

UKP.eb Latest Developments May 2004

Key developments in e.business standards and best practice

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

KEY EVENT

*You are invited to the main e.business standards
event of 2004*

Keep yourself at the cutting edge of e.business!

1 Launch of new UKPeb publication

"DIAMOND" - by Tom McGuffog

- how to give your value chain strength and sparkle!
- a General Theory of Value Chain Management Data

2. Review of the latest e.business developments by the UKPeb Partners

**10.00am - 12.00noon on Wednesday 22 September 2004
at the DTI Conference Centre
1, Victoria Street, London**

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EDITORIAL

Tom McGuffog - Chair UKPeb

This is a 'strange' phase in the history of e.business developments. Nobody, so far as I know, has just launched the latest technology that is going to revolutionise inter-organisation communications and make redundant all current technology! Meanwhile many organisations are just getting on with improving their cost-effectiveness by exploiting the systems they already have and by a judicious application of new standards and technologies. Others are testing out a selection of the most promising offerings, some are waiting to see what happens first before investing anew, and others are saying that e.business at present should be left well alone. Perhaps this state of affairs is healthy diversity based on realism!

This Newsletter covers various approaches to e.business - EDI and the Internet, Data

Synchronisation, Data Pools and e.exchanges, Radio Frequency Tagging and Healthcare Developments. These topics are only covered in summary form here - for the 'unabridged' version, please see www.ukpeb.org <<http://www.ukpeb.org>>, News section.

The e.business standards world is in a state of flux. It is recognised that in order to get the best benefits from e.business, public and private organisations first need to improve their business processes (simplify and standardise to achieve speed, certainty and low total cost) and then to employ standard identities, data and messages to manage their value chains. The process architecture development should precede the data architecture, which in turn should precede the I.T. architecture. In reality, there has to be an iterative process. However, too often organisational and I.T. changes are introduced without process and data architectures being properly defined. As a consequence, major I.T. projects overrun and fail to deliver promised benefits.

Getting all the above right is the subject of our new UKPeb publication "**DIAMOND**" - *how to give your value chain strength and sparkle by applying the General Theory of Value Chain Management Data.*

CONGRATULATIONS !!

..... to 25 years of the TRADACOMS Standards Group and 20 years of TRADANET!

In the late seventies and early eighties, the UK took the lead in Europe for electronic messaging by the development of the TRADACOMS standards, initially for orders and invoices, and then the EDI service to carry them - TRADANET. That's 25 years for TRADACOMS and 20 years for TRADANET - and today TRADACOMS and TRADANET are still responsible for the lion's share of the EDI message traffic in the UK! Well done!

For the full story, see www.ukpeb.org <<http://www.ukpeb.org>> News section

EDI OVER THE INTERNET

There have been - and still are! - many frustrating discussions over the years about EDI versus the Internet. These have often confused particular messaging standards for use on the Internet with the Internet as a network. There are in fact good reasons to combine the structured messaging and disciplines of EDI with the universality of the Internet.

There are a number of cost-effective ways of sending EDI messages over the Internet. Also, the new AS2 standard supports this and its adoption is gaining pace as evidenced by the current Asda roll-out.

However, users do need to work out the total costs to ensure that they understand their own net costs and benefits. In the EDI world, the sender normally pays, as with the postal system. Some companies, however, may use AS2 in order to pass the costs of using EDI networks to their suppliers. Remember, the e.business world of today gives you much more potential choice - there are many more e.horses for courses! You have to make that educated choice.

DATA SYNCHRONISATION, DATA POOLS AND e.exchanges

Most organisations recognise that they will benefit from having a single, central set of master data for products and prices, for customers and suppliers, for categorisation of products, and for trading locations. Cleansing and integrating such data is a pre-requisite for the successful implementation of an ERP package such as SAP or ORACLE.

It is also a pre-requisite for successful e.business with customers and suppliers so that such master data can be pre-aligned among trading partners to ensure business can be conducted without error or delay.

The data synchronisation potential offered by e.market places and e.exchanges for e.transactions has largely failed to materialise for a variety of reasons, but the requirement for clean data synchronisation remains. We are now seeing a growing interest in using e.exchanges for work beyond e.auctions and e.transactions that supports collaborative value chain management.

Examples are EXOSTAR in the aerospace industry and in the Food & Grocery sector, ecentre is launching a Data Pool service targeted at SMEs as well as large organisations.

We shall watch these developments with interest!!

THE ERA OF RADIO FREQUENCY TAGGING LOOMS NEARER

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is one of the really hot topics of the current e.business scene. There is a lot of hype and more column inches written than on any other "emerging" technology. For, in the true sense of e.business, that is what it is - an emerging technology that promises a great deal, but is not really there yet.

The issues for RFID are the lack of standardisation and total cost, not only of the tags themselves but the cost of implementation - tag readers and writers and the effects on packaging.

Newly formed EPCglobal, an EAN International company, will address many of these issues, particularly that of standards. The signs are that the Electronic Product Code (EPC) will become the *de facto* standard for the mass implementation of RFID in the supply chain. Ask Wal-Mart in the US who has requested its supplier base to EPC tag pallet deliveries by mid 2005!! This is just the start; but do not expect the mass (at the consumer unit level) implementation of EPC before 2012 or even later!

For more see www.e-centre.org.uk <<http://www.e-centre.org.uk>> . Also "Global Commerce Initiative EPC Roadmap" - booklet, and www.gci-net.org

e.BUSINESS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTHCARE

As tax payers, we all look forward to improvements in our healthcare services, not only in terms of process efficiency but in patient safety as well. ecentre has been trying very hard over the past two years or so to convince leading NHS stakeholders that the adoption of the EAN.UCC standards can make a difference to both these areas. And now real progress is being made in both primary and secondary care, where the standards for identification and bar coding are becoming strategically adopted in pharmaceuticals, vaccines, clotting factor concentrates (for the treatment of haemophiliacs) and for independent living aids, such as wheelchairs and other such items loaned to the patient in the community.

International e.business standards move ever closer to the very heart of the NHS systems of the future. All exciting news!

For more see www.e-centre.org.uk <<http://www.e-centre.org.uk>>. Also "[EAN.UCC in Healthcare - Guidelines for Implementation](#)"

LATEST NEWS

The UK's automated payments system BACS is moving to an Internet Protocol (IP) standard based network for its 50,000 corporate customers. Users have to the end of 2005 to change their BACS connection software. They will gain the benefits of the resilience of the new IP network and the ability to track online the progress of their payments. BACS also intends to provide an online bill presentation and payment service for banks. This will allow consumers to view and pay bills from the banks' websites.

For more information on e.business, visit the UKPeb web site www.ukpeb.org <<http://www.ukpeb.org>> and the sites of the Partners and our Associates -

APACS, BSI, e.centre, e-envoy, DTI, SITPRO, UKCeB, CIPS, CILT

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