

Setting the Standard for BPM

Lombardi In Action: BPM Standards

BPM STANDARDS

As the BPM market matures, it is important to select a BPM vendor that aggressively drives and adopts standards as they develop so that your company can invest in BPM with confidence.

STANDARDS

- BPMN
- BPEL
- BPDM
- Eclipse
- J2EE
- JSR-168
- .NET
- Web Services
- WSRP

It goes without saying that software standards are important to ensure interoperability with existing IT assets. But with an emerging Business Process Management (BPM) market, there are other important reasons why companies should pay attention to how well vendors adhere to standards. BPM standards are not yet fully mature, so it is important to select a vendor that is committed to comply with standards as soon as they become available. A BPM vendor that aggressively drives and adopts standards gives Global 2000 companies the confidence to invest in BPM now - knowing that their process assets will be portable.

Each of the key BPM standards are discussed in the following section, together with a perspective on Lombardi's involvement and why a particular standard matters.

BPMN

What is it? The Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN) specification provides a graphical notation for expressing business processes in a Business Process Diagram (BPD). The objective of BPMN is to support business process management by both technical users and business users by providing a notation that is intuitive to business users yet able to represent complex process semantics.

Why it matters. BPMN connects Business and IT using a 'picture of the process.' Ensuring tight collaboration is one of the most important aspects of BPM.

Lombardi's Involvement. TeamWorks was one of the first BPM platforms to support BPMN. With a position on the BPMI Steering Committee, Lombardi continues to help drive adoption and innovation for BPMN in the future. In 2005, BPMI merged with the Object Management Group (OMG) to combine activities focused on all aspects of business process management.

References: www.omg.org/technology/rfc-form.htm

BPEL

What is it? An XML-based language for executing processes. Focused on system-to-system processes via web services orchestration

Why it matters. With support from many of the top integration vendors, BPEL is useful for orchestrating web service calls between different systems.

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Lombardi's Involvement. TeamWorks supports earlier versions of WS-BPEL (BPEL4WS V1.1) as well as the latest version (WS-BPEL TC).

References: www.oasis-open.org.

BPDM

What is it? The Business Process Definition Metamodel (BPDM) standard will define a business process definition metamodel, which is platform independent with respect to specific business process definitions. This metamodel will define an abstract representation for the specification of executable business processes that execute within an enterprise (with or without human involvement); and may collaborate between otherwise-independent business processes executing in different business units or enterprises.

Why it matters. BPDM is the explicit connection from BPMN to execution. Although it's not an execution language, like BPEL, it ensures that execution is consistent with the process diagram.

Lombardi's Involvement. This standard is not available until mid 2006. However, Lombardi has been active in helping create the BPDM standard.

References: www.omg.org

Eclipse

What is it? Eclipse is an open platform for tool integration that gives developers freedom of choice over their software technology in a multi-language, multi-platform, multi-vendor environment.

Why it matters. More than 50% of Java developers use Eclipse. Not only is it a familiar environment, there is a host of thirdparty add-ons and active support community.

Lombardi's Involvement. Lombardi joined the Eclipse Foundation as a charter member in 2004. The Eclipse Foundation includes IBM, Oracle, HP, Intel, SAP and CA among its many members. TeamWorks integrates Eclipse with its exclusive Shared Model architecture, giving organizations the ability to model, simulate, execute, monitor and change business processes in a configurable, extensible environment. Lombardi TeamWorks won the Best Rich Client Platform application at EclipseCon 2006.

References: www.eclipse.org

J2EE

What is it? The Java™ Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) technology and components provide a secure, robust, and interoperable BPM platform. Such standards include XML, EJB, JSP, XML, JAAS, JTA, JMS, JCA, JDBC, JNDI, Servlets, and JavaScript.

Why it matters. J2EE is the basic standard for enterprise Java.

Lombardi's Involvement. Lombardi uses and supports these standards throughout the presentation, business logic, engine, integration, and repository layers of TeamWorks to provide an open architecture and platform. Lombardi takes care to ensure that its products are 100% J2EE in all areas.

