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**ANSA Phase III**

**OMG Status Report, February '95**

**Andrew Watson**

**Abstract**

These are the colour slides for the February 1995 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 40 minutes.

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APM.1428.01

**Approved**

27th February 1995

Project Management (confidential to ANSA consortium for 2 years)

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**Distribution:**

**Supersedes:**

**Superseded by:**





# OMG Status, February '95

## Standards Liaison report

**Andrew Watson**



## Activity summary

- **Attended OMG TC meeting in:**      **Nashua**                      **October**  
   **Long Branch**                      **December**  
   **Santa Cruz**                      **January**
- **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
- Object Services TF
- Common Facilities TF
- Liaison subcommittee
  
- Object Model
- End User SIG
- *OMG* BOMSIG
- PCTE SIG
- Vertical market SIGs



Three most active TFs; summaries follow

ISO looking to adopt OMG IDL  
Setting up liaison with various consortia

Working on revising OM for new OMAG

Dying on its feet

Burgeoning - and heading for UDI

?

Proliferating (Manufacturing, financial ...)



## Common Facilities Task Force

- **Common Facilities = higher level facilities, useful in applications in many vertical markets**
- **First RFP is on compound documents**
  - LOIs from Novell, IBM, Fujitsu, CI Labs, Apple
  - Microsoft have declared intention *not* to submit
  - Submission deadline March 6th, presentations at Cambridge
- **Second RFP on Internationalisation and time operations**
  - Running in step with ORB RFP on wide characters (see later)
- **Planning future RFPs on:**
  - Data interchange & automation
  - Scripting, agent facility, rule management
  - Information exchange



## COSS 2

- **All 4 RFP 2 services now adopted:**
  - **Externalisation**                      **Data Conventions for flattening objects onto streams**
  - **Relationships**                        **Representing entities and relationships**
  - **Transactions**                        **ACID invocation semantics for objects**
  - **Concurrency (control)**            **Controls simultaneous access to objects**
- **COSS2 revision task force comments due April 1**





## 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**      **LOI deadline**  
LOIs received from: Bull, Sunsoft, HP, RSA Data Security, Tivoli, IBM, Novell, DEC, ICL, Expersoft, Siemens Nixdorf, AT&T, Tandem
  - **13th Feb 95**      **Initial submissions due**
  - **29th Mar 95**      **Initial submissions presentation (Cambridge)**
  - **8th May 95**      **Revised submissions due**



## Object Services RFP 4

- **Licensing** Support for controlling & charging for usage of services  
Merged response from Digital/Gradient/IBM  
Next submission presentation at Cambridge
- **Properties** For associating named data with an object  
Merged response from Sunsoft/IBM/Taligent  
Submission deadline extended until Cambridge
- **Query** Query language used to select objects from collections  
Merged responses from TI, Oracle, IBM/Taligent/Itasca/  
Objectivity/Ontos/O2/Servio/Sunsoft  
Joint submission recommended to TC at Santa Cruz



## Future OS RFPs

- **OSTF is currently trying to decide what to address in RFP5**
- **Some candidates:**
  - **Trading**
  - **Change management**
  - **Collections**
  - **Replication**
  - **Data interchange**



## ORBTF RFP history

- **Uncontentious RFPs issued, responded to and adopted on:**
  - **Smalltalk** **IBM/HP (Merged after initial submission)**
  - **Initialisation**
- **Some horse-trading on:**
  - **Interface Repository** **HP/DEC/Sunsoft**
- **Total breakdown of the process, followed by second, harmonious RFP cycle:**
  - **C++**
- **... and then there's interoperability**



## Interoperability

- **After a long summer of horse-trading, two submissions presented at Nashua**
  - **DEC/HP/IBM (based on DCE code)**
  - **Sunsoft/lona/Expersoft/IBM/ICL/BNR (UNO)**
- **Heated discussion, led to TF recommendation of UNO proposal with DCE-based CIOP as optional component**
  - **Passed by 18-5 with 8 abstains**
- **Motion to adopt at TC included safety clause in case copyright waiver refused**
  - **Ferocious lobbying of fax voters**
  - **TC vote in the region of 48:14, 17 abstentions (i.e. better than 3:1 in favour)**
- **Board voted 15-4 to adopt**
  - **Closer than it looks - needed 50% of 29 board members to approve**
- **The fallout continues ...**



## COM/CORBA Interworking

- Drafting RFP commenced at Nashua, over some protest from IBM
- IBM & MS fell out spectacularly in RFP drafting group
- TF unhappy with Microsoft showing at Long Branch, so shelved activity for one meeting
- Microsoft representative didn't come to Santa Cruz at all
  - TF came close to issuing RFP for interoperability with non-distributed COM
  - Microsoft would probably have pulled out at that point
- Still a diverse range of motivations and expectations



## Future ORB RFPs

- An Ada RFC may be in the works (from DISA)
- RFP on extending range of primitive datatypes in IDL issued
  - Strong interest from Japan
- Time to re-visit the roadmap to determine ORB TF future
  - Portability issues figure prominently



## Publications strategy

- **OMG is about to change the way it publishes specifications**
  - Loose-leaf 3-ring binders
  - Update service to revise sections altered by revisions
- **ORB specification will be published in several parts:**
  - **CORBA/Core**                      **Similar subject matter to current CORBA**
  - **COBRA/Interop**                      **Interoperability specification**
  - **Language mappings**                      **C will be split off**
- **The names of all parts of the OMA will now be prefixed “CORBA”**
  - e.g. “CORBA services”, CORBA facilities
  - “High degree of customer recognition”





## **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)**