ebXML Naming Convention for Core Components

ebXML Core Components

2 May, 2002
Version 1.03
1 Status of this Document

This document specifies an ebXML (DRAFT) for approval by the eBusiness community.

Distribution of this document is unlimited.

The document formatting is based on the Internet Society’s Standard RFC format.

This version:
EbXML Convention: Naming of Core Components Ver 1.02

Quality Review qualified statement:
This specification is one of several cornerstones for the overall Core Components specifications. Whilst it may be considered for stand-alone use, its primary purpose is for use within an ebXML environment. It has limited value as an independent document.
2 ebXML participants

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4 Introduction

4.1 Summary of Contents of Document
This specification specifies the rules for naming ebXML Core Components and Business Processes.

In addition to the naming convention rules that lead to a Dictionary Entry Name, the document also provides rules for creating definitions. It also establishes the principle of synonyms to cover the instances where a commonly used business term equates to a well-formed Dictionary Entry Name according to the rules.

The keywords MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHALL, SHALL NOT, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT, RECOMMENDED, MAY, and OPTIONAL, when they appear in this document, are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [Bra97].

4.2 Audience
The target audiences for this document include business domain experts and technical experts.

4.3 Related Documents
These include ebXML Specifications on the following topics:

- ebXML Initial catalogue of core components Ver 1.03
- ebXML Methodology for the Discovery and Analysis of Core Components Ver 1.03

5 Basic Information Entities – data element level

5.1 Introduction
These rules are derived from the guidelines and principles described in document ISO 11179-5, clause 6 (Guidelines for Structured Naming Conventions). In certain instances, these guidelines have been adapted to the ebXML CC environment. In particular, the guidelines have been extended to cover not only the naming of basic information entities or data elements but also to cover the naming of aggregated information entities.

Each ebXML basic information entity is defined by a:

- Dictionary Entry Name (Mandatory). Name of the component as derived from these naming convention rules. It consists of an Object Class, Property Term and Representation Type.

- Definition (Mandatory). The definition of a Dictionary Entry shall provide the real business use of that entry. It shall use a structure that allows that entry to be easily
distinguished between the following: Object Class, the Property Term, and its Representation Type.

Note: Rules for creating definitions are provided in Section 8 of this document.

• Business term (Optional). If the Dictionary Entry Name is different from the term used in business, then this business term shall also be presented as synonym. There may be several business terms or synonyms.
  - Dictionary Entry Name e.g. Account.Identifier; Purchase Order.Identifier
  - Business Term e.g. Account Number; Order Number, PO Number,

5.2 Naming Rules

Rule 1: The Dictionary Entry Name shall be unique and shall consist of Object Class, a Property Term and Representation Type.

Rule 2: “The Object Class represents the logical data grouping (in a logical data model) to which a data element belongs” (ISO11179). The Object Class is the part of a core component’s Dictionary Entry Name that represents an activity or object in a context.

An Object Class may be individual or aggregated from core components. It may be named by using more than one word.

Rule 3: The Property Term shall represent the distinguishing characteristic of the business entity. The Property Term shall occur naturally in the definition.

Rule 4: The Representation Type shall describe the form of the set of valid values for an information element. It shall be one of the terms specified in the “list of Representation Types” as included in this document.

Note: If the Representation Type of an entry is “code” there is often a need for an additional entry for its textual representation. The Object Class and Property Term of such entries shall be the same. Requesters for new entries may be aware of this fact.)

Rule 5: A Dictionary Entry Name shall not contain consecutive redundant words.

For example: If the Object Class is “goods”, the Property Term is “delivery date”, and Representation Type is “date”, the Dictionary Entry Name is ‘Goods. Delivery. Date’.

In adoption of this rule the Property Term “Identification” could be omitted if the Representation Type is “Identifier”.

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For example: The identifier of a party ("Party. Identification. Identifier") will be truncated to "Party. Identifier".

**Rule 6:** One and only one *Property Term* is normally present in a Dictionary Entry Name although there may be circumstances where no property term is included. e.g. Currency Code

**Rule 7:** The *Representation Type* shall be present in a Dictionary Entry Name. It must not be truncated.

**Rule 8:** The *Representation Type* “text” shall be used in the context of names. As names are used to identify objects the *Property Term* will be “identification”. Thus the Dictionary Entry Name of an object’s name is “Object. Identification. Text”.

**Rule 9:** A Dictionary Entry Name and all its components shall be in singular form unless the concept itself is plural e.g. goods.

