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Status of OASIS/UBL Collaboration with UN/CEFACT

Tim McGrath
Managing Director, Document Engineering Services
Vice-Chair OASIS UBL Technical Committee
UBL International April21 2008

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UN/CEFACT Collaboration

- UN/CEFACT recognizes UBL 2 as appropriate first-generation XML documents for eBusiness.
- Future UN/CEFACT deliverables constitute the upgrade path for UBL.
- Maintenance of UBL 2 remains with OASIS.
- In the expectation that UN/CEFACT will produce its own integrated set of XML schemas within a period of three years, OASIS will produce no further major versions of UBL past UBL 2.
- OASIS will grant UN/CEFACT a perpetual, irrevocable license to create derivative works based on UBL.

Agreed in April 2006.

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Overview

- OASIS UBL is a library of BIEs based on UN/CEFACT's CCTS.
- OASIS, UBL and UN/CEFACT are attempting to converge our two efforts into a "best of breed" solution.
  - Align the UBL library with the UN/CEFACT library.
  - Assist in the development of new UN/CEFACT business requirements.
  - Incorporate UBL's XML Naming and Design RUles work into UN/CEFACT NDR 3.0.
  - Support UN/CEFACT's adoption of genericode for code list representation.

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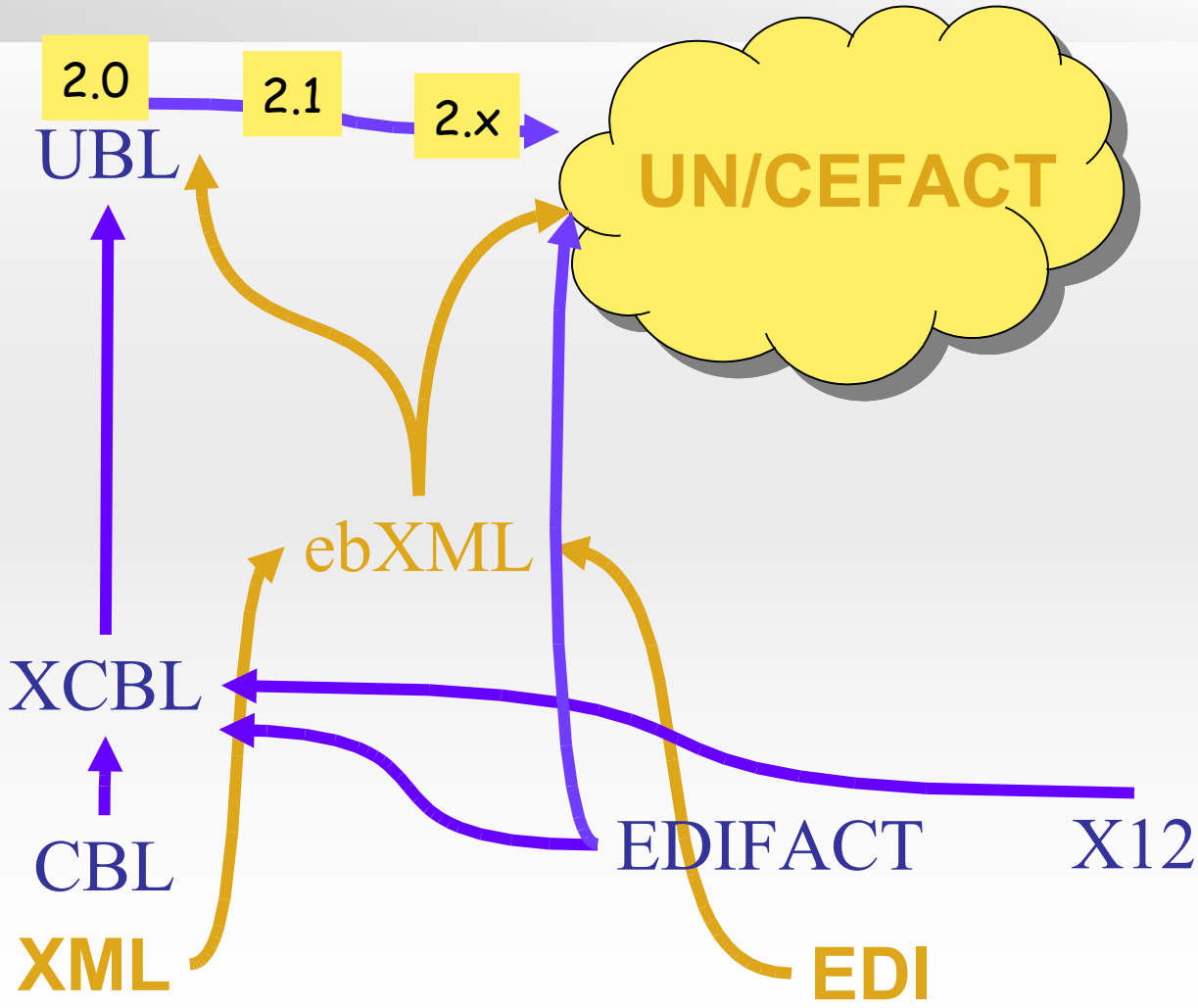
UBL's Upgrade Path



