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IDABC Programme
- European Interoperability Framework

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Disclaimers

• This presentation provides technical information on the IDABC programme and the eGovernment actions of the unit I work for. This presentation should not be considered as an official Commission position on anything.

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Overview

• The IDABC programme
• The European Interoperability Framework
  – The current version (Version 1.0)
  – Towards a revision
• Others relevant IDABC actions
The IDABC programme

Interoperable Delivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens
Why is the Commission involved in eGovernment activities?

• The European Commission does not have a legal mandate by itself to become active in IT, issues of administration or eGovernment, these are clearly domains of the Member States
• The Commission acts only on explicit request of the Member States in these areas
• The justification for the Commission's activities are often deducted from core competences: e.g. completion of the single market, promotion of European competitiveness.
IDABC has moved to DIGIT ...

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IDABC – Programme

• European Commission, Directorate-General for Informatics
• Promote and Support eGovernment and interoperability
• Since 1995 (IDA and IDA II)
• Global budget: 148.7 M EUR
• Duration: 5 years (2005-2009)
• Contracts through call for tenders (no subventions)
• Work programme approved by Member States and the Commission
IDABC is part of …
IDABC: activities

- **Projects of Common Interest (PCI)**
  - Support (budget and guidance) within the Commission services to sectoral projects that have legal base from an existing Community legislation

- **Pan-European eGoverment Services (PEGS)**
  - Works with member states and institutions towards the establishment of real pan-European services for citizens and business (Your Europe, IPM, eProcurement)

- **Horizontal Measures (HM)**
  - Infrastructures (network, collaborative tools, eID)
  - Guidelines (EIF, security)
  - Sharing and collaboration (eGov observatory, OSS observatory, XML Clearinghouse and OSS repositories)
Governance

• **IDABC management committee (PEGSCO):**
  – All Member States represented
  – Discuss on Work Programme, allocation of funding, strategy

• **Technical working group**
  – Coordination of all technical actions

• **Group of experts**
  – Both horizontal (measures) and vertical (projects)
  – National and EU experts
  – Discuss matters specific to each action

• **IDABC Inter-Service Group**
  – Open to all Commission’s DGs and other EU Institutions/Agencies
  – Internal co-ordination
eGovernment Observatory

- eGovernment Observatory is the reference pan-European information source for the community of eGovernment professionals
- Dissemination
  - on IDABC web site
  - Weekly e-mail newsletter (self registration)
  - Articles included in Synergy (the IDABC quarterly paper report)
The Portal Your Europe

• Single Access Point to information on cross border activities and access to e-services

• The target audience is a citizen or a business in a cross-border situation in the EU

• A portal to increase the awareness of existing on-line information and services available on national and EU portals and websites

• For each topic, the user has access to information for European level but also for each individual Member State
IDABC Website: http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/
The European Interoperability Framework EIF v1.0
Challenging goal

« The implementation of Pan-European eGovernment Services (PEGS) requires that public administrations in the 27 member states and the EU institutions join forces to support the development of new emergent e-services in support of the efficient implementation of EU policies and to facilitate the development of the internal market »
But!

- The organisation of public administration in EU member states is very different
- Many involved parties, different legal frameworks, different economic conditions and using different technologies
- A complete harmonisation of systems and services at EU level as a strategic target is likely to be unrealistic
Complex Interactions ...
• Full title: “European Interoperability Framework for Pan-European eGovernment Services”

• Endorsed, after public consultation, by the IDA II management committee composed by Member States representatives

• Published in November 2004
The EIF objectives are ....

• To support the European Union’s strategy

• To supplement national Interoperability

• To help achieving interoperability both within and across different policy areas
Dimensions of Interoperability

- Organisation
- Information
- Technology

Increasing complexity
Underlying principles

• Accessibility and Multilingualism

• Security/Privacy

• Subsidiarity

• Use of open standards

• Assess the benefits of Open Source Software

• Use of multilateral solutions
Lessons learnt ...

• The EIF V 1.0 has become one of IDA(BC)'s most widely known and influential documents
• Most of the document widely accepted
• Many relevant experiences with national frameworks since the creation of the document
• Criticism/Support/Debate around statements about openness (open standards and open source) and the differentiation between different inter-operability layers
Towards a revision
The context of the Preparatory Study

IDABC Interoperability Guidelines, Version 1.0
- European Interoperability Framework Vs.1.0, Jan’04
- IDA Architecture Guidelines Vs. 7.1, Sep’04
- IDA Architecture Guidelines, Annexes Vs. 7.1, Sep’04

Preparatory Study for Revision of EIF and AG
- Intermediate Report Revision Specifications of EIF GL vs.2.0
- final Report Revision Specifications of EIF GL vs.2.0

Revision Specs of Interoperability Guidelines

PMPQ

IDABC Interoperability Guidelines, Version 2.0
- European Interoperability Framework Vs.2.0
A two step approach

• **Start with a preparatory study**
  – Gartner Group consultants
  – From August, 2006 to February, 2007

• **Revision of EIF to start in spring 2007**
  – Draft documents by the end of 2007
    • Consultation process with Members States, consultation with industry and other stakeholders
  – Publish documents early 2008
    • Communication from the Commission to the Council and the Parliament
The Preparatory Study (1)

- Assessment of the situation in comparison to measures taken nationally and internationally by public administrations and businesses in this area
- Assess stakeholder requirements and needs
  - Member States, Commission, Industry
- Define the goals
  - Overview of actions to be done or not!
The Preparatory Study (2)

- Define IDABC's role in providing guidance for pan-European Interoperability
  - Assess the possible impacts (benefits/risks)
- Define what to do for EIF and AG revision and other new activities... set priorities
- Help to communicate the findings

Go practical!
Others related actions

- XML Clearinghouse project
- Open Document Exchange Formats
Conclusion

Thinking about “Interoperability” is changing the way of thinking.
More information

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