  Canada
  New Zealand
  Sweden
  UK
  US
  COTS software vendors

Utility (Schedule)
  US

Background

- Resurrected the EDI Working group in August, 2003 for the purpose of migrating the essence of the cost and schedule (839 and 806) ANSI X12 transaction sets, UN/EDIFACT messages to an XML format

- Began research on best path forward

Background

- XML is a W3C specification that provides the rules used to create a markup language for a specific purpose

- Use W3C XML Schema specification to define an XML vocabulary
  - Schemas describe the structure and constrain contents of an XML document

- Which path to follow to develop a schema?
  - Non formal
  - Formal (sanctioned standards body)

Current Status

- January, 2004 NDIA PMSC meeting
  - Motion made and carried to take the formal standards path for an XML schema
- Have pursued two possible paths:
  - XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language)
    - International industry group focused on financial reporting (financial firms, accountants)
  - ebXML (electronic business XML)
    - A collaboration between OASIS and UN/CEFACT

XBRL

- Provided background document to XBRL steering committee (January)
- Identified possible resource to help us develop XBRL taxonomies (February)
- Quickly discovered XBRL organization lacks process and support system to assist in development process
- Issues:
  - Limited implementations
  - Limited industry focus (accounting/finance)
  - Industry association, not a sanctioned standards setting body
- Moved on to investigate Plan B - ebXML

ebXML

- ebXML is built on XML and other Internet standards to create an infrastructure for information and process based electronic business
  - Is open and free to anyone with interest
  - Based on process models encoded in XML
  - Supports any type of data
  - Provides framework and core components
- Gaining momentum fast – merging many XML, Internet, and ISO standards efforts
- Recognized by ISO

ebXML – Path Forward

- Two possible standards organization paths for new development:
  - Data Interchange Standards Association (DISA) - ANSI X12
  - UN/CEFACT

- Both build on ebXML framework

- Both in process of finalizing basic components needed to define standards-based schemas

- Both are working with the NIST eBusiness Standards Convergence Forum

Caveats

- Standards approach is not a fast process and there are always some trade-offs

- Depending on selected standards group, anticipate official project proposal will be submitted in the summer (DISA) or fall time frame (UN/CEFACT)

- Either way, must create a series of deliverables that conform to development approach and complete approval process

What's the End Benefit?

- A library of XML cost and schedule components defined in a broadly used international standard that can be used across industries

- Established a formal standard that can be cited in contracts and requirements much like the ANSI X12 EDI transaction sets or the EIA/ANSI 748 EVMS standard

The Way Things Are…

- Live with current vendor or contractor specific XML vocabularies for the time being
  - At least it is easy to transform data from one XML vocabulary to another
- XML is an expansive and convergent technology
  - Initial wave of implementation is chaotic with everyone taking their own schema path
  - Not any different from any other process change initiative

The Way Things Are...

- XML technical standards are in place (W3C)
- Business standards lagging – now closer to reality
  - ebXML combined with either ANSI or CEFACT
- Main issue: Lack of official mandate to take a common, specific path on the schemas
  - Lack Federal Secretariat to present a single face to industry as was done with EDI in the 90's
    - Specified X12 or UN/EDIFACT
    - Defined set of federal implementation conventions

Resources

ebXML	www.ebxml.org
OASIS	www.oasis-open.org
Data Interchange Standards Association – ANSI X12	www.disa.org
UN/CEFACT	www.unece.org/cefact/index.htm
NIST eBusiness Standards Convergence Forum	www.mel.nist.gov/div826/msid/sima/ebsc/
Log of working group activities and documents	www.aim-pmcs.com Follow the link at the bottom of the home page