Work Group '06 Organization

Background

Over the past years many oil companies have begun to exploit the benefits of highly instrumented fields for optimal operation of their assets. Such efforts are referred to as E-Fields, Fields of the Future, SmartFields, etc. These projects all depend on a much-increased usage of data streaming from the fields to the office.

Infrastructural improvements for data handling and a common data exchange format as a lingua franca between applications are deemed essential for a successful completion of these projects.

Many of the software tools that are being used to process and monitor the data flowing from the field, are provided by a number of independent software companies and service providers. The current commercial landscape is characterized by a relatively large number of companies, each providing a piece of the solution. The majority of these tools do not stand on their own, but require information from other tools. An efficient means of interoperability between these tools is essential.

In this commercial setting it is in the interest of both users and providers of tools that an open industry standard for a data exchange format, which can be readily and cost-effectively implemented, is established. Such a standard levels the playing field and increases the possibility for competition between the vendors, as well as accelerates the usability of solutions to end-users and decrease the costs of interfacing the various parts of the solution set.

The evolution of the Internet has had a profound impact on the manner in which data is being processed. The technologies, although still developing, have matured over the past years to the extent that they can now reliably be used for routine operations. Internet-based IT architectures are being adopted by most companies.

Such an exchange format will enable (or at least substantially facilitate) oil companies to reap the benefits of highly instrumented fields.

Within that context, the initial PRODML Work Group, August 2005 through November 2006, established the following guidelines:

•A work group established with representatives from BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Statoil, and Shell, outlined the initial work proposal.

•The work group was extended with staff from other companies, maintaining a relatively small size to expedite progress.

•After the work group completed the first version of PRODML, the results were handed over to Energistics, an industry standards organization, for further development and custodianship.

•The scope of the inital work effort was limited to what can be accomplished within a one-year timeframe.

•PRODML was designed to exploit the current state-of-the-art Web technologies, including Web Services and XML.

Ways of Working

It was the intention of the initial PRODML Work Group to conform with U.S. Federal Antitrust Laws. Items of particular importance and concern centered on the following activities:

•Any effort undertaken, whether expressed or implied, that could be considered to restrain trade or act as a barrier to commerce to any individual or group of individuals was to be avoided.

•Meetings of members were to be structured. There was to be proper notification, agendas, observance of rules of procedure and minutes of meetings. Adherence to the business items on the agenda helped avoid any appearance of conflict.

•Members took special care to avoid making statements or engaging in conduct prohibited by current U.S. federal antitrust policy. Should members have any doubt concerning the propriety of any matters under discussion at such meetings, they were asked to immediately disassociate themselves from the discussion and, if necessary, leave the meeting.

•The establishment of standards was deemed to be an open process and subject to the public domain. As such, all correspondence and publications were reviewed by the Work Group Operational Team to ensure compliance with these objectives.

•Responsibility for compliance rested with every member of the Work Group along with any invited guest or participant. Suspected violations of this notice were communicated to the Work Group Operational Team.

Teams

Steering Committee

Charter: The Steering Committee provided oversight and confirmed that the deliverables were acceptable to the participating organizations. In addition, the Steering Committee was responsible for:

•Approving modifications to the Work Group's direction and milestone deliverables

•Removing barriers that would prohibit the development of acceptable deliverables

•Providing resources, including people and money

•Pilot testing

Bi-monthly meeings were hosted at member locations in round-robin fashion.

This Committee was composed of one representative from each PRODML member organization plus Team leaders from the Content, Technical and Pilot Coordination Teams. Rusty Foreman (of BP) was the Chair. Ben Weltevrede was the vice-Chair. The Steering Committee membership included:

•Alan Doniger, Energistics (then, POSC)

•Andy Howell, Schlumberger

•Ben Weltevrede, Shell

•Bill Chmela, Kongsberg Intellifield (then, Sense Intellifield)

•Bjorn Rugland, Statoil

•Cheryl Dugger, OSIsoft

•Jake Booth, ExxonMobil

•Jan-Ingvar Riveland, TietoEnator

•Laurence Ormerod, Weatherford

•Michel Chartron, Petex

•Rick Morneau, Chevron

•Rusty Foreman, BP

•Stan DeVries, Invensys

•Todd Little, Halliburton

Operational Team

Charter: The Operational Team was responsible for the day to day operations of the Work Group and keeping the Steering Committee informed on project progression and issues.

Meetings: Teleconferences were held weekly.

Composition: The team consisted of the Chair, the representatives of the other funding members and the Team leaders of the Content and Technical Teams.

Content Team

Charter: The Content Team was chartered to define the business requirements associated with the objecives and scope of PRODML. The requirements were expressed as work flows [ADD LINK TO NEXT PAGE] and associated minimum required data point sets that uniquely identified the scope and application space. The sum of the requirements defined the end-user requirements to be delivered to the Technical Team for design consideration. This team provided feedback and resolved issues during the Pilot Team activities. The team's final deliverable was documentation of the scope, business processes, and minumum unique data point requirements.

Meetings: Teleconferences were held weekly.

Composition: The Chair of this team was Laurence Ormerod of Weatherford. The vice-Chair was Ron Cramer of Shell. Each Work Group member organization contributed at least one member to this team.

Technical Team

Charter: The Technical Team was chartered to create the Technical Requirements, the Reference Architecture, and the overall implementation strategy. Their primary deliverable was the set of data specifications (XML schemas) that defined the transport layer. This team went on to facilitate and support the Pilot Teams, harvested best practices and lessons learned, continuously improved the specifications, and prepared for the final handoff of the specifications to Energistics with the release of Version 1.0.

Meetings: Teleconferences were held weekly.

Composition: The Chair of the team was Todd Little of Halliburton. The vice-Chair was Dean Forrester of BP.

Communications Team

Charter: The Communications Team was made up of two sub-teams. The External Communications sub-team was chartered with the creation and publication of out-bound news communications. The Internal Communications sub-team was chartered to create and maintain the public web site (www.prodml.org) content, create the Glossary, and edit all documentation created by any team for consistency and completeness.

Meetings: The sub-teams met on an as-needed basis.

Pilot Coordination Team

Charter: The Pilot Coordination Team was chartered to manage, facilitate, schedule, and oversee the various individual Pilot Team activities that were run by various combinations of Work Group energy companies and solution providers. A significant objective of this team was to assure that Pilot Team proposals met or exceeded the original Use Cases. This team will work with the Communications Team to update the public on the progress of the Pilot Teams.

Meetings: Teleconferences were held weekly.

Composition: The Chair of this team was Stan DeVries of Invensys.

Legal Team

Charter: The Legal Team was chartered to shepherd the process of creating a formal framework within which the Work Group's activities took place. Once in place, this team was responsible for compliance with anti-trust requirements.

Meetings: The team met on an as-required basis.

Composition: The Chair of the team was Jake Booth of ExxonMobil. The vice-Chair was Ben Weltevrede of Shell.

Illustration

