

The Business Process Management Initiative (BPMI.org)

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Abstract

The Business Process Management Initiative (BPMI.org) is an independent organization devoted to the development of open specifications for the management of e-Business processes that span multiple applications, corporate departments, and business partners, behind the firewall and over the Internet. BPMI.org defines open specifications such as the Business Process Modelling Language (BPML) and the Business Process Query Language (BPQL) that will enable the standard-based management of e-Business processes with forthcoming Business Process Management Systems (BPMS), in much the same way SQL enabled the standard-based management of business data with off-the-shelf Database Management Systems (DBMS). BPML supports the full lifecycle of enterprise process discovery, design, deployment, execution, maintenance, analysis, and optimisation. Applications that leverage BPML and a BPMS will be agile, flexible, and built to integrate inside and outside the enterprise. BPMS represents the convergence of EAI and B2Bi technologies and solutions, in order to achieve the promise of the process-managed enterprise.

1. Mission

BPMI.org (the Business Process Management Initiative) is a non-profit organization that empowers companies of all sizes, across all industries, to develop and operate business processes that span multiple applications and business partners, behind the firewall and over the Internet. The Initiative's mission is to promote and develop the use of Business Process Management (BPM) through the establishment of standards for process design, deployment, execution, maintenance, and

optimization. BPMI.org develops open specifications, assists IT vendors for marketing their implementations, and supports businesses for using Business Process Management technologies.

2. Context

On the back-end, technology integration standards such as XML Schema, SOAP, and J2EE enable the convergence of legacy infrastructures toward process-oriented enterprise computing. On the front-end, emerging protocols such as ebXML, RosettaNet, and BizTalk support the process-level collaboration among business partners.

BPMI.org leverages those converging trends by developing technologies that empower companies of all sizes, across all industries, to develop and operate business processes that span multiple applications and business partners, behind the firewall and over the Internet.

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3. Scope

BPMI.org considers an e-Business process conducted among two business partners as made of three parts: a Public Interface and two Private Implementations (one for each partner). The Public Interface is common to the partners and is supported by protocols such as ebXML, RosettaNet, and BizTalk. The Private Implementations are specific to every partner and are described in any executable language. BPML is one such language.

Once developed, the Private Implementation of an e-Business process must be deployed on a platform that will actually execute it. For this purpose, BPMI.org defines BPQL, a standard management interface for the deployment and execution

of e-Business processes. Furthermore, BPQL relies on UDDI in order to provide a standard way to register, advertise, and discover the Public Interfaces of e-Business processes.

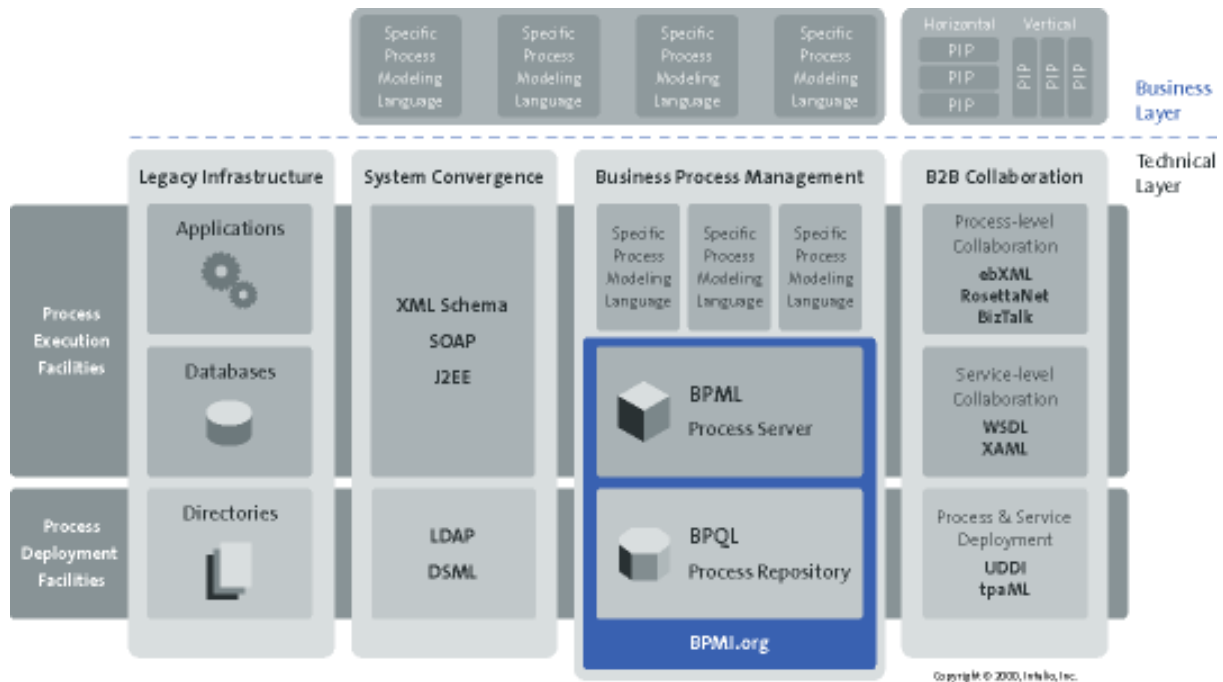


Figure 1. Business and Technical Layers

4. Planning

The first draft of the BPML specification has been submitted to members on August 14, 2000. This draft is currently being discussed and improved within BPMI.org. It will be made available to the public March 8, 2001.

5. Organization

Intelio, Inc. is currently managing BPMI.org in partnership with members of the initiative. A dedicated legal entity will be created in Q1 2001 in order to support the development of this effort. Specifications developed within BPMI.org are free for any organization to implement, extend, or modify.

For more information see <http://www.bpmi.org/initiative.html>.

Glossary

BPML	Business Process Modelling Language
BPMS	Business Process Management Systems
BPQL	Business Process Query Language
DBMS	Database Management Systems

Biography

Ishmael **Ghalimi**

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Ismael Ghalimi - Ismael Ghalimi co-founded Intalio in 1999 after organizing the first ExoLab Session, an Open Source software conference that laid the technical foundations for forthcoming Business Process Management Systems (BPMS). Mr. Ghalimi successfully built a world-class engineering team that is developing the first standards-based BPMS and authored the first definition of this new enterprise software infrastructure in his white paper, "The Process-Managed Enterprise" (July 2000). He created the Business Process Management Initiative (BPMI.org) in August 2000, and was instrumental in the development of this organization into the de-facto standardization body for Business Process Management technologies. Mr. Ghalimi graduated from the Ecole des Mines de Nancy (France) and went on to study parallel & distributed computing at the Ecole Normale Superieure de Lyon (France).

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Howard Smith - Howard Smith is Chief Technology Officer for Computer Sciences Corporation in Europe where he is responsible for strategic technology innovation and early stage vendor incubation and solutions development. He also directs Ontology.Org, a CSC sponsored research forum studying interoperability among enterprise and B2B applications. As a founding member, Howard is leading CSC's participation in the Business Process Management Initiative (bpmi.org) that is standardising the management of business processes that span multiple enterprise applications, corporate departments, and business partners, both behind the firewall and over the Internet. In 1998, through a strategic alliance with CommerceNet Howard became an invited expert to the eCo Working Group [eco.commerce.net] which developed an architectural specification and semantic recommendations that have influenced many of the leading e-commerce interoperability and Web Services frameworks in practical use today. His current interests are focussed on Business Process Management, next generation Enterprise Integration, organisational agility and the Knowledge Level Business.