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UBL 2.1

- A minor release
- Alignment with UN/CEFACT Core Components
- Requirements/extensions
  - CEN/ISSS BII
  - transport users
  - finance services
  - traceability(?)
- Major requirements by July 2008
  - Release by April 2009

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UN/CEFACT and UBL Library Alignment

UN/CEFACT and OASIS are pleased to announce that the UN/CEFACT TBG17 and OASIS Universal Business Language (UBL) Technical Committee have reached agreement on the methodology for the alignment of the UBL Library and the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library. Work to align these two libraries is underway and expected to be completed in 2008.

Agreed in September 2007

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Aligning Libraries

UBL

UN/CEFACT
SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE PROCESSES FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

Uses 'Core Components' in XML documents

Publishes 'Core Components'

Each UBL element identifies its UN/CEFACT core component equivalent

UBL elements without an equivalent UN/CEFACT core component provide candidates for new UN/CEFACT core components

Registers UBL implementations of core components

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What Does This Mean?

- There will be semantically equivalent components in the CCL for each UBL element.
- Note: UBL is not developing a new UBL Library based on CCL.
  - We will update our existing library to reference CCL.
- This assures that the CCL is a useful aid to interoperability between vocabularies.
- It also realizes the objective of ebXML core component architecture.
- We have prototyped this…

