

e-Framework Update February 2008

News from the Initiative

The e-Framework partners — JISC, DEEWR, the New Zealand Ministry of Education and the SURF foundation — met in Wellington, New Zealand from 30 October to 1 November 2007. The partners revisited and confirmed their Terms of Reference and signed off their Charter Document. They also agreed to a model for funding for one year a full-time Programme Manager to support the e-Framework initiative. The partners also contributed to a two-day strategic workshop, looking at the vision and mission of the e-Framework, and its relevance to and alignment with the respective national and international developments, such as the IMS Global Learning Consortium.

The e-Framework partners' meeting coincided with both the IMS Global Learning Consortium's quarterly meeting and the New Zealand Summit on Innovation in Learning Technology, from 5 to 9 November in Queenstown, New Zealand. The e-Framework partners contributed to a well-received panel discussion on their experiences of international collaboration.

The next face-to-face Partners meeting will be in Utrecht, Netherlands from 19 to 21 May 2008.

New "Getting Started" resource page is gateway to e-Framework website content

The [e-Framework website](#) now offers a better way for different target audiences to access the information that is most relevant to their needs and interests. The site's revised navigation menu shows how the content is organised and makes it easier to go directly to the desired material. The site's home page also has some new features, including scrolling news headlines and a set of images excerpted from a longer animation that explains the service-oriented approach underlying the e-Framework concept.

A yellow NEW icon calls attention to new menu items, such as the recently added [Success Stories](#). These brief testimonial reports provide examples of how e-Framework methodology and resources were used to good advantage in completing real projects.

Another addition is the [Getting Started](#) page: it identifies four types of audiences according to various user roles - from those just needing an

overview of the e-Framework concepts to those requiring more technical details - and provides links to the material that may be most appropriate for each audience to view first. This page also introduces some key technical vocabulary, with simple definitions provided when they are needed in order to understand the lists of recommended content.

Recommended content for all audiences includes a new [Overview of the e-Framework](#), provided as an adjunct to the existing briefing papers and presentations that are available as downloads. The Overview explains the e-Framework's service-oriented approach and lists the benefits of using it, calling attention to the particular benefits for each audience that was identified on the Getting Started page.

Additional material and resources continue to be developed, so check the website often to view the news headlines, new content and new contributions from users, or subscribe to the e-Framework News RSS feed to be alerted to these announcements when they are posted.

Partner's Update

Australian's DEST becomes DEEWR

"A new Government led by the Leader of the Australian Labor party, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, was sworn in by the Governor-General on 3 December 2007. The Government has announced the creation of a new Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations ([DEEWR](#))". In addition, [DIISR](#) (Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research) has been created. DEEWR reports for the Deputy Prime Ministry, The Hon Julia Gillard M.P. The two department relationships will be interrelated but the e-Framework will fall under DEEWR.

Education reform was a central plank of the election of the Rudd Government. The Digital Education Revolution ([DER](#)) is a major part of the Australian Government education reform agenda. The DER consists of \$1 billion over 4 years to provide the National Secondary School Fund for Secondary students in years 9-12 and \$100 million for the provision of broadband connections to schools. There are three other elements including the development of online national curriculum and access to specialist subjects such as languages.

Ministry of Education, New Zealand – New Ministers for Education

Late in 2007 there was a Cabinet reshuffle, resulting in a new Minister of Education, Hon. Chris Carter, and a new Minister for Tertiary Education,

Hon. Pete Hodgson. Chris Carter has re-emphasised the important role of ICT in supporting the personalising of learning, and sees the further development of the New Zealand Digital Content Strategy as the first step to providing an integrated and strategic approach to ICT. (Information can be obtained from [The Digital Strategy:New Zealand](#))

Summit on Innovation in Learning Technology – Queenstown, NZ

The inaugural New Zealand Summit on Innovation in Learning Technology was hosted jointly by the Ministry of Education and IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc. from 7 - 9 November 2007 in Queenstown. Over 125 delegates from seven countries participated in the event over the three days. The delegates came from across the education sector, in particular from the tertiary/higher education sector. The presentations and panel discussions covered a range of topics, including the importance of standards and specification in ICT; Common Services Federation; Domain Mapping project; shared and common services in the New Zealand government agencies; the e-Framework in action; e-learning from a New Zealand and international perspective; digital repositories; the importance of cross-sector and international collaboration; and a service oriented approach to shared services. There were also a number of key demonstrations of national and international developments, including common cartridge and also ESAA/Australian Access Federation/Best Grid.

