**MINUTES OF JOINT UN/CEFACT M&T PDA AND OASIS BDXR TC MEETING**

June 24, 2016

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Jens Aabol

Kenneth Bengtsson

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Michel Bormans

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Anders Grangard

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**1) INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND**

UN/CEFACT published the Standard Business Document Header (SBDH) specification in 2004, and OASIS Business Document Exchange (BDXR) TC published the Business Document Envelope specification in 2015. While the two specifications are technically different and designed to work in different environments, there is a resemblance in that both carry identification and routing information about the sender and receiver in an exchange of a business document. Prior to today’s meeting there had been initial communication between UN/CEFACT and the OASIS BDXR TC regarding standardizing identification and routing information of document exchange parties by creating a single specification based on SBDH and BDE that can function as both a header and an envelope.

**2) OASIS BDE BACKGROUND AND THE CONCEPT OF A DOCUMENT ENVELOPE VS. A DOCUMENT HEADER**

Kenneth Bengtsson explained that the initial requirements for a business document envelope specification came up during the European PEPPOL project. In 4-cornered architectures such as PEPPOL, business documents are exchanged through the use of gateway services meaning that the documents may travel through systems outside the control of the sending and receiving party, making it necessary to safeguard the integrity and confidentiality of the documents while being transferred through any number of hubs. In the context of PEPPOL, the CEN Workshop on Business Interoperability Interfaces (CEN BII) wrote the initial requirements list for a business document envelope:

<https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/42783/BII%20message%20envelope%20specification%20-%20v08-1.doc>

The BDE specification published by the OASIS BDXR TC has analogies to a paper envelope, and can be seen as a container where the sending and receiving party information is displayed publicly visible and in a standardized way, while inside the container can be one or more payloads independent from the envelope and hidden for any party handling the transportation of the envelope. The BDE is modelled using the UN/CEFACT CCTS 2.01.

**3) UN/CEFACT SBDH VIEW ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Anders Grangard explained that the SBDH is a business level header technology designed to provide a standardized way for systems to understand and process business documents without having to understand the syntax of the business document itself. The SBDH is primarily used with XML content and can be used with other content as well. It is modelled using UN/CEFACT CCTS 2.01, however early implementers may be using draft versions of CCTS. The SBDH is primarily used in peer-to-peer business document exchanges, and with users moving into other business document exchange infrastructures there is a motivation to review the specification for use in other contexts.

**4) COMMON INTERESTS AND MOTIVATION FOR A JOINT PROJECT**

It was discussed that the two specifications share a common a common purpose in that they both provide a manner for systems to understand how to process and route a business document without having to understand the business document itself. This has some analogy to how addresses and other information is standardized on letterheads, envelopes etc., making it possible to identify sending and receiving parties without having to understand the information that it is attached to. It was agreed that having only one standard for how to express business document processing and routing information would be good for the market in general, and that a specification for such standard could be designed in a way as to serve the function of both document header and document envelope.

It was noted that since both the SBDH and the BDE specifications are modelled using CCTS 2.01, it should be possible to create a single specification based on both SBDH and BDE. Both SBDH and BDE have current user bases and commitments to support these, why a project to create a single specification should include migration support.

It was agreed to proceed with a joint project and to attempt to formalize such collaboration within UN/CEFACT and OASIS.

**5) FEASIBILITY OF A JOINT PROJECT (ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEREST AND COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES)**

Anders Grangard noted that a requirement for the UN/CEFACT to approve a project is that there is an established and documented need from a user community. It was discussed that the project should liaison with interested groups outside of UN/CEFACT and OASIS, and reach out to communities with an interest in the work product to get them involved. Among groups that presumably would be interested were mentioned, the Australian Digital Business Council, CEN (various TCs and workshops), EESPA, PEPPOL, and the US Remittance Coalition.

Michel Bormans added that CEN TC 445 is working on a new document to describe the exchange of electronic documents cross border in the insurance domain, has a current need for a header/envelope work product, and may possibly be able to invest time and resources.

Draft paper of what joint project will do, including user requirements (Anders + Kenneth)

It was agreed that Anders Grangard and Kenneth Bengtsson will together draft a paper of what the joint project will do, and distribute the paper before the coming UN/CEFACT Forum meeting in September.

**6) PROJECT ORGANIZATION AND PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION**

It was discussed that administrative issues, particularly those concerned with intellectual property rights, need to be addressed prior to formalizing the joint project. Most likely such issues were already addressed and resolved during prior to the ebXML joint UN/CEFACT and OASIS project. Kenneth Bengtsson will contact OASIS staff to get their involvement.

As a preliminary timeline it was agreed that Anders Grangard work on a draft project description to be distributed and discussed at the next conference call, and with the aim to get a project approval at the coming UN/CEFACT Forum meeting in September.

**7) NEXT MEETING AND FOLLOW UP**

Kenneth Bengtsson will set up a Doodle to survey if a conference call is feasible towards the end of August, alternatively early September.

The Doodle is available here: <http://doodle.com/poll/83kdmdre3472crb6>

**8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.