

DGI UPDATE
January-February 2006

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

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Commentary: Certificate Exchange Messaging (CEM)

Digital certificates are at the heart of eBusiness security. AS2, ebMS and other business transport applications utilize certificates to provide digital signatures and encryption.

How does it work? Companies must receive and install certificates before messages can be exchanged with trading partners. However, as a security precaution, certificates usually expire after 3-5 years. As a certificate nears expiration, a new certificate must be created, exchanged and installed with each trading partner. A company cannot continue trading with its partner until the new certificate is loaded into the partner's B2B application. For example, if there is any mix-up, such as the trading partner incorrectly loads the new certificate, transactions cease until the issue is resolved.

If a company has more than one trading partner, it may need for the new certificate to be loaded simultaneously in all of its trading partners' applications in order for the B2B product to use the new certificate. If there are more than a few trading partners, this becomes a significant logistical effort. When trading partners are counted in the magnitude of hundreds, this process of manual certificate exchange becomes extremely difficult.

An initiative to automate the certificate exchange process began in 2003 by the ecGIF subgroup within GS1. The certificate exchange messaging (CEM) standard is a protocol for distributing digital certificates to trading partners over AS2. CEM uses a Request/Response system of communication. A CEM Request sent to a trading partner contains a new certificate with instructions on how the certificate should be used (e.g. digital signatures) and when the CEM Response must be returned. The CEM Response is then returned with a status value indicating if the certificate was accepted and loaded or rejected. Also, CEM requires implementing products to ensure they maintain new and old certificates, and are capable of using either in trading until the actual certificate expiration date. This is significant because it does not require all of its trading partners to switch simultaneously to the new certificate.

CEM is now an Internet-Draft within the IETF and is being co-authored by Kyle Meadors of Drummond Group Inc. It has been adopted and interoperability tested by five different AS2 vendors. There is growing interest and demand from supply chains for CEM because of the significant time savings it provides by replacing the manual effort.

Additional information about the CEM standard may be found at:

< https://datatracker.ietf.org/public/idindex.cgi?command=id_detail&id=12703 >

For a list of companies that participated in an optional CEM test during DGI's AS2-3Q05 Interoperability test round, please refer to page 18 of the final report located at:

< <http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/as2-companies.html> >

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Recent Press Releases

7 Software Applications Certified by Drummond Group for Global ebXML Interoperability

Interoperable ebMS Systems Mark Launch of Drummond Certified™ Program

AUSTIN, TX—Jan. 25, 2006—Drummond Group Inc. (DGI), the leading interoperability e-commerce certification company, today announced that seven software products from seven leading companies successfully completed the Drummond Certified™ program's ebMS (ebXML Message Service)-4Q05 interoperability testing. This test round formally launched DGI's Drummond Certified program designed for industries to drive adoption of technical standards and certify a stable foundation of software products to support their supply chains. Starting in 2006, all ebMS, AS1, AS2, AS3 and CSOS tests will be conducted under the Drummond Certified program.

See entire release:

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

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GridWise Architecture Council Concludes Successful Constitutional Convention with Wide Cross-Industry Support

WASHINGTON, DC – Dec. 12, 2005 – The GridWise Architecture Council (GWAC), a focused team of cross-industry experts articulating the guiding principles that constitute the architecture of a future, intelligent, energy system, announced today the successful conclusion of the Constitutional Convention held December 6-7, 2005, in Philadelphia, PA. More than 110 delegates attended the convention designed to establish consensus surrounding fundamental principles and amass buy-in from a broad base of stakeholders in the application of information exchange to the effective operation of the future electric power system.

Major support for the constitution was announced in speeches from noted electricity community stakeholders, including Nora Mead Brownell, Commissioner of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); Joe Desmond, Chairman of the California Energy Commission; Tom Welch, Vice-President, PJM Interconnections, and Rik Drummond, GWAC chair. Further support from key smart grid initiatives included the U.S. Department of Energy, EPRI IntelliGrid, GridWise Alliance, GridApp, and NRECA MultiSpeak.

See entire release:

< http://www.drummondgroup.com/pdfs/2005-12-12_GridWisePressRelease_with_Photo.pdf >

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Test Programs supported by DGI

Drummond Certified. This includes test and auditing information regarding the CSOS standard. Current CSOS information and test results are listed at:

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

Global Data Synchronization Network. Current information and interoperability test results are listed at:

< <http://www.gs1.org/> >

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For information about CSOS Audits conducted by DGI and CSOS FAQs,
see:

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

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Upcoming Tests include:

AS1 Interop is scheduled for April 18-May 9.

AS3 Interop—Begins on April 18 and is scheduled through May 30.

AS2 In the Queue NEW—This test is scheduled for March 6 through June 30.
(Participants also must complete InSitu-AS2 by Aug. 25, 2006.)

AS2 In the Queue CONTINUE—(not yet InSitu enabled) This test is scheduled for May 15 through June 30. (Participants also must complete InSitu-AS2 by Aug. 25, 2006.)

AS2 In the Queue CONTINUE—(for those products already InSitu enabled) This test is scheduled from July 10 through Aug 25.

To sign up for DGI test rounds, please visit:

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

DGI's 2006 Test Calendar

View the 2006 Test Calendar online at:

<http://www.drummondgroup.com/html-v2/test-calendar.html#2005>

For additional information about interoperability test rounds in 2006, please contact:

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2006 Events

Join Drummond Group Inc. (DGI), 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 marketplace. To learn more about each event, click on the sites listed below.

- 1) 2006 Hardlines Technology Forum—April 30-May 3, Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, CA, <http://www.ahma.org/conf/htf/>
- 2) GridWise Expo 2006—May 16-18, Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA, <http://www.gridwiseexpo.com/>
- 3) 2006 U Connect Conference—June 6-8, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN, <http://www.uc-council.org/uconnect>
- 4) 2006 HDMA Distribution Management Conference & Technology Expo, June 8-10, JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Phoenix, AZ <http://www.healthcaredistribution.org/meetings/distribution.asp>

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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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