UBL and XBRL Interoperability Brief

UBL Op70 Release

Ray Seddigh

PricewaterhouseCoopers, XBRL, UBL

March 10, 2003

The latest release of the Universal Business Language (UBL) review package marks the achievement of significant milestones. The UBL team has been hard at work to bring you, and the world, an extensive library of components for electronic commerce.

Interoperability between XBRL and UBL is useful for both user communities. It promises an even greater impact than each standard alone can have on how a large number of transactions in business and commerce are accounted for and reported worldwide. Active participation of the XBRL community is crucial in connecting XBRL and UBL.

This brief document is an XBRL-specific addition to the UBL review package . Its purpose is to assist the XBRL community in navigating UBL, identifying XBRL related features, providing comments, and implementing interoperability with UBL.

1. Summary of the Op70 UBL Release

The current UBL review package contains an introduction to UBL, the library of components in its current state, sample UBL documents such as order and order response, formatting specifications, schema files, UML diagrams, some documentation, release notes, and more.

A number of spreadsheets help you get a quick picture of what UBL is about, its components, and how it's documents are structured.

2. The XBRL Community Is Invited to:

- Choose UBL components that would be useful to XBRL.
- Implement changes to the XBRL specifications that are necessary for interoperability with UBL, and provide related syntax.
- Review the UBL package, and comment on it generally.
- Participate in discussions related to XBRL-UBL interoperability.
- Consider the business implications of XBRL-UBL interoperability.

3. Obtaining the Review Package and Related Documentation

As I announced previously on the XBRL-INT list, the Op70 UBL package can be downloaded, or browsed on the web.

- It is downloadable from: http://oasis-open.org/committees/ubl/lcsc/0p70/UBL0p70.zip
- It is browsable at: http://oasis-open.org/committees/ubl/lcsc/0p70/

4. Steps for Interested XBRL Contributors

1. Obtain the review package as described above

A key spreadsheet for XBRL is one that lists the normalized business information entities, and components on which UBL documents are based. This spreadsheet is located at (in the downloaded directory):

        xls/UBL_Library_0p70_normalized_components.xls

Each row of this spreadsheet describes a UBL BIE, its name, properties,what it does, whether this it is basic, aggregate, and so forth. At UBL,this spreadsheet is transformed into an XSD file which is also in the review package.

XBRL- I have marked BIE groups that may be interesting to XBRL in the normalized_components spreadsheet, and created a new version of it which I'm sending with this message.

This new version is XBRL-specific and is not part of the standard UBL review package. It is called:.

        UBL_Library_0p70_normalized_components-for-XBRL-RS-1.xls

Another useful file is the one that lists resusable components:

        xls/UBL_Library_0p70_Reusable.xls

2. Look at the BIE groups I've marked for XBRL, and comment on the current candidates. Choose the BIE's that would be useful to XBRL, or add new groups or individual BIEs by marking the spreadsheet and sending it to me.

3. Supply conversion syntax (the XBRL way of identifying the UBL BIE)

4. Help create the draft of a document that specifies needed changes to the specs, and ratify it for distribution to both XBRL and UBL

5. Extra credit: Help develop a user's guide for software developers wishing to use both standards.

5. Degrees of XBRL-UBL Interoperability

XBRL – UBL interoperability can be viewed along the following continuum: minimal, moderate, massive, extra credit. The extent of interoperability will depend on the available resources and decisions to proceed to further stages.

- Minimal: select smallest set of BIEs, mainly for use in XBRL reporting

- Moderate: incorporate more BIE's for XBRL-GL use as well

- Massive: exhaustive and maintained mapping of all constructs within UBL and XBRL.

- Extra credit: custom compatibility for particular verticals, UBL scenario compatibility with XBRL-GL, extending interoperability beyond BIEs to cover ASBIE's, ...

6. Mechanism and deadline for providing comments

Please email XBRL related comments to me.

Please *use only the comment form in the review package*. since this is how UBL tracks comments.This form is also enclosed with the present message.

E-mail address for sending comments: ray.seddigh@us.pwcglobal.com . Your comments are needed by COB on **April 10, 2003.**

7. The 7th XBRL Conference and UBL

Given the importance of UBL and its stage of development, I'd be happy to hold a session specific to UBL and UBL/XBRL interoperability for those interested, during the 7th XBRL conference in May 2003.