



Titel: Minutes
Plenary CEN/ISSS Workshop eCAT:
ePDC Project - Product Description
and Classification
14 September 2004, Cologne

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1 Welcome and administration

Mr. Betz, Vice Chairman, welcomes the many participants and sends apologies from

- Mr. John McKirney, UCC
- Mr. Peter Benson, eOTD/ECCMA
- Mr. Klaus-Dirk Schmitz, University of Applied Sciences and Workshop Chairman
- Mr. Håvard Hjulstad, Standards Norge

Mr. Betz points out the particular importance of this plenary which consists of two parts:

In the morning we will see presentations by the workshop's experts and in the afternoon by external experts. Mr. Betz announces a small change in the agenda (two presentations of ePDC experts switched places).

2 Terminology Task

Ms. Bodil Nistrup Madsen presents the joint [Terminology Task](#), which was compiled together with Mr. Hjulstad and was part of eCAT's CWA.

The report stresses the fact that there is an urgent need for clarification of terminology within the fields of electronic catalogues, product description and classification - as there is in a lot of other fields. The report contains recommendations concerning a number of general concepts, but work should be extended to comprise also many more specific concepts. Bodil Nistrup Madsen demonstrated the usefulness of terminological working methods that are based on standards published by ISO TC 37 - Terminology and other language resources (the use of concept systems as the basis for the elaboration of systematic and consistent definitions).

Mr. Betz comments that the eCAT CWA has been published, is available for download on the website of CEN/ISSS and has the number 15045:2004.

3 ePDC CWA - Overview

Mr. Betz, opens the [overview of the ePDC CWA](#) by informing that the ePDC is a project within the eCAT Workshop and introduces the "Report of the Expert Group on B2B Internet trading platforms (6/2003)".

At least 37 different classification schemes were indexed, probably many hundreds exist: vertical classifications (shoes, pharmaceutical, etc) and horizontal ones, covering several domains up to the full range (sometimes even including services). Although they sometimes are comparable, they do have different aims and are based on different data models.

Out of this analysis the EC came out with 6 priorities on eBusiness (Mr. Betz presents a [chart](#)).

One wonders why the ISO 13584 is used so little? It seems mainly due to the fact that this standard is too complicated to be well understood and applied.

The ePDC project was divided into two parts; the first part is ePDC1, consisting mainly of W1 to W4.

ePDC2 was introduced to the EC in January 2004, CEN supported the project very strongly. The Commission evaluated the project as one of the most interesting projects of 15 which were introduced. We are now awaiting the final decisions after some adjustments of the project and hope that by November 2004 we will receive the final green light, allowing to start ePDC2.

Mr. Betz informs about the high number of expert meetings and valuable contact to e.g. ISO/TC 184 and OIDD.

On 6 May, the ePDC Interim Report was published and accepted by the EC. The final draft CWA was distributed last week (Mr. Betz apologizes for rather late distribution).

→ Any comments are welcome, in November the final report will be made available.

4 Reports on ePDC Work Items by the ePDC Experts:

Mr. Frans van Basten, one of three ePDC experts, begins the presentation of the work items with [Terms & Definitions](#) (W2).

Mr. Jörg Leukel gives his presentation on [Develop a reference model for implementation](#) (W3.1).

*Mr. Beckmann asks whether **all these** topics will be dealt with in the ePDC project. Mr. Leukel replies that the experts are working on models, not on contents: Mapping methodology - no work will be done on the mapping itself.*

Mr. Nikolaus Ondracek gives his presentation on [Data model](#) (W3.3). This work item is technically highly difficult. UML is a modelling language which is used in the ePDC model. Mr. Ondracek informs about the “steps performed from EXPRESS to UML”.

Mr. Pierra asks and comments: Do the experts propose a completely new model which is based on ISO 13584? If we make a UML model, then a mapping between the UML model and the already existing EXPRESS model would be very helpful.

