Charter Proposal For
Print Service Interface

Abstract

In today's environment of ever increasing personal mobility combined with virtually unlimited and instantaneous access to information through the Internet, many problems have arisen trying to print this information. In the case of personal mobility, the nearest printer (also known as the "Off-Ramp") is often one the user has never seen before and therefore one for which the user's computing device lacks appropriate printer drivers. And, with the wide variety of document formats available on the Internet, it is often impossible to load the desired document into a cell phone or PDA for either viewing or printing.

The latest print architectures have attempted to resolve some part of this problem by adopting a variation of XHTML (dubbed XHTML-Print) as a common page-description language to enable the printing of many simple web pages directly. However, this support is in its infancy and will not be widely deployed for many months or years. Therefore, to address the broadest set of mobile and Internet printing situations, a service needs to be available on the network that will take a document in one format, convert it to another format suitable for printing, and then deliver it to the desired Off-Ramp. This delivery could be either directly from the printing service or through some proxy. The content could originate on the Internet or have been created by the client.

When a new problem presents itself, such as the one for mobile printing services, there will be some initial, proprietary, solutions and some early adopters. Experience, shows that standardizing certain critical components of the solution and making the standard freely available assures interoperability among implementations. This ultimately results in the broadest, most competitive market for the new solution. Customer sentiment generally supports and reinforces this experience as long as the standardization effort is concluded in a timely manner and the standardization process yields widespread adoption and demonstrable interoperability.

The Print Services working group will develop standard interfaces and protocols between:

- The Client and the Service
- The Service and the Off-Ramp (or a proxy for the Off-Ramp)

It will **not** specify the interfaces or protocols between:

- The Service and the Internet
- The Client and the Internet
- The Client and the Off-Ramp
- The Service and other Service Components such as billing or content transformation.

The initial strawman proposals for this project will come from work in progress done by: Axis, Canon, Epson, Hewlett-Packard, i-data, IBM, Lexmark, Motorola, Nokia, and Xerox.

It is the intent of this group to utilize and/or enable standards such as XML, SOAP, WSDL and UDDI in developing Print Services.

Subsequent to the completion and delivery of this first project, this group may develop additional standards for print services.

Milestones

Charter Stage

Charter Proposal	February 2002
Requirements Statement	February 2002
Charter Formal Approval	April 2002
Requirements Formal Approval	April 2002

Specification Stage

Proposed Draft Standard Last Call	Q3 2002
Draft Standard Formal Approval	Q4 2002
Interoperability Event	TBD
Proposed Standard Last Call	Q1 2003
Published Standard	Q2 2003

Related Documents

A document named psi_requirements??.doc will be available on the Web / FTP server noted below.

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