

**THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AGENDA:  
SHARING INFORMATION ACROSS GOVERNMENT**

**Chair: Enda Holland**

**Ireland**

**Questions and Answers**

**Enda Holland, Ireland.** Thank you speakers for your presentations. I am conscious of the time so we will go straight to questions.

**Helen Macdonald, Canada.** Knut, you mentioned something like a government interoperability board with mandatory powers. I am trying to get at the extent to which you all agree the areas which have to be mandatory and what mechanisms you use to insure compliance. What happens if even with a standard developed bottom up system that most people love but you have got some players off side what do you do?

**Knut Rexed.** I think the general tendencies we have is that government agencies obey government instructions. We have not yet had any problems with that. Let me say that this is foreseen in that the mandatory powers first there is general lag effect built into in which means that the government agency which reports that it cannot implement the standard immediately because of cost effects we will have a general delay until they revise the system for normal reasons so there are some safe guards built in. But basically out experience in the area where we have that type of mandatory standards which is the accounts, we never have any problems. Agencies follow that type of binding directives with the government backing.

**Michael Lin, Taiwan.** My question is for Michael Kjeldgaard. Regarding your XML tender is there any organisation responsible for verifying that a system is compliant with your tender. Is there such kind of party in your organisation.

**Michael Kjeldgaard.** If I understand you correctly you are asking if we have some sort of certification institution looking into if an IT system complies with these standards. Is this correct? Yes? No we don't have that. It will be part of a contract between the agency buying something and the contractor to comply but we don't have a certification institution.

**Peter Tan, Singapore.** Question for Michael Kjeldgaard. I was just wondering in your experience how much of UBL was useful for Government applications and how much of your XML you had to develop in addition to UBL. Thanks.

**Michael Kjeldgaard.** I am sorry I have to admit I am not a technical person who has looked into the details of UBL but I can say two things. First of all that after a period we started the project by looking into all the media data we had or the core element we already had in the Danish core registries for buildings and persons and enterprises and we started in the working group developing our own and then we started looking at UBL and we found out why don't we just re-

use a lot of that and after a lot of work we came down to around fifty components and most of them I don't know exactly how many but most of them are just more or less adopted but we are making precisions to them but they are adopted from UBL. Also actually we have the naming and design rules which are very close to, similar to UBL and we are working together with UBL. So we can conform I hope 100% to it and its our goal to develop UBL and to develop UBL with more or less you could call it e-Government elements so we don't have to have something which is outside that if it might as well be inside UBL.

**Edwin Bruce, New Zealand.** Just a general comment and also a question. In New Zealand with the development of some of our XML standards and inter-operability requirements, we are considering using the same process as that used by the open source community within a government context, of course. But the question I have is do any of you either for your development of XML schema or any of your inter-operability standards invite and have the participation of either vendor or business community outside of government?

**John Grant, Australia.** Maybe I can go first. We actually began, around about eighteen months ago with inter-operability workshop where we brought in a lot of the key vendors, but the focus was inter-operability, including people like Microsoft, which is a bit of a shock for some people. We are developing schemas and repositories and in fact most of that is being driven by the business sector. The public sector is working alongside the business sector to create the schema but the business sector is in fact doing a lot of the work because they naturally provide services through both short term contracts and outsourcing arrangements to most jurisdictions in our government.

Can't catch the last part of your question so I am not quite sure what I am answering, can you please repeat it?

**Edwin Bruce, New Zealand.** On your working groups, do you have the private sector or the vendor community participate?

**Michael Kjeldgaard.** As I talked about, we have the OIXML forum where we have been inviting private enterprises. Typically, private enterprises are participating in the projects and they may be the main drivers in the projects, together with one or more authorities. And then we also have open processes because the XML schemer being put out on the web, we have had some conferences, open conferences with private sectors so that would be way we have been doing that. We don't have specialised efforts in relation to XML regarding open source.

**Enda Holland.** I would just like to thank our speakers again for an extremely interesting session.