

DGI UPDATE

July 2005

A newsletter from Drummond Group Inc. <<http://www.drummondgroup.com/>>

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Commentary - Software Standards Testing Experiencing Increased Cross-Industry Adoption

Many industry consortia work to lower costs and increase efficiencies within their respective industries by promoting software standards. In many cases, industry groups are defining industry-wide common business messaging, in addition to defining guidelines and additions to existing standards for extra value. For example, the U.S. automotive retail industry (through the Standards for Technology in Automotive Retail (STAR) consortium) has created guidelines to accelerate adoption of common business transaction methods using XML-based Open Application Group Business Object Documents, W3C web services standards and OASIS ebXML Messaging standards.

Testing methodology by Drummond Group Inc. (DGI) incorporates feedback from respective stakeholders before and after the tests. Thus, DGI's interoperability testing creates a feedback loop between standards committees, software companies and the end user industries that deploy

the systems based on the standards. The goal of the interoperability testing is to promote high-quality production adoption of the standards. One of the most interesting side effects we have seen from providing neutral interoperability certification services is cross-industry adoption of newer standards, including adoption of features that were originally proposed for a single industry.

In 2001, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) adopted ebXML Messaging Services (ebMS) as the preferred protocol for automated communication in the public health industry related to reporting laboratory results and disease outbreaks.

CDC architects made the decision to require message-based encryption, but the current ebMS specification only provided a recommendation (XML Encryption) and did not detail the methods for its use. Undaunted, the CDC defined detailed methods for message-based ebMS encryption. From 2002 through 2004, DGI successfully tested this method within the annual ebMS interoperability test round. In 2005, DGI learned that a major automotive manufacturer is expected to leverage the encryption methods, transferring the benefits developed for public health into the automotive supply chain.

The Petroleum Industry Data Exchange consortium (PIDX) has been working for years to promote common standards in Oil and Gas and related industries. PIDX has been on a hunt for messaging solutions that would be deployable by the smaller companies in the petroleum supply chain. In 2004, PIDX worked on pilots of the AS2 messaging standard with mixed results. The group realized the potential of AS2, but AS2 lacked a common method for attachments (the ability to send more than one business document in a single message exchange). During DGI's AS2 1Q05 interoperability test round, a common method was defined and successfully tested for adding attachment features to the AS2 standard. Now, PIDX has formally recommended this AS2 standard-based messaging to companies within the petroleum industry.

As DGI continues to expand the number of standards tested, we will continue to work with end-user corporations to ensure the features they need are communicated to software companies and horizontal standards groups, and just as importantly, to make sure the features work and can interoperate.

For more information on joining DGI's standards testing, please visit the DGI website at:

<http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/join.html>

AS2 is Official

Applicability Statement 2 (AS2), an increasingly popular eBusiness standard, has recently become an official Internet standard. Officially, it has been named as a "MIME-Based Secure Peer-to-Peer Business Data Interchange Using HTTP, Applicability Statement 2 (AS2)." Now it is documented as RFC 4130. The RFC, or Request For Comment, designation indicates AS2 is a stable and well-understood protocol for

Internet use. Rik Drummond, DGI's chief executive officer, is a co-author of the AS2 standard.

Test Programs supported by DGI

eBusinessReady. Testing standards AS1, AS2, AS3, ebMS, CPFR, UCCnet and RosettaNet. Current test results are listed at:
<http://www.ebusinessready.org/results.html>

Global Data Synchronization Network. Current information and interoperability test results are listed at: <http://www.gs1.org/>

Drummond Certified. Test and auditing of the CSOS standard. Current information and test results are listed at:
<http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/csos-cert.html>

Frequently Asked Questions about CSOS -
< <http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/csos-faq.html> >

DGI's 2005 Test Calendar may be viewed at:
<http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/test-calendar.html#2005>

ebMS ITQ (9/12 - 10/21) - Register by July 19, 2005. This is for products NEW to ebMS testing.

ebMS Interop (10/24/ - 12/16) - Register by Sept 23, 2005.

