OASIS UBL Resources

OASIS UBL TC home page

http://oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php
?wg_abbrev=ubl

OASIS UBL Code List Subcommittee

... ?wg_abbrev=ubl-clsc

OASIS UBL Context Methodology Subcommittee

... ?wg_abbrev=ubl-cmsc

OASIS UBL Forms Presentation Subcommittee

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OASIS UBL Implementation Subcommittee

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OASIS UBL Liaison Subcommittee

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OASIS UBL Library Content Subcommittee

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OASIS UBL Naming and Design Rules Subcommittee

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OASIS UBL Tools and Techniques Subcommittee

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OASIS UBL Chinese Localization Subcommittee

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OASIS UBL Japanese Localization Subcommittee

... ?wg_abbrev=ubl-jplsc

OASIS UBL Technical Committee mail archive

http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/ubl/
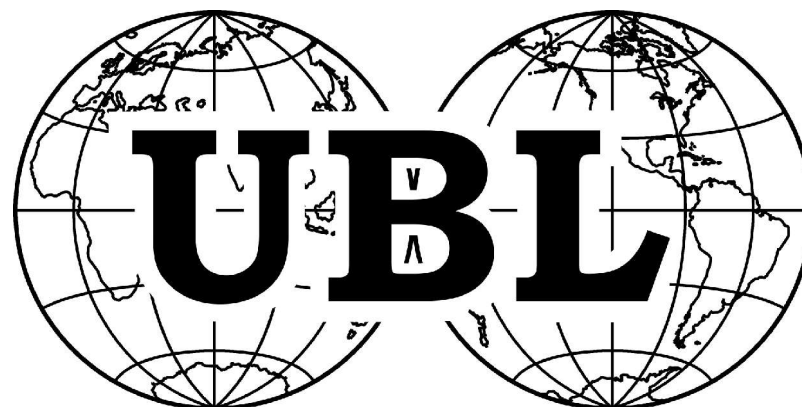
OASIS UBL 1.0 Beta package

http://oasis-open.org/committees/ubl/lcsc
/UBLv1-beta/download.zip

OASIS UBL public comment form

http://oasis-open.org/committees/comments
/form.php?wg_abbrev=ubl

To join OASIS as an individual or organization

http://oasis-open.org/join/

UBL 1.0 Beta Begins Implementation Test

PHILADELPHIA, December 2003 — UBL, the Universal Business Language, is now available for public implementation testing.

The OASIS UBL Technical Committee approved UBL 1.0 Beta as a Committee Draft 26 November 2003, beginning a two-month implementation review. Results of implementation testing will be incorporated into UBL before the schemas for basic business documents are submitted for OASIS standardization in 2004.

The 1.0 Beta release includes normative XSD schemas for the basic order-to-invoice process and a library of reusable standard data components from which the document schemas have been assembled. The package also includes a wealth of supporting materials to aid users and implementers.

New OASIS UBL subcommittees have been formed to support 1.0 implementation. The OASIS UBL Code List, Implemention, Japanese Localization, and Chinese Localization Subcommittees are now open for participation.

A ubl-dev list providing a public forum for the discussion of UBL will become operational 15 December. Free subscriptions are available now at

http://www.oasis-open.org/mlmanage/

UBL Q & A

Q: What is the goal of UBL?

A: The goal of UBL is to create a Universal Business Language that will provide a standard XML format for common business data structures. UBL will allow businesses of all sizes to enjoy the benefits of electronic commerce by enabling big companies to extend their electronic trading relationships to second- and third-tier suppliers.

Q: Who owns UBL?

A: The development of UBL takes place in OASIS, an international nonprofit consortium dedicated to the adoption of structured information standards. UBL is freely available to everyone without licensing or other fees.

Q: Why do we need UBL? Aren't there already a number of XML vocabularies for business documents?

A: That's exactly the problem — there are too many of them. And most of them are optimized for a particular vertical industry or application domain, leading to an enormous interoperability problem for real-world businesses that have to work with partners in multiple industries.

Q: What are the advantages of a single standard for XML business messages?

A: The main advantages of a single format are:

- Lower cost of integration through the reuse of common data structures
- Lower cost of commercial software, because software written to process a fixed XML tag set is much easier to develop than software that can handle an unlimited number of tag sets
- Easier learning curve — just a single vocabulary
- Lower cost of entry and therefore quicker adoption by small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs)
- Standardized training, many skilled workers
- A universally available pool of system integrators

Q: Is UBL just a collection of standard business forms?

A: No, it is also, and more importantly, a library of reusable schema components from which an unlimited number of other documents can be constructed. It is expected that groups of business experts will construct these other documents based on the UBL library for use in specific domains (taxation, transport, customs, resource planning, etc.).

Q: How does UBL address the standardization of business processes?

A: UBL 1.0 assumes a generic order-to-invoice business scenario but otherwise has very little to say about process definition. In order to reduce the task of ecommerce standardization to manageable proportions, UBL focuses on the standardization of business data as the first step toward global ecommerce integration and leaves the standardization of business processes to the user communities represented by organizations such as RosettaNet, OAG, and UN/CEFACT.

Q: What's in the UBL 1.0 Beta package?

A: UBL 1.0 Beta includes:

- A library of standard XML schema elements for common business data structures such as "party," "address," and "line item"
- A set of basic business documents assembled from the schema library: Order, Order Response, Order Response (Simple), Order Change, Order Cancellation, Despatch Advice, Receipt Advice, and Invoice
- The complete set of data models from which the UBL library and documents were derived
- UML class diagrams of all the schemas
- Documentation of UBL's design methodology
- A set of formatting specifications for rendering UBL documents in human-readable form
- Links to a library of free XSL stylesheets for converting instances of the UBL document types to HTML and PDF
- Example instances of the UBL document types together with generated HTML and PDF renderings of each instance
- An ASN.1 specification that allows UBL messages to be associated with a standard binary encoding
- Customization guidelines for extending UBL within specific industry contexts

Q: When will UBL be ready for use?

A: Public implementation testing of UBL 1.0 Beta began 26 November 2003. Results of this testing will be incorporated into UBL 1.0 before submission to OASIS in 2004.