Mr. Ondracek replies: We do not want to create a new model but provide a model that is easily to read and understand. UML seems to be a better modelling language than EXPRESS.

Mr. Ondracek finishes with the following recommendations:

- Make ISO 13584-42 data model more comprehensive
- Consider minor technical issues on the ISO 13584 data model
- Make Data model fit for data exchange in order to derive XML schema from model
- Define exchange messages
- Incorporate proposed enhancements

and offers the possibility to meet separately on a very technical level.

Mr. Pim van der Eijk, eCAT expert, recommends the ePDC group to have a look at ISO 15000-3 Registry Model.

A participant asks whether Web Ontology Language is being considered? Mr. Ondracek: yes, in connection with ISO 15926.

Mr. Frans van Basten gives his presentation on [Development of exchange formats](#) (W3.4). Some discussions arise about reference models, models and messages (Schmitz, Ondracek, Pierra).

Mr. Ondracek presents [Maintenance model analysis](#) (W3.2) which includes the analysis of existing maintenance models (IEC 61360, ISO 13584-501, eCI@ss, UNSPSC, ECCMA). The awareness of maintaining a system is not yet given. Maintaining a system has benefits but also disadvantages.

Mr. Galinski informs: Users would like to have a clear indication which version the item is coming from - which often is not given; often there is even a non-interoperability between versions.

Mr. Pierra recommends that rules of fulfillment should be defined. The change of version of classification systems does not function automatically in reality. What is the impact on the user? We should not trigger processes that inhibit them using given systems.

Mr. Jörg Leukel presents Business rules for management of the classification (W4) and [Requirements on the Toolkit for Maintaining the system](#) (W5).

5 Keynote: Multilingual eCatalogue in eBusiness: a case study

Mr. Nicolas Mériel, Aspherio, introduces the company Aspherio and [the case study "Logitech"](#) and their European eCommerce requirements.

Mr Schmitz: Which information (customers, product portfolio) is stored locally? Is all information available to all? Do all shops have all products?

Mr. Mériel: We can filter down to 1 product in 1 store in 1 country.

Mr. Mériel presents Aspherio's "Initial Multilingual Master Catalogue".

- Catalogue requirements: → see slide!
- Master Catalogue – features: → see slide!

Aspherio has a very sophisticated back office, in which customer can log in: catalogue management, shop content, track orders, reports (best sellers, worst sellers).

Mr. van der Eijk: Do you work with translation agencies? Mr. Mériel: Sometimes yes, depends on the customer.

6 Semantic Interoperability

Mr. Christian Galinski of TermNet presents "[Global Semantic Interoperability](#)".

According to the EU Interoperability Framework (EIF) "interoperability" has been subdivided into

- Technical Interoperability
- Semantic Interoperability
- Organizational Interoperability

Maintenance Agencies and Registration Authorities: [please refer to the presentation](#).

In this framework, Mr. Galinski introduces 4 new projects which have been proposed:

- ePPS: Electronic Product Property Server
- GenMAR: Generic Maintenance Agency and Registration Authorities
- eTourism: Core aspects of tourism: Information on hotels, beds, pool etc. does not include wellness or health topics. Tourism is the 2nd largest business sector in Europe.
- ePDC2: Mr. Betz has introduced this new project that has been approved but not started yet.

→ The workshop endorses these new projects and encourages TermNet to continue its efforts.

7 SMART-fm

Mr. Fredrik Larsson of Design Market Europe AB introduces DesignMarket.com and [SMART-fm](#).

Mr. John Ketchell of CEN/ISSS comments: the CEN/ISSS fUN-STEP (and fUN-STEP2) Workshops had been a good means to get a sector consensus together, and of course we had some other examples, but there was an enormous untapped potential in other sectors that needed such help in order to agree on cross-border eBusiness trading standards.

8 The development of Product Classification

Mr. Waginger of International Society of Commodity Science and Technology (IGWT), Vienna, will not give his presentation as planned and asks the participants to refer to the version that will be uploaded on TermNet's website <http://linux.termnet.org> in a few weeks.

