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**ANSA Phase III**

**OMG Status Report, September '94**

**Andrew Watson**

**Abstract**

These are the colour slides for the September 1994 report to the ANSA Technical Committee on the status and progress of the OMG. The talk summaries the current areas of activity in the OMG, and reports in some detail on the achievements of the Object Services and ORB2 Task Forces.

The estimated running time of the talk is 30 minutes.

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APM.1294.00.01

**Draft**

6th September 1994

Request for Comments (confidential to ANSA consortium for 2 years)

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# OMG Status, September '94

## Standards Liaison report

**Andrew Watson**



## Activity summary

- **Attended OMG TC meeting in:** Pittsburgh June  
Dublin August
- **Chaired ORB2 Task Force**
- **Watching brief on other OMG activities**



## Talk objective

- **Provide briefing on current status of OMG activities**
  - **ORB2 Task Force**
  - **Object Services Task Force**
  - **Others**
- **Discuss contributions ANSA is making to OMG**



## Current activities in OMG

- **ORB2 TF** **Details to follow**
- **Object Services TF** **Ditto**
- **Common Facilities TF** **Issuing RFP on compound document presentation and storage**
- **Liaison subcommittee** **Formalising links with X/Open, SC21**
- **Object Model** **Reactivated by Andrew Hutt, ICL**
- **End User SIG** **Individual end-user SIGs proliferating**
- **PCTE SIG** **?**
- **BOMSIG** **Consciousness-raising in MIS community**



## Object Services 2 RFP

- **TC Adoption votes on RFP2 services underway**
  - Externalisation
  - Relationships
  - Transactions
  - Concurrency (control)
- **COSS2 revision task force formation also underway**



## Object Services RFP 3

- **Security and Time**
  - Time being re-requested, despite lack of responses before, so that trusted time services may be assumed in security submissions
- **Security RFP strongly linked to security White Paper**
- **Timetable:**
  - 31st Oct 94            LOIs due
  - 13th Feb 95            Initial submissions due
  - 8th May 95             Revised submissions due





## Object Services RFP 4

- **Covers:**
  - **Licensing**                      Support for controlling & charging for usage of services
  - **Properties**                      For associating named data with an object
  - **Query**                              Query language used to select objects from collections
- **Proposed timetable:**
  - **25th Jul 94**                      LOIs due
  - **26th Sep 94**                      Initial submissions due
  - **4th Jan 95**                        Revised submissions due



## OS requirements on ORB

- **More and more of the Object Services submissions are calling for amendments to ORB**
  - Only mechanism for handling this (so far) is cosy chats between TF chairmen and joint meetings of task forces
- **Transaction service requires ORB to call local OTS component on every request & response**
- **Relationship Service wants an *is-a* query on Interface Repository**
  - cf. *conforms-to* on proposed ANSA type manager
  - Right Thing, but for the Wrong Reasons - apparent desire to hijack the Interface Repository to represent rôles and meaning, rather than just interfaces
  - Sole current IR RFP response includes this facility anyway
- **Externalisation Service requires Unicode (16-bit) character data type**
  - Not at all clear why - “deferred”



## C++: New Readers Start Here

- Initial RFP drew responses from HP/Iona/Sun, NEC, Hyperdesk (April '93)
- TF voted to recommend Hyperdesk submission to TC (December '93)
- Hyperdesk submission withdrawn (March '94)
- TF votes to re-issue RFP with shortest-possible deadlines (April '94)
  - Tue 14 Jun                      LOIs due
  - Wed 3 Aug                        Initial submissions due
  - Tue 30 Aug                        Initial submissions presentation (Dublin)
  - Tue Nov 8th                       Revised submissions due [if req'd]
  - Wed/Thr Dec 7/8th               Revised submissions presentation (Nashua) [if req'd]
- Group of all previous submitters had already met and re-opened discussions



## C++: Now read on

- **Combined submission presented to TF at Dublin**
  - **Heartening to discover that C++ submitters now hate OUT parameters too ...**
- **All submitters waive their right to a revision period**
- **Submission recommended to TC**
  - **At last - a happy ending**



## Interface repository RFP

- **CORBA 1.x has read-only interface to Interface (type) repository**
  - **Interface repository RFP requests (at least) interfaces for getting things into the IR**
- **Obvious solution is “just add write operations”**
  - **Maintains CORBA’s programmer-asserted substitutability (“inheritance”) relationships between interfaces**
- **Proposals from Sun, HP, DEC all very similar, and are being merged**
  - **Problems of consistency, versioning, controlling multiple writers etc rapidly turn this “simple” solution into a distributed CODASYL-style database *within* the ORB**
  - **Making IR deduce substitutability relationships would simplify problem**
  - **Storing semantic relationships between entities could (should?) be moved “upstairs” into services running on the ORB**
- **Revised submission deadline extended to end of the year**



## Interoperability and Initialisation

- **No TF activity since last report**
- **Interoperability submitters got together at Pittsburgh**
  - Adopted a “Pittsburgh accord” along the lines advocated by ICL & others
  - In fact, went further - proposed a single, mandatory “synthetic” interoperability protocol
- **Subsequent defections due to marketing considerations**
  - ... but it looks as though compromise may be reached by submission deadline
- **Meanwhile initialisation continues being uncontroversial**



## II & IR: Timetables

- **Interoperability and Initialisation RFP**

- **Wed-Fri 6-8 Apr** Initial submission presentations took place (Berlin)
- **Wed 28 Sep** Revised Submissions due [slipped from 5/7, then 21/9]
- **Wed/Thr 19/20 Oct** Revised submissions presentation (Nashua)  
[slipped from 26/7]

- **Interface Repository**

- **Tue Jun 28th** Initial submission presentations took place (Pittsburgh)
- **Mon Aug 8th** First revision deadline
- **Wed Aug 31st** First revised submission presentation
- **Wed Nov 16th** Second revision deadline
- **Wed Dec 7th** Second revised submission presentation



## Smalltalk RFP

- **Timetable:**
  - **Friday May 27th**      **LOIs due**
  - **Fri Jul 29th**      **Initial submissions due**
  - **Tue Aug 30th**      **Initial submissions presentation (Dublin)**
  - **Wed Nov 16th**      **Revised Submissions due**
  - **Wed/Thr Dec 7/8th**      **Revised submissions presentation (NJ)**
- **Initial presentation made at Dublin**
  - **Joint submission by HP and IBM**





## COM/CORBA interworking

- **Microsoft and Candle made joint presentation at Dublin**
  - They have apparently been working together on this for a year
  - DEC's name added to presentation list at the last moment
- **Task Force resolved to issue RFP in this area**
  - Text and timetable to be determined at next meeting (Nashua, Oct)
  - Likely to be an RFP by year end, responses around middle of next year



## **A date for your diaries**

**APM and ICL will be co-hosting an OMG TC meeting**

**University Arms Hotel, Cambridge**

**Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th March 1995**

**(the week before ANSAworks '95, same venue)**