ebXML Case Study: DISA Registry Initiative (DRIve)

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Abstract:

The DISA Registry Initiative or DRIve is a program to deploy the technology outlined in the ebXML specifications (v 2.0) for a standard online index of items needed by companies to do business in particular industries. DRIve provides such an index for the work of DISA-affiliated organizations.

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1 Executive Overview

The DISA Registry Initiative or DRIve is a program to deploy the technology outlined in the ebXML specifications (v 2.0) for a standard online index of items needed by companies to do business in particular industries. DRIve provides such an index for the work of DISA-affiliated organizations.

1.1 Business Need

DISA had planned on developing a registry of its standards and specifications for some time, but had sought a standards-based rather than a one-off solution. First, DISA's mission is to encourage the development and adoption of e-business standards. Second, a standards-based registry offers opportunities later on to interact with other registries and solutions based on ebXML.

1.2 Project Description

DISA now has a working DRIve prototype online for viewing and comments, at http://www.disa.org/drive/. The prototype uses specifications from DISA's vertical industry affiliates. It lists the specifications by general industry category, with additional classification by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and U.N. Standard Product and Service Code (UNSPSC). DRIve indicates the relationship among the specifications, and cross-references the objects to the XML.Org registry operated by OASIS.

DRIve serves a research and development function for the e-business community. We are currently working with UN/CEFACT's Business Process Catalog Work Group (TBG-14) in developing registry classifications for ebXML business processes. We have also offered DRIve to the OAG/NIST ebXML Testbed project.

2 Participants

2.1 Industry

Data Interchange Standards Association
Interactive Financial Exchange (IFX) Forum
Mortgage Industry Standards Maintenance Organization
Open Travel Alliance

2.2 Users

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2.3 Other

We thank XML Global for the generous donation of the software for DRIve.

3 ebXML Specifications Used

OASIS/ebXML Registry Services Specification, v2.0
OASIS/ebXML Registry Information Model v2.0.

3.1 Other Standards Used

North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and U.N. Standard Product and Service Code (UNSPSC).

4 Technical Description

DRIve is loaded on an Apache/Tomcat server, and built on a MySQL database, running under Windows 2000.

5 Benefits and Challenges

5.1 Business

DRIve enables DISA to provide a consistent public face for its vertical industry standards and specifications.

5.2 Technical

On the technical details for case study, XML Global provided the software, so I am not really the expert on the technology.

5.3 Lessons Learned

We are still learning the lessons. DRIve is now set up for human, not machine, visitors, and we have our specifications indexed only at the document level. We do have plans for more elaborate and complex message design services that use more capabilities of DRIve, but we need to get our customers ready for that step. One of the messages I would like to leave with the participants in our forum session is that we are still figuring out how to make maximum use of a standards registry.

6 Future Plans

DISA plans to integrate the emerging XML work of ASC X12, in addition to its vertical industry affiliates. DISA is also taking part in the NIST/OAG ebXML test-bed, and has offered DRIve as a testing facility for registry interactions.

Appendix A. *Acknowledgments*

The following individuals were instrumental in the success or progress of this effort:

- *David Webber, XML Global*
- *Zuzana Mosna, XML Global*
- *Greg Lear, IT Director, DISA*

Appendix B. *Revision History*

Rev	*Date*	*By Whom*	*What*
DRI-01	*01-02-2003*	*Alan Kotok akotok@disa.org*	*Initial version*

Appendix C. *Notices*

None provided.