

Remarks on crXML work on semantic interoperability.

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I am pleased to report on crXML developments since the last conference. You will recall that crXML is the standard we have developed for the exchange of data in respect of registered entities, companies in particular. Most of the developments have taken place within CRO Dublin but there have been some international developments also.

In CRO we have seen the proliferation of the standard throughout the office. This has meant the continued development and advancement of CRO's crXML Message Oriented Middleware (MOM). The addition of new forms and changes to existing forms over the last year has been relatively straightforward due to the adoption of a robust messaging standard. We have benefited greatly from the time and effort invested in the development and adoption of a standard.

The investment in the crXML MOM has improved the CRO's efficiency and ability to rapidly delivering new applications and new forms. This has been achieved by:

- The development of a single code base for the backend processing of all submissions to the CRO that are crXML compliant. Each individual form has its respective sub schema that is extrapolated from the top level crXML schema. This provides native inheritance to the sub schema when it is being pushed to the back-office systems.
- The development of a library of XSLs to transform and translate individual crXML instances into a variety of output formats.
- The MOM has provided a single gateway for all crXML-based submissions into the CRO's back-office systems. This provides the required level of security and integrity to the back-office systems when receiving data from web and other based applications and systems.

The CRO is in the process of transferring its UN-EDIFACT standard-based applications to crXML.

CRO published the crXML schemas relating to a number of forms to a wider community that included both Government and industry. Almost all of the software companies producing accounting/secretarial software for the Irish market have integrated crXML into their applications in order to streamline their interaction with the CRO and to provide a better product to their customers. These companies also produce software for other markets including other European countries, the US and Canada. They have welcomed the trend towards a standard as pursued by the CRO. The CRO now receives and processes electronic submissions from both external software applications in the same manner as it would electronic submissions filed on its own web site.

We have entered into a strategic alliance with the Jersey Financial Services Commission.(JFSC) for the exchange of software. JFSC will adopt crXML as its messaging standard and will also implement a CRO developed Image storage system. This cooperation has already greatly benefited both organisations. It is planned that both Registries will continue and improve this cooperation in 2005 and beyond and share to a greater extent the code base and applications developed together and improve the speed and efficiency of the services delivered to it respective customers.

Julian Lambe the Deputy Registrar of the JFSC is to convene a meeting to be hosted in Jersey to attract other interested registries – particularly around the British Isles – to pursue this work and other initiatives.