the Standard

news and commentary on standards and technology in postsecondary education

Inside

Registration Available
for Technology Summit

On-line registration for PESC's Technology Summit is now available! The Summit kicks off on Tuesday afternoon, October 21, 2003 at 1:30 p.m., with a General Session on Authentication.

PESC is pleased to have Saundra Schuster, Senior Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio, as guest speaker on Legal and Privacy Issues related to Authentication. Ms. Schuster will be followed by a panel of all past winners of PESC's Best Practices Competition. Each will discuss solutions they've developed and challenges they face to address Authentication. The panel will consist of Phil Patton from the University of Northern Iowa, Doug Holmes from Ontario University Application Centre, Bill Connor of ELM Resources, and Tim Cameron of NCHELP. The panel will be followed by an overview presentation and update on Shibboleth.

Tuesday concludes with updates from the respective Chairs of each of PESC's workgroups: Ed Hauser of SCT will update attendees on activities within the XML Forum for Education, Robert King of Citibank will present the first draft of the Web Services white paper, and Jerry Bracken of Brigham Young University will provide an update on Single Institutional Identifier. The Summit continues on Wednesday with all-day concurrent meetings of all workgroups, including the launching of the new Standard Student Authentication Workgroup.

PESC is pleased to bring the Technology Summit to the higher education community free of charge. As space is limited, registration is required. While breakfasts and dinners will be on your own, PESC will sponsor a lunch on Wednesday for all attendees.

Registration for the Summit is available at www.StandardsCouncil.org. The Summit takes place at the Radisson Hotel & Suites, 111 East Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, TX 78701. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel at either 512-478-9611 or at www.RadissonAustin.com.

PESC is pleased to partner with AACRAO, which is holding its annual Technology Conference from Monday morning, October 20, 2003 through Tuesday at noon, October 21, 2003, immediately before PESC's Summit. For the third straight year, both organizations have partnered to bring timely and emerging technological information to the higher education community.

While two separate and independent events, the opportunity to partner and hold both events in the same location allows those interested to spend a few days focusing on technology issues important to various areas of higher education.   Registration for AACRAO's Technology Conference is available at http://www.aacrao.org/ atc.

Adjusted XML

Implementation Schedule

At NASFAA's Annual Conference held July 9-11, 2003 in Salt Lake City, FSA announced an adjustment to the XML Implementation schedule. A Dear Colleague Letter (GEN 03-09) was just recently issued that formally announces this adjustment and explains the reasons behind it. The announcement, listed below, can also be found at the following link: http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0309.html.

Dear Colleague:

The Office of Federal Student Assistance (FSA), the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC), and the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) have been working collaboratively for approximately two years on the development and design of the Common Record standard to achieve consensus on an XML higher education standard that enables all stakeholders to receive maximum benefit from the adoption of XML technology, with better, faster, cheaper information exchange.

FSA remains committed to XML as an effective tool to meet the current and future business needs of FSA, schools and the community. FSA realizes that a large benefit of XML is the creation and adoption of a community based XML standard. In 03-04, FSA changed every XML tag name in the Common Record: COD to align with community standards. In 04-05 additional changes have been negotiated. While FSA sup-

Common Record Estimated Implementation Schedule

ISIR   **COD**

	ISIR	COD
02-03		Common Record – COD v 1.0g
03-04		Common Record –COD 2.0c (changed all tag names)
04-05		Common Record –COD 2.0d (+2 new tags – 6 old tags)
05-06	Common Record – ISIR 1.0a Align with standard	Common Record – COD 3.0 Align with standard (XML Required)
06-07	Common Record – ISIR 1.0a (XML Required)	Common Record – COD 3.0a
07-08	Common Record – ISIR 1.0a	Common Record – COD 3.0b

ports these changes, these changes have been negotiated prior to testing and implementation of Common Record: CommonLine, the Academic Transcript, and prior to the completion of FSA's XML Framework. FSA is committed to the community standard and also recognizes that there must be a balance between the benefit and burden of change for our customers. Therefore, in order to manage change, FSA will not change the COD schema to align with the community standard in 04-05.

FSA's future plans include the following:

- The COD schema will be updated to conform to the community standard. It is anticipated that these changes will be made for 2005-2006.

- In order to ensure that FSA is not publishing schemas following different standards, the Common Record:ISIR will not be operational until 05-06. At that time, the ISIR schema will fully align with the community standard.

- Because FSA does not wish to mandate using a schema with known changes pending, FSA will extend the requirement to use XML for COD until 05-06.

Again, the community remains dedicated to a community standard. The collaborative efforts of the past two years have been extraordinary and we look forward to the continuation of this endeavor.