New Director on Board for IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc.

Murray Leach, senior manager in New Zealand's Ministry of Education, has been elected to the Board of Directors for IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc. The e-Framework now has two representatives on the board.

Updated "soa Animation" Frames

To further realize the benefits of the JISC funded soa Animation, a revised ending storyboard is being compiled. The main theme of the changes is to elaborate on the use and purpose of the e-Framework knowledge base, and in particular to describe how partners contribute to the e-Framework KB and how the website can then be used as a resource by the community to meet their individual goals. A link to the updated animation will be included on website in due course.

Mapping Security SUMs to the e-Framework

JISC has funded a 6 month project which is to map existing security work to the e-Framework. The objectives of this project are to:

- Review the security services and Service Use Models (SUMs) already contributed by partners to the e-Framework
- Describe the security services and SUMs from the UK Access Management Federation and selected JISC projects
- Describe the security services and SUMs used with the National Grid Service Certification Authority
- Provide a picture of what work has already been done in the UK and what remains to be done
- Map out where the key interoperability 'pain points' can be found
- Compare UK Security mechanisms with those of other e-Framework partners and assess the potential for universities in these countries to work securely together in joint projects and make appropriate recommendations

Standards and Technical News

Developing interoperability standards for SURFshare

The SURFshare programme intends to create a common infrastructure that will facilitate access to complex research information objects and make it possible for researchers to share and use such information in collaborative ways. SURFshare will build on the existing network of interoperable repositories (DAREnet), and on the results of the DARE programme, to achieve interoperability and developing new standards related to metadata, data-modelling and protocols for enhanced publications, collaboratories and digital workbenches. Focusing on the Digital Author Identifier (DAI), the Persistent Identifier, Complex Objects and Metadata, SURF is highly interested in any developments on these areas elsewhere for comparison and cooperation: [SURF Platform ICT and Research](#) (PDF document)

Enterprise Architecture approach to service oriented development

The JISC and SURF have been focusing efforts on the Enterprise Architecture approach to service oriented development at the institutional level. These are summarised below:

JISC Funded Enterprise Architecture Group Pilot Initiative

JISC has funded four projects to investigate an enterprise architecture approach through the application and evaluation of The Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF). The Enterprise Architecture Group Pilot Initiative seeks to provide support for existing early adopters of Enterprise

and Service Oriented Architectures, support exchange between them and experienced Enterprise Architects, evaluate the costs and benefits and synthesise the learning and providing recommendations; making the findings and resources created during the programme available to the wider community: [Enterprise Architectures Group Pilot Initiative](#)

Three Dutch Technical Universities (3TU) plan a SOA based federative digital learning and working environment

The 3TU federation (technical universities of Delft, Eindhoven and Twente) are developing a fully integrated federative learning and working environment. Their Graduate School departments (3TU.GS) are to build the first version of the architecture of such a federation on the basis of the SOA concept. The modelling language Archimate has been used to describe the educational processes for teaching and learning on a supra institutional level, taking the focus of data usage, and referring to open standards where possible. This has led to descriptions of functional services that define SOA building blocks. It is expected that this approach will allow for building systems of independent collaborative services, offering the benefit of flexibility, reusability, and easier governance and control of the IT in the organisation: Eric Kluijfhout [Kluijfhout@surf.nl], Manager e-Framework and open learning, SURFfoundation

