

INTEROP Workshop at EDOC 2005

Event: INTEROP Dissemination workshop at the EDOC2005 Conference

Date: 2005-09-19

Location: Enschede, The Netherlands

Organisers (Session): **Lea Kutvonen, University of Helsinki, Martin Zelm, CIMOSA, Frank Lillehagen, Troux Technologies**

Number of participants: 30

Goal and scope: The EDOC Conference is the primary annual event focusing on the convergence of the paradigms, technologies and methods involved in enterprise computing. EDOC 2005 was the ninth event in the successful series of conferences, which since 1997 has brought together leading researchers, architects and practitioners from both academia and industry to discuss enterprise computing challenges and solutions.

The EDOC Conference emphasises the integration of enterprise computing research and development results, fostering an enterprise engineering approach that can address and relate business, application and middleware levels. The themes of openness and distributed computing, based on services, components and objects, provide a useful and unifying conceptual thread for this purpose.

The EDOC2005 featured a well-attended full conference with five workshops, all of which appeared relevant in light of the INTEROP interests:

- Middleware for Web Services Workshop (MWS 2005)
- Workshop on ODP for Enterprise Computing (WODPEC2005)
- Vocabularies, Ontologies and Rules for The Enterprise (VORTE 2005)
- Workshop on Contract Architectures and Languages (COALA2005)
- INTEROP 2005.

The INTEROP workshop at EDOC2005 was an open workshop for researchers and practitioners of interoperability on multiple levels: inter-enterprise coordination, business process integration, semantic and syntactic application integration, and physical integration. The workshop addressed issues of aligning IT-solutions with business, and IT aspects of inter-enterprise collaboration. The workshop aim was set for mixture of new contributions with dissemination of the INTEROP NoE results.

The reviewed and accepted papers were organized into sessions on "INTEROP NoE", "Architectural Approaches", "Engineering Issues", and "Integration Project Issues". In addition to the papers submitted directly to the INTEROP workshop, we finally included a session for Business Interoperability within the Automotive Sector (BIAS) to provide room for concrete cases of cross-organizational collaboration problems.

Presented Papers:

The workshop was organised into sessions as shown in Annex 1 on Agenda. The sessions before lunch were chaired by Lea Kutvonen, the sessions after lunch by Martin Zelm. Unfortunately, Frank Lillehagen was unable to attend due to overlapping INTEROP/ATHENA responsibilities elsewhere.

The first session on INTEROP NoE progression included a talk by Martin Zelm introducing the work challenges, organisation, and initial results of the INTEROP NoE. Axel Hahn presented Model-Driven Interoperability framework developed within WP9 to for a foundation to model-driven development of software systems that support the business interoperability needs of an enterprise. Lea Kutvonen presented a summary on the outcome of WP9 state-of-the-art survey on business process management, with the intent of provoking additional contributions and gap analysis.

In the second session on Architectural approaches two papers were presented. First, George Feuerlicht discussed Service-Centric Interoperability in contrast to document-centric approaches. This created lively debate on the benefits and differences of the approaches. Second, Bela Mutschler presented an evaluation framework for business process integration.

The third session on Engineering issues took us to the technology layer, with the presentations of Lars Gentsch and Mark Rambow about P2P data processing solution, and Ugatze approach to reuse and runtime interoperability solutions.

The fourth session on Integration project issues included presentations on decision support for enterprise integration by Amjar Umar, and Colin Piddington's recapturization of both on Europe's Manufacturing Network Knowledge and preceding methodology work on interoperability readiness ascertains on behalf of Anne Waywell.

The fifth session included two papers originally submitted to the BIAS workshop that was cancelled. The paper presented by Rene Fiege discussed interview results on automotive industry on the expectations on electronic marketplaces and B2B solutions. Sven Till discussed integration of local workflows on automotive sector into new forms of collaborations, called Networks of Automotive Excellence.

Discussion: The five sessions chaired by Martin Zelm and by Lea Kutvonen produced, besides the presentations of contributions as described below, lively discussion on the major challenges on filling the gap between business needs and IT support. Figure 1 summarises the main concerns raised in the discussion.

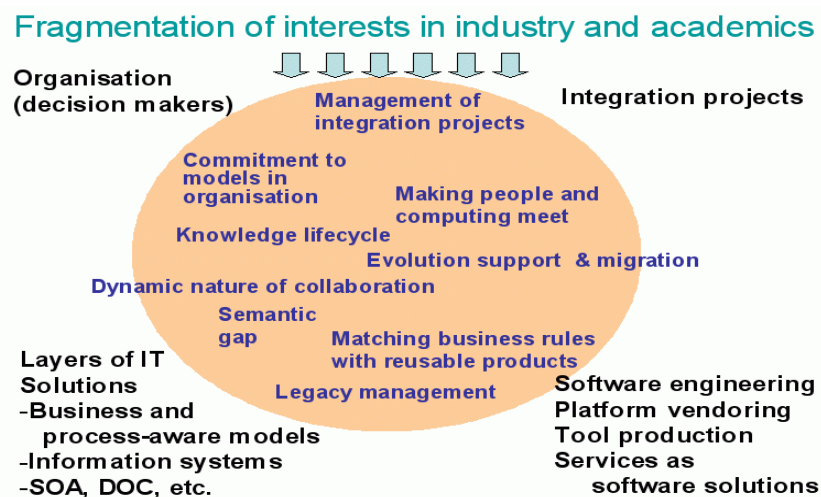


Figure 1: Summary of the workshop discussion.

Results:

The workshop contributions will be published in the IEEE Digital Library and participant proceedings, as well as on the CD delivered with the main conference proceedings together with the other workshops' material.

The workshop got good feedback and Lea Kutvonen was requested of considering to run similar workshop at next EDOC event in Hong Kong in 2006, and to submit a special issue proposal for International Journal of Business Process Integration and Management (IJBPIIM).