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ANSA Phase III

OMG Status Report, May '95

Andrew Watson

Abstract

These are the colour slides for the May 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 25 minutes.

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OMG Status, May '95

Standards Liaison report

Andrew Watson



Activity summary

- **Hosted** OMG TC meeting in: **Cambridge** **March**
- **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**
- **OMG BOMSIG**
- **Vertical market SIGs**



Three most active TFs; summaries follow

Recommended liaison with WfMC, DAVIC

Lobbying for OMG (business) application architecture

Proliferating (Manufacturing, financial ...)



Common Facilities Task Force

- **First CF RFP submissions (compound documents) presented at Cambridge**
- **Two submissions are**
 - **Fresco** **As distributed in X11R6**
 - **OpenDoc** **Coordinated by CI Labs**
- **Second RFP (in progress) 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**
 - **Some talk of doing “messaging”**



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
- **Initial submissions presented at Cambridge to joint ORB/OS session**
 - **Submitters:** Sun
AT&T/Bull/DEC/Expersoft/ICL/Novell/SNI/Tandem
HP/IBM/Tivoli (Taligent also involved, but no LOI)
- **All submitters are exploring working together**
 - APM has been invited to these meetings
 - Revised submission date slipped to 22nd August



Object Services RFP 4

- **Licensing** Support for controlling & charging for usage of services
Merged response from Digital/Gradient/IBM
Can use security service if present
Revised submission recommended to TC at Cambridge
- **Properties** For associating named data with an object
Semi-merged response from Sunsoft/IBM/Taligent
Submission deadline extended again, to San Jose
- **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

- **RFP5 is probably going to be about:**
 - **Trading** Per presentations at Cambridge
 - **Change management** Tony Drahota writing white paper
 - **Collections** Lists, sets etc.
 - **Startup** To launch “resident” services when ORB instance starts
- **OS TF had two presentations on trading at Cambridge**
 - **Theory**
 - **ODP status**



“CORBA 2”

- **Temperature falling after final interoperability adoption (Long Branch, December)**
 - **IOP implementation released publicly by Sun**
- **New specification (in ring binders) being published June 95**
- **We still have a few months to wait before vendors start shipping**



COM/CORBA Interworking

- **Microsoft presented ideas on interworking at Long Branch (Dec.)**
 - TF unhappy with attitude, so shelved activity for one meeting
- **Microsoft representative didn't come to Santa Cruz (Jan.) at all**
 - TF came close to issuing RFP for interoperability with non-distributed COM
 - Microsoft would probably have pulled out at that point
- **Microsoft presented again at Cambridge (Mar.)**
 - Some signs of a softening in position
 - Introduced document freeze idea
 - Still insisting on interworking with DCOM as only sensible option
 - TF issued two-part RFP, fast track for non-distributed, slower for DCOM
 - Microsoft opposed; silent in meeting, but heavily critical via press
 - Stand by for a storm of interest ...



COM/CORBA Interworking timetables

Jun 23rd	Part A LOIs due
Aug 22nd	Part A submissions due
Sep 12th	Part A presentations (Ottawa)
Oct 23rd	Part B LOIs due
Dec 22nd	Part A revised submissions due Part B initial submissions due
Jan 17th 1996	Part A revised submission presentations Part B initial submissions presentations (San Diego)
May 31st 1996	Part B revised submissions due



Future ORB RFPs

- **An Ada RFC is in the works (from DISA)**
 - **Should be presented at San Jose (Jun.)**
- **RFP on extending range of primitive datatypes in IDL issued**
 - **Initial submissions due Aug 22nd**
 - **Strong interest from Japan**
- **Time to re-visit the roadmap to determine ORB TF future**
 - **Portability issues figure prominently**
 - **Working on portability RFP**



Architectural concerns

- **There's an increasing amount of duplication and overlap in OMG**
 - **Duplication of functionality as one TF looks to re-do something that's already been considered elsewhere**
 - e.g. CFTF "messaging service" = existing event service?
 - CFTF "repository service" duplicates some of ORB IR?
 - OSTF "change management" does some of same things as IR
 - **Overlap as two TFs have to meet in joint session to consider proposals that impact both**
 - e.g. Security, startup, ...
- **There's increasing pressure from the end users to extend the OMG process into the end-user domain**
 - **Particularly from BOMSIG**



Went the day well?

- **The only TC meeting in the reporting period was in fact co-hosted by ICL and APM in Cambridge**
- **Practical experience from hosting:**
 - **There are very few venues in Cambridge capable of taking conferences of 200**
 - **A “conference dinner” seemed to be a great success with the visitors, but at least doubled the administrative load**
 - **OMG will have to change its meeting funding to “delegate pays”**
 - **Cambridge police definitely has an armed response unit ...**