

**OASIS  
User Interface Markup Language (UIML)  
Technical Committee (TC)  
Minutes**

**Logistics**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	June 21, 2004
<b>Meeting Time</b>	12:00 PM EST
<b>Location</b>	Meeting held via Teleconference hosted by Harmonia, Inc.
<b>Duration</b>	1 Hour
<b>Chair</b>	Marc Abrams
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jim Helms

**Attending**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Dr. Marc Abrams	Virginia Tech
Jim Helms	Harmonia, Inc.
Gurudev Karanth	Lozoic, Inc.
Kris Luyten	Limburgs Universitair Centrum
Wayne Paesh	Naval Surface Warfare Command: Advanced Concepts Systems Group
Dr. Jean Vanderdonckt	Universite' catholique de Louvain
Quentin Limbourg	Universite' catholique de Louvain

**Business In Order**

	<b>Introductions of Dr. Vanderdonckt and Mr. Limbourg</b>
	<p>Dr. Jean Vanderdonckt is a professor of Computer Science at the Universite' catholique de Louvain in Belgium and leads the Human/Computer Interaction laboratory there. He specializes in model-based user interface design approaches and has worked for fifteen years in the area. Dr. Vanderdonckt has been involved in the development of several XML-based user interface definition languages, including the eXtensible Interface Markup Language (XIML) and User XML (USIXML).</p> <p>Mr. Limbourg is a graduate student at the Universite' catholique de Louvain in Belgium and studies under Dr. Vanderdonckt. He specializes in user interface and human/computer interface design with a focus on XML languages.</p>
	<b>Discussion of the Charter</b>
	<p>The TC took some time at the beginning of the meeting to discuss progress against the charter. In particular the TC focused on the timeline set forth in the deliverables declaration of the charter. Realizing that we are behind compared to the charter. the</p>

	<p>TC discussed the reasons for the delay of certain items. We found that the research being performed in this field is more expansive than we anticipated and that the TC has been taking time to review the wealth of material available so that the standard that eventually emerges will embody all the best design practices and methodologies. The TC decided to revise the charter to add an ongoing task to review the languages and design methods being generated by the research community. Dr. Marc Abrams and Jim Helms agreed to draft a revised charter to be distributed to, reviewed by, and voted on by the members of the TC.</p>
	<p><b>Workshop on UIDLs at AVI'04 in Italy</b></p>
	<p>Dr. Marc Abrams gave a report on the workshop at the Advanced Visual Interfaces conference (AVI'04) on User Interface Definition Languages (UIDLs). TC participants Dr. Abrams and Kris Luyten served as coordinators of the workshop. Dr. Abrams noted that the workshop response was good and that most UIDLs presented there used UIML as a foundation or benchmark. A Mr. Robbie Schaffer, who extended UIML to create multimodal dialog descriptions for mobile devices, defined one such language. Mr. Schaffer also expressed interest in joining OASIS and the UIML TC.</p> <p>Dr. Abrams suggested at the workshop that individual language creators should join together to create a synthesis of best concepts and reconcile the separate languages. Such an approach would provide a bottom-up convergence to a standard UIDL that embodied the best practices implemented by all.</p> <p>Dr. Vanderdonckt agreed with this approach but cautioned that such a total reconciliation cannot always be realized. He remarked that the goals of the language must be considered in order to ensure that the language comparison is valid. To accommodate such, Dr. Vanderdonckt suggested classifying language along the following two axes: the generality of the language (general vs. specialized to a set purpose) and the goals of the language (types of user interface models described). This classification will allow researchers to better determine if languages overlap and should be reconciled.</p> <p>Dr. Vanderdonckt does see an overlap between UIML and the USIXML language he and Quentin are developing. He has agreed to work with the TC to reconcile the two languages at a conceptual level.</p>
	<p><b>Discussion of Model-based UI Design Approaches and UIML</b></p>
	<p>The last topic of discussion for the TC was model-based design approaches and their relation to UIML. Each member of the TC was encouraged to read the following three papers before attending the meeting:</p> <p>Marucci, L., Paterno, F., and Santoro, C. "Supporting Interactions with Multiple Platforms Through User Task Models". In <i>Multiple User Interfaces: Cross-Platform Applications and Context-Aware Interfaces</i>, eds. A. Seffah and H. Javahery. John Wiley &amp; Sons, LTD. 2004. pp 217-38.</p> <p>Puerta, A. "A Model-Based Interface Development Environment", IEEE journal, 1997, <a href="http://csdl.computer.org/comp/mags/so/1997/04/s4040abs.htm">http://csdl.computer.org/comp/mags/so/1997/04/s4040abs.htm</a> or <a href="http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=625739&amp;dl=ACM&amp;coll=portal">http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=625739&amp;dl=ACM&amp;coll=portal</a>.</p> <p>Limbourg Q., Vanderdonckt, J., Michotte, B., Bouillon, L., Florins, M., and Trevisan, D. "USIXML: A User Interface Description Language for Context-Sensitive User Interface in Proceedings of Developing User Interfaces with XML: Advances on User Interface Description Languages, a Satellite Workshop of Advanced Visual Interfaces 2004 (AVI '04), (pp 55-62). Gallipoli, Italy, May 25, 2004.</p> <p>These papers provide an introduction to model-based design and gave the committee a</p>

	<p>foundation on which to discuss how UIML can be used in model based design.</p> <p>Limbourg and Vanderdonckt's paper on USIXML generated the most discussion as Dr. Vanderdonckt described USIXML for the committee. USIXML provides comprehensive coverage of the user interface models with transformation rules built into the language. USIXML represents the UI models as a graph of connected elements as contrasted with UIML, which uses a tree metaphor. One of the most innovative aspects of USIXML is its ability to allow the designer to begin designing at virtually a level of abstraction. It does not constrain the designer by forcing them to begin with the highest-level abstraction and refining down to the lowest level. Instead the user of USIXML can work backwards from a low level model to create the corresponding high-level abstractions. More information on USIXML is available at <a href="http://USIXML.org">USIXML.org</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Action Items</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Helms will update the Open Issues document to reflect the issues raised at the Workshop at AVI'04.</li> <li>• Jim Helms will update the document recording the relationship of UIML to other languages/ working groups to include the languages discussed at AVI'04</li> <li>• When permission is received, Dr. Vanderdonckt will distribute a copy of Angel Puerta's paper on XIML and the Mobi-D software.</li> <li>• Jim Helms and Dr. Marc Abrams will create a revised charter for distribution to the TC.</li> <li>• Dr. Abrams and Dr. Vanderdonckt will lead an offline discussion to reconcile UIML and USIXML.</li> <li>• Dr. Vanderdonckt and Mr. Limbourg will review the entries in the "<i>Relationship of UIML 3.0...</i>" document with an eye toward classifying the language therein according to the classification scheme described by Dr. Vanderdonckt.</li> <li>• The TC as a whole will try out the software packages available for different model-based approaches, including Paterno's Teresa and tools for USIXML.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>
	<p>The meeting ended at 1:10 PM EST to reconvene on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004.</p>