

NIST Offers Interoperability Testbed For Industry Standards Implementation Testing

NIST, in collaboration with the Open Architecture Group (OAG), has established a B2B Interoperability Testbed. This testbed is an on-going effort to mobilize software vendors, users, standards organizations, and other stake-holding parties to enhance the capability for on-demand demonstration and testing of conformance and interoperability involving enterprise applications in a B2B setting. Figure 1 illustrates the multiple and competing standards within the interoperability stack, with an excerpt showing the necessary agreement between trading partner profiles who might participate in B2B interoperability testing.

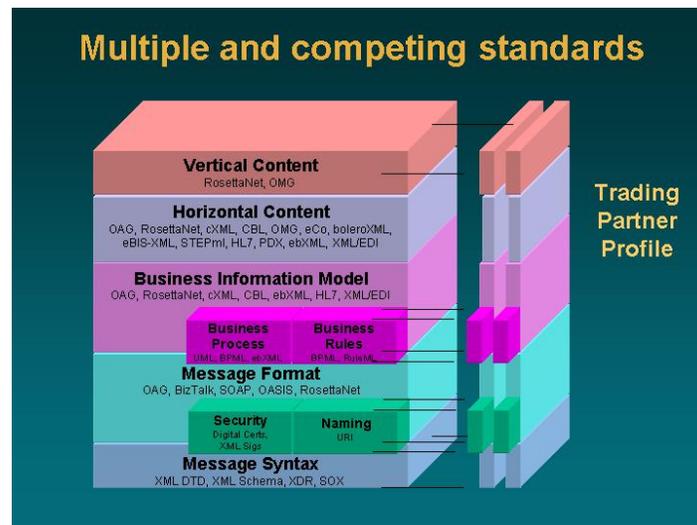


Figure 1: Multiple Standards in Profile¹

For a software vendor, participation in the testbed offers an opportunity for marketplace recognition of the vendor B2B interoperability readiness. The testbed also offers a venue for vendors to maintain their product interoperability during minor software releases; customers/users are increasingly aware of the costs and risks that immature and rapidly changing B2B standards bring to their companies. Using the testbed, standards developers receive feedback from vendors, partners, suppliers and customers on the standards issues. Figure 2 shows the capability vision for the testbed, and where NIST is today in providing such services. NIST's initial experiences indicate that effective and efficient interoperability testing approaches and facilities can help significantly reduce cost and cycle time associated with B2B integration activities.²

¹ OAG/NIST B2B Testbed Overview, Semantic Distance Workshop, November 11, 2003

² Boonserm, K., Ivezic, N., Martin, M., Jones, Albert, *A Business-to-Business Interoperability Testbed: An Overview*, Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Electronic Commerce, (2003)

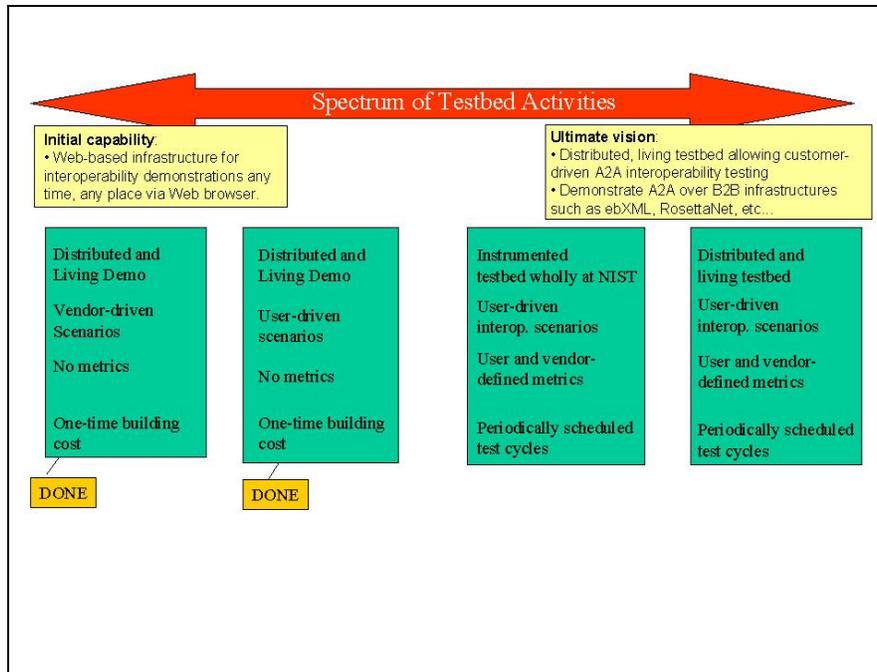


Figure 2: B2B Testbed Vision: The Spectrum of Testbed Activities³

For more information on this project and its activities, please visit NIST's website:
<http://www.mel.nist.gov/msid/b2btestbed/index.html>.

³ <http://www.mel.nist.gov/msid/b2btestbed/approach.html>