Technology**Tidbits**
and Standards Snippets

■ During a Web Services Organization (WS-I) roundtable discussion, the groups president and chairman Tom Glover indicated that by **taking the resources within IT, The WS-I hopes to create a set of standards that will allow everyone to understand what web services look like**, according to ITWorldCanada article. The article may be accessed at http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1617106420

UT Austin Internet Server
'SPEEDEs' Along

June 2003 volume included:

■ 41,368 TS130 transcripts

■ 30, 580 TS131 acknowledgements

■ 3,797 TS997 Functional acknowledgements

■ 14,389 TS189 Admission Applications

■ 10,248 TS138 test score reports

■ 108,111 total transactions

■ 147 entities sent transcripts (plus about 300 Florida schools not counted as separate entities.)
This is an all time high

■ 184 entities received transcripts (same qualifier as above.)

■ According to a July 30 *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, **the Department of Homeland Security has opened a call center and put extra staff members at major airports to deal with problems that may occur with the August 1 reporting deadline to the SEVIS database**. The agency hopes this one-time effort will ease the way for students who lack SEVIS documents or records. The actions reflect the government's acknowledgment that neither it nor colleges will be completely ready for the August 1 deadline, said J. Greg Leonard, vice president for research and marketing at Newfront Software, according to the article.

■ **The Initiative for Software Choice (ISC) has come out publicly against several legislative initiatives to limit government agencies' use of proprietary software.** While no such legislation has been passed, several states have made proposals and the ISC fears that they will unduly favor open-source programs. Initiatives in other countries have been enacted and the ISC plans to continue its work to stop any such proposals in the United States. In response, open source evangelist Bruce Perens has created a rival organization, Sincere Choice. Unlike most politically competitive organizations Sincere Choice is not fighting for the legislation either, Perens believes that the government should not be legislated into what types of programs to use, but should be allowed to make the choices that best fit.

"Sharing The Code," an August 1, *Chronicle of Higher Education* article takes an **in-depth look at the application of open source code at colleges and universities.** The article discusses the benefits of open source as well as the concerns some schools have about using this type of programming. In addition, the article lists a number of open source resources and six open source software projects at various universities. The article may be accessed at http://chronicle.com/free/v49/i47/47a03101.htm.

With web services used mostly for internal development and integration the **Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) hype has waned and the information they contain has not expanded either.** Yet, the UDDI concept itself isn't dead, insisted Luc Clement, OASIS UDDI specification technical committee co-chair. "UDDI has not faded whatsoever," he said. "It's shipping in Windows [Server] 2003. It's shipping in SAP. It's very much alive," according to a Software Development Times article. The article may be accessed at http://sdtimes.com/news/082/special2.htm.

According to a recent AMR Research report, **nearly 80 percent of Chief Information Officers are unsure what implications the Sarbanes-Oxley Act has for their companies**. This uncertainty could impact the success of IT projects as well as organizations ability to meet the demands of the legislation, according to a Compliance Week article. The article offers tips for CIOs as they try to meet the Act's requirements. They include working with the chief financial and legal officer, be willing to adjust priorities and outsource projects, understand

Using XML with
Legacy Business Applications

Michael C. Rawlins, who has been active with PESC for several years, has written a new book titled *Using XML with Legacy Business Applications.*

Mike has more than twenty years of information technology consulting experience in a variety of industries. He is the founder of Rawlins EC Consulting and has served as the vice chair of the Communications and Controls subcommittee of ANSI ASC X12 for three years.

Before founding Rawlins EC Consulting, Michael worked as a consultant with the Digital Equipment Corporation. Michael has also provided valuable insight and guidance for a variety of PESC's workgroups, as well as been instrumental in the community development of XML schemas for use by registrar and financial aid.

In a show of appreciation, as Mike believes he has learned a lot from working with the PESC membership (and as his publisher says, 'to help him sell more books'), Mike has arranged with Addison-Wesley to offer PESC membership a special discount good for an additional 30 percent off his book. There is also free shipping within the US.

The coupon name is: XML-LBA. Please note that coupons are case-sensitive, so it will need to be entered XML-LBA, rather than xml-lba. Addison-Wesley's homepage is http://www.awprofessional.com and the direct link to Mike's book is: http://www.awprof.com/titles/0321154940.

The book hits the shelves on August 8, 2003 but you can order it now!!!

the regulations before making major changes to technology, and do not allow the organization to believe it is "software only" problem. To access the full article visit www.cio.com/research/government/edit/sarbox.html.

With the support of other IT companies, HP has announced the **publication of a Web Services Management Framework Version 2.0 and plans to contribute the specification set to the OASIS Web Services Distributed Management TC**. WSMF is an architecture for the management of resources through web services. The framework defines how all IT resources in an adaptive enterprise can expose management information about themselves and how they can be managed.

The **Liberty Alliance Project has released** *Business Guidelines: Raising the Business Requirements for Wide Scale Identity Federation*. The purpose of the document is to "identify the general business considerations that must be addressed by any organization exchanging identity information beyond company boundaries in today's complex federated identity