

**Meeting of the Interoperability Working Group**

Tuesday, 15th March 2005 at 10.30am in
Maple Rooms 1 and 2 Stockley House,
London SW1

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Michael Andrews – Secretary	eGU, Cabinet Office
Maewyn Cumming - Chair	eGU, Cabinet Office
Tim Benson	Abies
Paul Spencer	Boynings
Ken Barton	BT Government
Steve Ash	Citrix
Iain Bowles	Compuserve
Ann Wrightson	CSW
Linda Robey	DEFRA
Corinne Williams	DfES
Pete Desmond	DWP
Peter Buchanan	EDS
Colette Coles	eGU, Cabinet Office
Adam Bailin	eGU, Cabinet Office
Chris Butler	eGU, Cabinet Office
Colette Coles	eGU, Cabinet Office
Mark Gladwyn	eGU, Cabinet Office
John Ross	eGU, Cabinet Office / Secstan
Georg Mueller-Koegler	EzGov
David de Silva	FCO
Nig Greenaway	Fujitsu
Abdul Abdi	HO
Ian Turton	IBM
Graham Knight	IBM
Ralph Diment	Intergraph
John Borrás	LeGSB
Jerry Fishenden	Microsoft UK
Terry Vizard	MoD
Stefan Foster	NCC
Ann Richardson	NCC
Colin Meaden	NHS
John Harrington	Northgate
Neil Gwillym	Oracle
John Ochiltree	Parliamentary IASU
Paul Spence	Scottish Executive

Secretariat:

Michael Andrews

- Cabinet Office, e-Government Unit

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Apologies:

Steve Pope	AmberPoint
Bruce Yeoman	IDeA
Martin Percival	BEA
Paul Streeter	CIBER
Victor McFetridge	DWP
Ian Oliver	EzGov
Simon Fox	HO
Ian Turton	IBM
Diana Kinsman	MoD
Kathryn Jenkins	National Assembly for Wales
Andy Hopkirk	NCC
Jim Clinch	OGC
Joe O'Meara	Parliamentary IASU
Stephen Peacock	Scottish Executive

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Item 1: Minutes and actions of previous meeting (Tuesday, 14th December 2004)

Introductions.

Actions from last meeting:

Action 1	eGU to provide a statement indicating where e-GIF fits into its Enterprise Architecture vision and to confirm its commitment to the development of the e-GIF for the foreseeable future.	Completed
Action 2	Proposals for e-GIF 7 to be sent by 17th December.	Agenda Item 7
Action 3	UDDI to be downgraded to 'Recommended' and an FAQ to be prepared for posting on GovTalk.	Completed
Action 4	TORs of group to be refreshed to reflect changes at eGU.	Not yet completed
Action 5	Comments to be sent regarding 'Criteria for Selecting e-GIF Standards' by Friday, 14th January.	Completed
Action 6	Proposed future model of the e-GMS to be circulated to group.	Agenda Item 5

Item 2: eGU update

- Maewyn Cumming introduced Mark Gladwyn, Director of Infrastructure Services at eGU. She also explained that she would now be leaving at the end of June and that she would see through the next versions of the e-GIF and TSC.
- Mark Gladwyn said that a candidate had now been appointed to the role of Director of Technology Policy, and was expected to take up the post from 1st May. The name could not yet be announced as the process was still being carried through.
- Maewyn said that the three Technology Posts based in Manchester had now been advertised and were open to all civil servants. Interviews were expected to take place in early May. The appointees would probably be sharing offices with colleagues at NCC and further details of the move, along with dates, would be given soon.
- Mark discussed the eGU's change agent role. This represented a shift from the work of the OeE. Much of the work of that organisation, such as the delivery of services online, had been substantially completed and the next stage was best represented by the title, Office of the CIO. Support was being given to continuing services such as the Gateway and Directgov, though these were now, in effect, separate businesses. The e-GIF sat firmly within the remit of the CIO role. It was part of the standards picture and would continue to be delivered in partnership with the NCC. In its CIO role the office would now

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be reporting to the new CIO Council where the framework of overall business change would be agreed. A strategy document was currently being worked on and it was expected that a first draft would be available for 15th April, with a final publication date of September. This would include the issue of professionalism in government IT, with the formal establishment of the profession of 'IT in government'. While making the case for rebuilding the cadre of government IT specialists, eGU would also be using 'heavy hitters' to impact on problematic IT programmes. The 'heavy hitters' would also develop the transactional change agent function within eGU. Security (CSIA) would continue to be supported to ensure business needs were being met. The business plan of the office would be driven by overall strategy. The unit would continue to operate in central London but some parts of the work would be devolved to the Bristol area (Security) and Manchester (IT).