9 CME – Characteristic Management Engine

Mr. Uwe Pyka explains the motivation of CME. Please see [presentation](#).

10 OIDD – Open and Interoperable Domain Dictionary Initiative) and its aims

Mr. Wolfgang Wilkes of Semaino presents the [OIDD initiative](#) which is also managed by Mr. Guy Pierra. It was created out of the activities of ISO/TC 184/SC4/WG2.

ePDC has identified at least 37 different dictionaries (08/2003). Assumption: No organization can develop a universal dictionary. Solution aimed at:

- Step 1: Build a network of dictionary providers
- Step 2: Provide mechanisms to exchange dictionaries and to share dictionary elements.
- Step 3: Build a machinable network of dictionaries by sharing of dictionary elements among OIDD
- Step 4: Support standardization of dictionary elements

Mr. Koens: There seems to be an overlap between OIDD and ePDC. How do you handle this? Mr. Wilkes: We have the same goals, the difference is that OIDD wants to provide concrete services.

Mr. Ketchell: CEN/ISSS would certainly be interested in participating in discussions as to whether we could offer some kind of hosting arrangements in the future.

Mr. Ondracek: Is personally following the activities of OIDD and also attended the meeting in Bath in July this year. Interoperability of dictionaries! Highly important issues are copyright, business cases and maintenance.

11 Discussion

→ Mr. Betz asks for questions or comments on the draft CWA sent to the workshop last week.

Mr. Koens: Admires the work but criticizes the last chapter “principle number 4” (reads it loud). A classification system should have properties and depends on two things: requirements of industry and capability of suppliers. Mr. Koens comes from the healthcare industry & suppliers to hospitals, and feels there is no need for properties. Suppliers are not even able to provide a description (“screw” for many types of screws).

Mr. Betz: Look at what existed 10 years ago: nobody was asking for very precise properties. Today, the situation in many domains has changed to an extent that some people are wanting to structure the name of the property they use (otherwise deep trouble) – which they need in their industrie. ePDC says: Please try to use the same vocabulary, terminology

Mr. Galinski comments: System designers think that the experts in companies/organizations are the best to describe products – however, they are not trained for that. Engineers expect to receive this data from the system designers. It is not possible/cost-efficient to train an engineer to do content editing. A professional “Content Editor” would be needed to fill this gap.

Mr. Ondracek: There are systems without properties. Our project is called *Electronic Product Description and Classification* - how can a machine predict what you are searching, buying and delivering without properties? Machines need to speak to each other, not humans to machines (which convinced Mr Koens).

Mr. Pyka: “Always ask: What is the intention?” If you want to establish a search engine, you need properties.

Mr. Koens understands this requirement of some industries, it will take five years until the healthcare has reached that point.

Mr. Ketchell: CEN/ISSS is not going to sort out a mess by producing a couple of CWAs. Standards are still voluntary, but still you need to wait until industry catches up.

The experts will nevertheless finetune the formulation of the “principle 4”.

Mr. Pierra has comments to the CWA: Important to distinguish: We are discussing interoperability, we need some kind of registry and repository and provide services. Recommends to postpone this discussion to ePDC2.

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Mr. Betz summarizes the status quo of initiatives. Many hierarchical classifications exist today and you find many different pieces of a puzzle. Of course the pieces do not match. The exchange format is also important for interoperability. ePDC2 will be much more practical oriented than ePDC1 (architecture, data model, technical, complicated for some of us, but necessary).

A general discussion follows about classification with and without properties. (Pierra, Patkai, Ondracek, Schmitz, Larsson).

12 Any other business

Mr. Ketchell gives an update on CEN/ISSS activities.

The next meeting will be agreed upon when the Commission provides its green light (possible meeting on 2 December 2004).

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Presentations of this meeting can be found on
http://linux.termnet.org/index.py?level=level4&id=1&lang=_en

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