**Rule 10:** An *Object Class* as well as a *Property Term* may be composed of one or more words.

**Rule 11:** The components of a Dictionary Entry Name shall be separated by dots and a following space character. The words in multi-word *Object Classes* and multi-word *Property Terms* shall be separated by the space character. Every word shall start with a capital letter.

**Rule 12:** Special characters may only be used if required by language rules.

**Rule 13:** Abbreviations, acronyms and initials shall not be used as part of a Dictionary Entry Name, except where they are used in as business terms/words e.g. UN, DUNS, EAN.

**Rule 14:** All accepted acronyms and abbreviations shall be included in an ebXML glossary. If an acronym or abbreviation shall be accepted for inclusion within ebXML it shall be checked whether it is already mentioned in the glossary or needs to be added.

### 5.3 Language specific rules

**Rule 15:** The dictionary content will be in English Language following Oxford Dictionary English spellings. This assures unambiguous spelling and interpretation.

**Rule 16:** There may be restrictions in specific languages, which need to be applied when transforming the ebXML Component Catalog into other languages.
6 List of Representation Types

The following list contains the permissible Representation Types (as defined with ISO 11179).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ebXML Definition</th>
<th>Representation Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A number of monetary units specified in a currency where the unit of currency is explicit or implied.</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A character string (letters, figures or symbols) that for brevity and / or language independency may be used to represent or replace a definitive value or text of an attribute. Codes usually are maintained in code lists per attribute type (e.g. colour).</td>
<td>Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A day within a particular calendar year. Note: Reference ISO 8601.</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A particular point in the progression of time.</td>
<td>DateAndTime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A character string used to identify and distinguish uniquely, one instance of an object within an identification scheme from all other objects within the same scheme.</td>
<td>Identifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A list of two, and only two, values which indicate a condition such as on/off; true/false etc. (synonym: “boolean”)</td>
<td>Indicator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person, place, thing or concept.</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An arithmetical expression representing a particular value. NOTE Its use will be limited to those entities that express a sequence or a member of a series, such as Serial.Number.</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A rate expressed in hundredths between two values that have the same unit of measure.</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A number of non-monetary units. It is associated with the indication of objects. Quantities need to be specified with a unit of measure.</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A quantity or amount measured with respect to another measured quantity or amount, or a fixed or appropriate charge, cost or value e.g. US Dollars per hour, US Dollars per EURO, kilometre per litre, etc.</td>
<td>Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A character string generally in the form of words of a language.</td>
<td>Text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The time within a (not specified) day. Reference ISO 8601:1988.</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A numeric quantity that is assigned or is determined by calculation or</td>
<td>Value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 Naming of Aggregate Information Entities

Each ebXML aggregate information entity is defined by a:

- **Dictionary Entry Name** (Mandatory). Name of the component, created following these naming convention rules. It consists of an *Object Class* and its *Property Term*.

  - Core component types documented on their own do not have a representation type. (Their different components normally have mixed representation types.) As soon as a business entity reuses a Core component type, the representation type of its component carrying the real business value shall be allocated to this reused Core component type.

  - Core component types will use the property term “Type”.

  Aggregates shall use the *Property Term* “Details”.

  According Trade/CEFACT/1999/3 aggregates which are composed of core components probably having different *Representation Types* must not be linked to a *Representation Type*.

- **Definition** (Mandatory) The definition of an aggregate shall provide the real business use. It shall use a structure which provides a clear distinction between the *Object Class* and the *Property Term*.

- **Business term** (Optional). If the Dictionary Entry Name is different from the term used in business, then this business term shall also be presented as a synonym. There may be several business terms or synonyms.

  - Dictionary Entry Name e.g. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount. Details
  - Business Term e.g. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount

In all respects, other than the absence of *Representation Type*, the rules for Basic Information Entities apply.

8 Rules for Components’ Definitions

This is a collection of rules which have been agreed upon during the development of the initial set of core components:
To avoid the definition simply being a regurgitated version of the Dictionary Entry Name, the definition should repeat the Dictionary Entry Name followed by "is" and provide an understandable definition afterwards, which should also be translatable.

One of the fundamental principles specified in ISO 11179, and supported by ebXML, is that the definition should be developed first and the Dictionary Entry Name should be extracted from it.
9 Disclaimer

The views and specification expressed in this document are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of their employers. The authors and their employers specifically disclaim responsibility for any problems arising from correct or incorrect implementation or use of this design.
## 10 Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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<th>City, state, zip/other</th>
<th>Nation</th>
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