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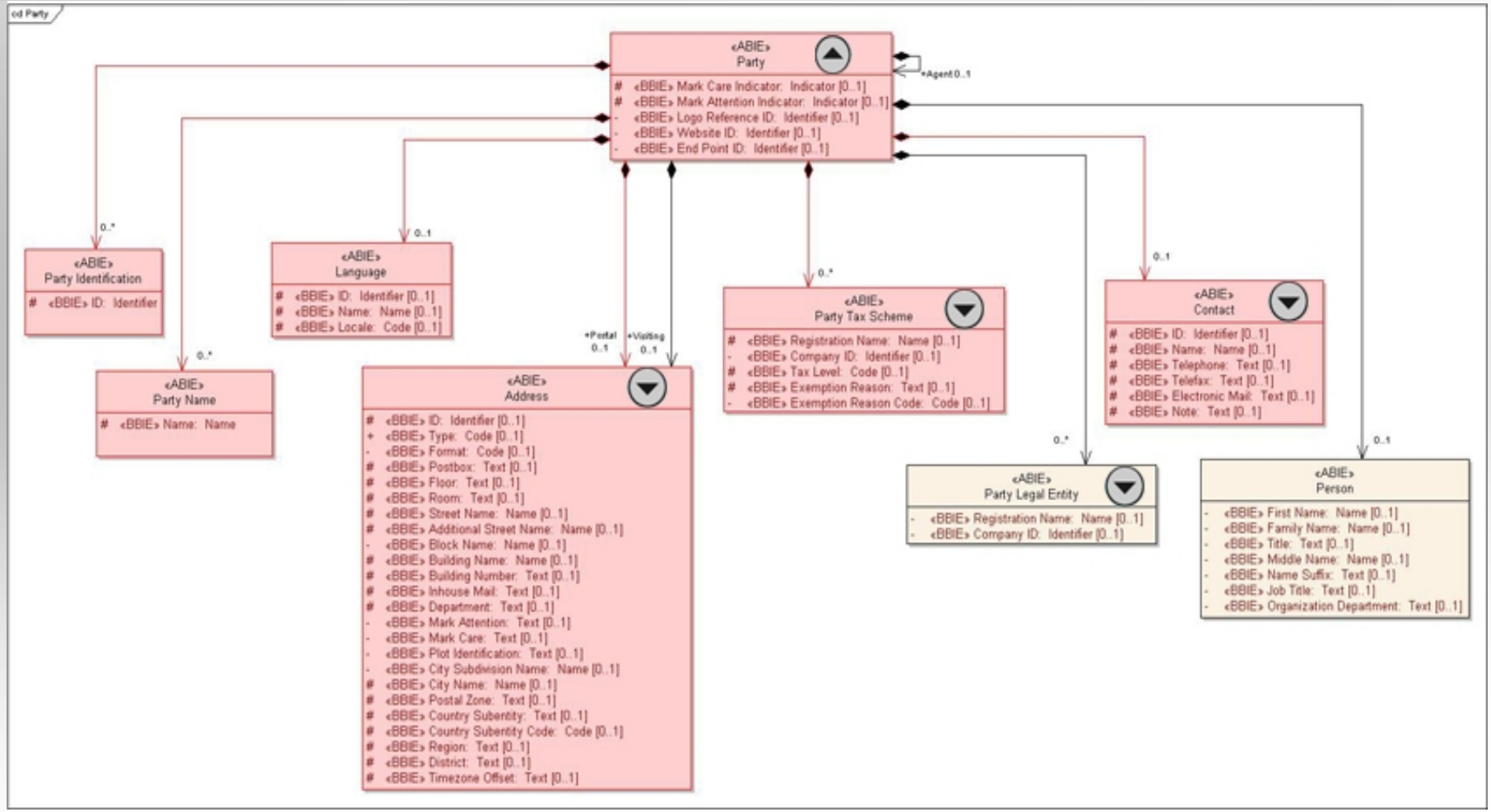
'Party' and subsidiary BIEs



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Scale of the Task

- UBL Party:
  - Total of 129 BIEs.
  - 90 align with existing UN/CEFACT Library.
  - 39 new candidate Core Components.
- UBL 2.0 has @ 1000 BIEs
  - Same ratio means 300 submissions to UN/CEFACT
  - TBG1 submission already has many of these,

so…

  - Estimate 100-150 candidate Core Components.

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Artifacts Involved

UBL 2.0/2.1 spreadsheet

Core Component

StreetName	BBIE	StreetAddressName
AdditionalStreetName	BBIE	StreetAddressName
TaxPointDate	BBIE	TaxDate (new)
Item	ABIE	Product

Step 1 is to update the core component names in UBL 2.0 as part of 2.1 release

UBL Submission to TBG17

TaxPointDate	BCC	UBL0000001 (draft)

Step 2 is to create this (in collaboration with TBG17 editor)

CCL D08A -> ?