References:

<http://java.sun.com/javaee/index.jsp>

JSR-168

What is it? Managed by the Java Community Process(JCP), Java Specification Request (JSR) 168 is a specification for enabling interoperability between Portals and Portlets. This specification defines a set of APIs for Portal computing addressing the areas of aggregation, personalization, presentation and security.

Why it matters. Many companies use portal technology. JSR-168 ensures that Lombardi will interoperate with the corporate portal.

Lombardi's Involvement. TeamWorks Portal is fully JSR-168 compliant.

References:

<http://www.jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=168>

.NET

What is it? .NET is the Microsoft Web services strategy to connect information, people, systems, and devices through software. .NET-connected solutions enable businesses to integrate their systems in a rapid and agile manner and help them realize the promise of information anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Why it matters. Microsoft is ubiquitous at the desktop, and in many companies into the infrastructure of the enterprise. Being compatible with .NET ensures the BPM can work with the desktop as well as with a Microsoft-centric back office.

Lombardi's Involvement. Lombardi is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner with competencies in Information Worker Solutions and ISV/Software Solutions. Additionally, TeamWorks has achieved Microsoft's Premium .NET Connected Certification. The .NET Connected Logo indicates Lombardi Software's TeamWorks is exposed through, or is programmatically enhanced by the con-

sumption of, Web services that comply with industry Web service standards. These standards currently include XML Schema 1.0, SOAP 1.1 and WSDL 1.1 with optional use of UDDI. For more on the Microsoft Gold Certified Partner program, please visit the program Web site.

References:

<http://www.microsoft.com/net/logo/>

Lombardi is quick to embrace technology standards in its products. For example, start with the Eclipse-based development environment: it uses the closest implementation of BPMN we've seen, and saves models as XPDL or BPEL. On the back end, the J2EE-based product supports industry standard application servers.

- Forrester Wave™ Vendor Summary, Q1 2006

Web Services

What is it? Web services are a means of connecting software applications through an easy-to-use standard. They usually form the basis of a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), which in turn is a strategy to link legacy applications across the enterprise.

Why it matters. SOA and Web services are the current best practice for enterprise integration.

Lombardi's Involvement. Lombardi provides extensive support for Web Services and Service Oriented Architectures (SOA). The TeamWorks connector framework is based on industry standards (SOAP, WSDL) and Web Services built using TeamWorks are accessible by any Web Services enabled programs including ones that are built using Microsoft .NET, BEA Workshop, IBM, SunONE, and Oracle. We

support defining Web Services based on existing TeamWorks Processes as well as calling any existing Web Service via the provided TeamWorks SOAP Connector.

References: <http://www.w3.org/2002/ws/>

WSRP

What is it? Managed by OASIS, Web Services for Remote Portals (WSRP) defines a set of interfaces and related semantics which standardize interactions with components providing user-facing markup, including the processing of user interactions with that markup. This allows applications to consume such components as providing a portion of the overall user application without having to write unique code for interacting with each component.

Why it matters. WSRP is the key standard for integrating with key portal products - most notably Microsoft's SharePoint.

Lombardi's Involvement. TeamWorks is WSRP compliant.

References: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=wsrp

Lombardi is an avid adopter of standards-based technologies, and the people of Lombardi are active participants and thought leaders, driving standards, publishing articles, presenting at technical events and leading standards bodies. It's not only good for our products, but also good for the community.



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About Lombardi Software

Lombardi Software is the leader in Business Process Management (BPM) software for Global 2000 companies. Lombardi has both the award-winning technology and implementation best practices to bring business process improvement and excellence to the enterprise. Lombardi customers include Aflac, Allianz Life, Applied Materials, Dell, Hasbro, Hoover's, Pfizer, Sprint, T-Mobile, Universal Music Group and the U.S. Government. The company is noted as a Leader in the Forrester Wave for BPM and a Visionary in Gartner's BPM Magic Quadrant. For more information, visit www.lombardisoftware.com.