- Chris Butler confirmed that the enterprise architecture work was continuing as part of the CIO strategy. This was a global government programme and would enable best practice to be disseminated in the future. Studies were currently progressing well.
- John Borrás asked whether, in monitoring international standards, a UK government representative would attend the meetings of the international bodies concerned. Mark said that no firm decision had been made but he suspected that international meetings would be monitored but not physically attended.

Item 3: e-GIF metrics

- When the initial questionnaire had been sent out there were insufficient responses. It had, therefore, been sent out again and the results would be published when around 80-100 responses had been received. At present there had been 34. Members were requested to complete the questionnaire by the end of March. Responses from local government were particularly requested.

Item 4: TSC 6.2

- Everybody in the group should have received this by now. It had been intended initially to wait until the new appointments had been made but, given the delay this would cause, it had been decided to bring out a new version anyway. Not many comments had been received and those that had been sent in mostly focused on the ID cards area. More on standards regarding identity would await the fuller development of the eGU IT strategy.

Item 5: Progress reports and updates

a. e-GMS and Vocabulary Merger Project

Colette Coles said that Version 4.0 of the e-GMS was due in the summer but an exact date would depend on the appointment of a new Metadata Advisor. The groundwork had been completed and a model

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created. It was hoped to post this on GovTalk shortly. There would be substantial changes from Version 3.0. Other work going ahead was a new vocabulary merger which would bring about an IPSV (Integrated Public Sector Vocabulary). This would be available in April and details would be sent out when the draft had been posted. At present, the GCL could still be used but preparations should be made to switch to the new vocabulary and there would be no further updates. A 'lite' version of the IPSV would replace the current function of the GCL. Mapping from the old to the new would not be easy so it was best to prepare to use the new vocabulary.

b. Smart cards

The main changes were those documented in the TSC, which the group had already seen.

c. GSG, Schema process

Adam Bailin said that the schema process proposals were currently out with the GSG. Comments on proposals for adding metadata to schemas were being requested by 1st April. Also on that date, eGU was handing over responsibility for local government schemas to the Local e-Government Standards Body (LeGSB). eGU would continue in its current role where core schemas were concerned.

d. GDSC

Adam said that a new draft had recently been consulted on. Many comments had been received, especially from the Scottish Executive. Now revisions were being made in the light of these comments. Some standards had been added and errors had been reviewed. However, the changes were not major ones.

e. Certification of e-GIF competency

Andy Hopkirk had sent his apologies but Ann Richardson updated the group on developments in accreditation and certification. By the end of January, 20 organisations had reached accredited status. These included Essex CC and BT. There was a growing interest from public, as well as private, bodies. Feedback from accreditation visits had been very positive. On certification, many had now been through the foundation level tests and expert levels would be available shortly. Queries about either service could be sent to Ann at NCC: ann.richardson@ncc.co.uk.

Item 6: e-Europe Awards

- The date of the ministerial e-Government Conference had not yet been announced. There was an opportunity to make nominations for an e-

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Government Award for those involved in e-Government services. 1st June was the closing date and more information could be found on the web at www.e-europeawards.org . A paper concerning this will be sent out with the minutes.
ACTION: Paper on e-Europe Awards to be sent out with minutes.

Item 7: e-GIF 6.1

- Planning a full new version had not been feasible at the present time but an update was being published to take into account recent organisational changes. There was a new ministerial forward and there were also changes to material on the devolved administrations, to show more clearly how these fitted in to the picture. As no policy changes were being made no public consultation had taken place. The new version should be available by 18th March and the group would be informed of the publication.

ACTION: Inform group when e-GIF 6.1 is published.

Item 8: AOB

- It had not been possible to provide a speaker today from the Gateway team so information on current progress would be sent out with the minutes.

ACTION: Gateway information to be sent out with minutes.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 23rd June, 1030-1400 in Maple Rooms 1 & 2, Stockley House.

Meeting closed

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Actions from IWG meeting on 15th March 2005

Action 1	Paper on e-Europe Awards to be sent out with minutes.	Michael Andrews
Action 2	Inform group when e-GIF 6.1 is published.	Michael Andrews
Action 3	Gateway information to be sent out with minutes.	Michael Andrews

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