UBL Name

StreetAddressName	BCC	CC0000001	StreetName
Product	ACC	CC0000002	Item
TaxDate (new)	BCC	CC0000999	TaxPointDate

Step 3 is to work with TBG17 to establish any new core components required by UBL and to update UBL terms

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Proposed Alignment Schedule

- Step One (UBL contains references to CCL):
  - Prototyped Dec 2007
  - Aim for completion by July 2008
- Step Two (UBL submits new candidates to TBG17):
  - Ready for CEFACT Plenary Sept 2008
- Step Three (CCL contains new UBL core components):
  - Aim for April 2009 CEFACT Forum (subject to TBG17 scheduling).
- Synchronizes with UBL 2.1 release.
  - ... and CEFACT/OASIS/UBL agreement ☺

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Related Work Items

- CEN/ISSS Business Intereroperability Interfaces
  - European Government e-Procurement
- UN/CEFACT TBG19/1/6 Electronic Public Procurement
  - Global Government e-Procurement
  - The project was set up simultaneously with the CEN-ISSS eBII working group (electronic Business Industry Initiative), which targets the same subject from a European angle.
  - The project activity should take into account the deliverables of the eBII working group, while ensuring consistency with UN/CEFACT standards and incorporating the views of actors from outside the European Union that participate in UN/CEFACT.

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Why We Are Doing This

Subject: [UNCEFACT-HOD - 131] UN/CEFACT Electronic Procurement Project - Call for Participation

Date: Wed, 16 Apr 2008 16:42:04 +0200

From: Virginia Cram-Martos <Virginia.Cram-Martos@UNECE.ORG>

Reply-To: UN/CEFACT Head of Delegation (HoD) <UNCEFACT-HOD@LISTS.UNECE.ORG>

To: UNCEFACT-HOD@LISTS.UNECE.ORG

Dear Head of Delegation,

As Head of Delegation to UN/CEFACT, could you please distribute the attached call for participation to your national experts interested in procurement, and particularly those interested in public-sector procurement.

They are invited to participate in the UN/CEFACT Forum joint electronic procurement project (ePP) and register as a member of the project team.

We believe that this is a project with a great deal of potential to assist governments in improving their procurement processes and related information exchange and hope that your country/delegation will be able to contribute to this valuable work.

Yours sincerely,

Virginia Cram-Martos

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The role of the UBL TC

- Success for a standard is not publication…
  - It is adoption
- We want to support implementers of UBL
  - UBL.XML.org
- Customization Guidelines
  - Best practices for customizing UBL to meet contextual requirements.

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Thank You

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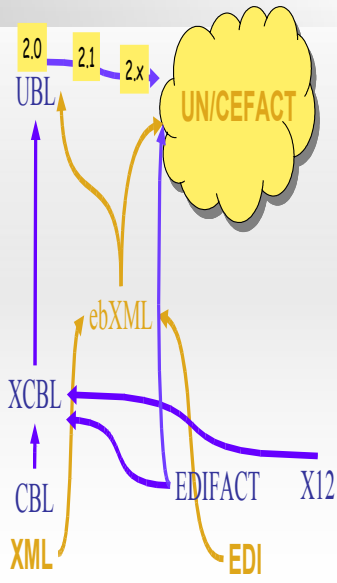

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@ Port Community Systems 2007

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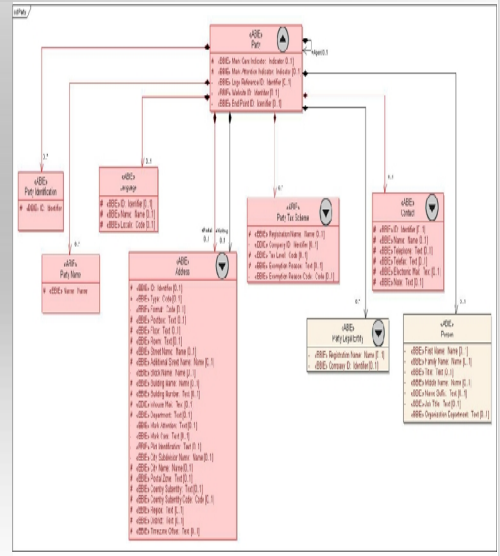

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21/04/08

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