

Report of the Fourth International Network Meeting Standardisation Forum

Copenhagen – April 18-19, 2010

Day one – April 18

Welcome – latest news from the different National Standardisation Boards

Each country relayed what they were focusing on:

Sweden

The eDelegation is getting settled into its work.

The main focal points are open APIs, open data (PSI) and semantic interoperability.

Spain

The Spanish NIF has been asserted by Royal Decree giving a formal legal frame of reference.

Spain is working on new rules for XML formats including their metadata and populating their standards catalogue.

They are also considering translating many of their technical guidelines to English.

Japan

Character sets are a big issue in Japan and they have done a lot of work on the review procedure for technical specifications (discussed later in the agenda).

Germany

Lots of work on standards and EA.

Saga has reached version 5.0 and is now more modular and contains mandatory standards.

Germany also works on development standards (such as BPMN) and programming languages.

Looking at common services and cloud computing.

The Netherlands

IPv6 is being looked at by The Netherlands and they have introduced more standards into their catalogue.

The strategy is being reviewed and NL is also looking at common services (see later in the agenda).

Denmark

Cloud is king in Denmark and the debate about document formats still goes on.

The mandatory eprocurement standards have been expanded beyond invoicing.

Work is progressing on writing a new four year digitisation strategy for the public sector to be in effect from 2011 till 2015.

Slovakia

An analysis of cloud computing has been published.

Slovakia are looking at Prince2 and WCAG.

Publication of eProcurement documents gives challenges regarding accessibility and legal requirements.

Open Data is high on the agenda as well as the process of transition from paper to digital and security.

A formal Slovakian NIF is in the works.

Ipv6

There seems to be quite a lot of difference in the activity levels between the countries. For example Belgium are allegedly building an experimental network test bed whereas Denmark has written a couple of position papers and are doing no more at the moment.

All participants in the network meeting did however assert that our countries are monitoring the situation.

Spain has written a practical paper which is distributed to the group.

There was some discussion on how best to get the required attention to the issue from politicians and there was broad agreement that "the end of the Internet" should be a sellable story.

Open APIs

Adam Arndt presented the ongoing Danish thoughts about open APIs and how to define, specify and use them.

This sparked some debate about whether or not the whole concept of open APIs is useful.

The conclusion was that it is not evidently clear that and how this will help us towards greater interoperability but Denmark and others will continue to look into it.

Legislation and mandatory standards

After a presentation from Tommi Karttaavi about the Finnish approach to mandatory standards there was a discussion about when and to what level it is appropriate to make standards mandatory. The

consensus was that a varied approach is optimal so that we generally advise and recommend but can legislate in specific cases where that is required.

Several countries have experiences with different versions of “comply or explain” and among the lessons are an awareness that monitoring and governance is essential for such a scheme to be taken seriously.

Authentication and authorisation

Adam Arndt presented the Danish OIOSAML authentication concept based on profiles of various standards and Mariette Lokin presented the Dutch security levels approach.

There was a general sense that these views are interesting and useful.

Day two – April 19

Interoperability portals

Peter Krantz and Adam Arndt introduced the interoperability portals in their respective countries. The portals are similar in aiming to bring many kinds of interoperability assets together in one place.

Finland, Norway and others are also working along these lines.

The international level is very important and initiatives like SEMIC.EU, CAMSS and NIFO are very much needed to support international cooperation on development and reuse of assets as well as interoperability across borders where reconciliation of data models is a big issue.

International standardisation/interoperability

There is much activity in the standardisation world - The EU Commission is revising the rules for development and use of technical specifications, UN/CEFACT is restructuring and both the Digital Agenda and the eGov Action Plan contain actions on standards and interoperability.

Joris Gresnigt introduced this as the start of a discussion about how we can coordinate with and support each other in this area.

A lot of the discussion was centered around the EU Commission standardisation committee which several of the network meeting participants are members of.

The main conclusion of the item was that we should share information about initiatives, projects and actions and coordinate our efforts and positions on a case by case basis.

Selection of provisions

Mariette Lokin gave an introduction to the Dutch workflow for assessing the feasibility of a potential provision and asked how this is done in other countries.

In Denmark there is a mixed picture as some provisions (or Common Components) are mandatory and some are “marketed” by harvesting the efficiency gains that the provisions are estimated to give in all organisations – whether they actually use the provision or not.

Wrap up/Debrief

The wrap up was quite informal and so no conclusions were reached about future topics or even the date of the next meeting beyond agreeing that it can hopefully be held in Stockholm in the Autumn.