SURFfoundation organises workshops on Architecture for CIO's and IT departments

The platform IT, Organisation and Management of the SURFfoundation organises six sessions on Architecture to keep the involved and relevant stakeholders in the higher education community updated on the architecture development. They will discuss the 3TU project, the Archimate method and the use of TOGAF and DyA. The other sessions will address educational logistics in Archimate, compare e-Framework and Archimate approaches and explore the use of semantics in architecture. The sessions will to promote the use of Enterprise Architecture, collaboration on the information infrastructure and provide a context to SURF's e-Framework involvement: Ronald Ham [Ham@surf.nl], project manager information infrastructure

Establishing a CIO Community on Information Architecture

In line with the increasing attention for working under architecture, IT governance and the service oriented approach, SURF has started the process of organising the HE CIO's into a community on Information Architecture. Besides exchanging information and best practices, the community is expected to look into the issue of the preferred information

architecture for Dutch Higher Education: Wouter de Haan [Haan@surf.nl],
manager SURF Platform IT & Organisation

PILIN - “Strengthening Australia's ability to use global identifier infrastructure”

The PILIN (Persistent Identifier Linking Infrastructure) project has been successfully completed and the final report can be found on the [project website](#) or directly as a [PDF document](#). The project supported adoption and use of persistent identifiers and services in Australia and laid the foundations for a sustainable, shared identifier management infrastructure. It is anticipated that a National Persistent Identifier Service will be funded from July 2008.

As part of the PILIN project, e Framework representations were used to describe service-oriented views of identifier infrastructure. An agile software development methodology was then used to develop identifier services on top of the Handle System. An [Identifier Infrastructure SUM](#) has been produced as part of the project. The SUM has also been submitted to the [e-Framework community wiki](#) to encourage discussion and feedback. The successful outcomes of the PILIN project owe much to the use of e-Framework approaches.

Launch of OASIS's IDtrust XML.org

The OASIS IDtrust Member Section introduces IDtrust XML.org, a community gathering place and information resource for identity and trusted infrastructure standards including the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), Digital Signature Services (DSS) OASIS Standard, Enterprise Key Management Infrastructure (EKMI), Extensible Resource Identifier (XRI), and other related specifications. IDtrust XML.org is an open, vendor-neutral site, and the public is encouraged to contribute to its wiki, news links, events calendar, products directory, forums and blogs. For information on site sponsorship, contact communications@oasis-open.org or go to the IDtrust XML [website](#).

Events and Reports

Report from the JISC CETIS Conference 2007: Beyond Standards

The [JISC CETIS conference](#): "Beyond Standards - Holistic Approaches to Educational Technology and Interoperability" was held on 20 and 21 November 2007 at the Lakeside Conference Centre, Aston, Birmingham. The conference gathered invited delegates to debate the innovative systems of the future and how JISC could support their development.

Open Repositories Conference 2008

JISC is sponsoring the [third international conference](#) on open repositories in Southampton, UK, in April 2008. This will create an opportunity for practitioners and researchers to share experiences and to explore the challenges of the new scholarly communication, including interoperability and architectures, and may be of interest to the e-Framework community.

IMS Global Learning Impact Awards - Austin, Texas

New Zealand has three finalists competing in the annual IMS Global Learning Impact Awards to be held in May 2008.

Annual Open Forum for Metadata registries – Sydney

This Open Forum is the eleventh annual forum in a series of international conferences about topics related to metadata, registries, interoperability, and semantics. It will focus on a series of core standards as well as on the selection, integration, and use of multiple standards in actual systems. The [Open Forum](#) will be held in Sydney, NSW Australia on 19 – 22 May 2008.

OASIS – Open Standards 2008 “Composability within SOA Symposium”

The OASIS Technical Advisory Board announced the program for the consortium's annual symposium, [Open Standards 2008](#), which will be held in Santa Clara, California, 28 April - 1 May. The event will explore the advantages of applying Service-Oriented Architecture techniques for assembling and tuning applications developed on different platforms and managed by different owners. Attendees will learn how others are addressing challenges and explore why open standards are critical to success. The event is supported by the OASIS Open CSA MemberSection and the IDC analyst group; Sponsors include SAP, Primeton, Software AG, BEA, IBM, and Sun Microsystems.