For additional information about interoperability tests, contact:
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DGI Calendar of Events

In 2005, join DGI representatives, industry solution providers and other technology leaders as they meet at annual conferences and trade shows to understand and implement the technological advances being made in today's business world.

Note that DGI representatives will be attending the AutoTech 2005 conference. To register for your **free exhibit hall pass** at AutoTech 2005, please see: <http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/events.html>

For more information about this upcoming conference and registration details, you are encouraged to visit:

AutoTech 2005

Aug. 29-Sept. 1
Detroit, Michigan

<http://www.aiag.org/autotech/index2005.cfm>

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Recent Press Releases

Drummond Group Facilitates First CSOS Auditing Certification on DEA Regulations

ORLANDO, FL – June 14, 2005 – Drummond Group Inc. (DGI), a leading interoperability and conformance testing company, today announced that it has completed the first auditing certification for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Controlled Substances Ordering System (CSOS). CSOS is an electronic commerce initiative overseen by the DEA to provide an automated alternative to the current paper-intensive process required for purchasing and distributing Level I and II controlled substances. DGI is the first to provide CSOS auditing services such as delivering certification for software products-with-version in compliance with DEA rules.

See full release:

< <http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/press.html> >

eBusinessReady Certifies Eight Software Products for AS1 Interoperability

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – May 19, 2005 – eBusinessReady, an industry-neutral software testing program under joint partnership of the Uniform Code Council, Inc.® (UCC) and Drummond Group Inc. (DGI), today announced eight software products have successfully passed interoperability testing for AS1 (Applicability Statement 1) specifications. Upon its implementation, AS1 is a leading global Internet standard which enables users to connect, deliver and reply to data securely and reliably over Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP) or email.

Products from seven companies, including Axway, Cyclone Commerce, Inovis, Inc., iSoft Corporation, iWay Software, nuBridges, LLC, and TIBCO Software, Inc. passed the AS1 2Q05 interoperability test.

See full release:

< http://www.ebusinessready.org/pr_as1.cfm >

New AS2 Testing Components Address Digital Certificate & Multiple Attachment Exchanges in Software Applications

Lawrenceville, NJ – April 20, 2005 – eBusinessReady, an industry-neutral software testing program under joint partnership of the Uniform Code Council, Inc.® (UCC) and Drummond Group Inc. (DGI), today announced that two new optional testing components have been incorporated into interoperability testing for AS2 (Applicability Statement 2) specifications. The optional tests provide AS2 end users (manufacturers, retailers and suppliers) with additional tools for exchanging digital certificates between trading partners and creating transactions with multiple documents.

See full release:

< http://www.ebusinessready.org/pr_detailNew.cfm?release_id=197 >

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DGI Research Report Services

- 1) "AS2, ebXML or SOAP: Which Messaging Standard to Select for Your Supply Chain and Why" - now only \$199 USD -
<<http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/research/soap.html>>

DGI research continues as it highlights three Internet messaging standards: AS2, ebXML and SOAP. It offers in-depth comparisons on which standards to implement based on technology and business criteria, and illustrates how they can accommodate the majority of today's business messaging needs.

- 2) "Making Sense of AS2: An Implementation Guide" - \$95 USD
<<http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/research/as2-guide.html>>

In a balanced, vendor-neutral manner, "Making Sense of AS2" provides an introductory overview and covers the basics of AS2 implementation. Guidance includes how to resolve common technical issues faced by network administrators while implementing this technology to securely and reliably transport data over the Internet.

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Drummond Group Inc. (DGI) is an independent, privately held company that works with software vendors, vertical industries and the standards community to drive adoption for standards by conducting interoperability and conformance testing, publishing related strategic research and developing vertical industry strategies. Founded in 1999, DGI represents best-of-breed in the industry on linking horizontal infrastructure technologies, standards and interoperability issues with the needs of vertical industries such as retail, grocery, health care, transportation, government and automotive. For more information, please visit www.drummondgroup.com, or email: info@drummondgroup.com.

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