

SUNGARD®

SunGard capitalizes on processable standards definitions

Through the integration of the SWIFT MyStandards Base Libraries, SunGard can offer quality-certified message definitions and powerful XML tools, while helping to reduce development costs and time-to-market.

SunGard is one of the world's leading software and technology services companies, with annual revenue of about \$2.8 billion.

SunGard provides software and processing solutions for financial services, education and the public sector. SunGard serves approximately 16,000 customers in more than 100 countries and has more than 13,000 employees.

Benefits

- Certified quality of message definitions
- Ability to use powerful XML tools to process MT messages
- Reduced development cost and time-to-market
- Model-driven development enabled to generate a Graphical User Interface (GUI)

For the development of the latest release of their consolidated financial messaging solution, SunGard is pioneering the use of processable standards information provided in the SWIFT MyStandards Base Libraries (MBL). The integration of the MBL has already helped streamline the development process, and is expected to deliver continuing time-to-market and quality benefits.

Drivers

SunGard is an important provider of application software to the financial industry. Its portfolio includes payments and securities industry applications, and SWIFT messaging and connectivity products. Providing support for SWIFT and ISO standards in these products requires significant investment in terms of both initial development and the ongoing maintenance required to track the standards as they evolve.

For its most recent messaging product, Ambit Messaging Hub, SunGard has chosen to use processable standards definitions from the SWIFT MyStandards Base Libraries (MBL), instead of creating and maintaining its own proprietary

definitions. Andrew Owens, R&D Director, Messaging at SunGard, explains the decision:

"The main advantage for SunGard comes with future standards changes. We will be able to take on changed message formats much more rapidly and deliver these to our customers sooner. And because the definitions are certified by SWIFT, we will not be delivering an interpretation of the standard, but the standard itself to the benefit of our customers."

The MBL is used in two critical areas of Ambit Messaging Hub: it provides definitions of MT messages for internal processing, as well as the source content to generate graphical user interfaces.



Processable Definitions

A modern application, Ambit Messaging Hub takes full advantage of the XML capabilities available in today's technical platforms. Inside Ambit Messaging Hub, all messages, irrespective of their native syntax, are maintained in XML form, which allows powerful standard XML technologies to be used for transformation, enrichment, display, reporting and so on. Messages are converted to their native syntax only when they are delivered to an external system.

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“Maintaining all messages, including MTs, in XML allows us to use standard tooling for MT-MX transformations. The XML tools available today make it easy to visualize, code, test and document transformations, but they depend on both sides of the transformation being XML.”

Kurt Florus, Chief Architect for Messaging at SunGard
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The MBL MT-XML Schema Library provides comprehensive XML definitions for MT messages and guidance on converting between XML and the native MT syntax. Using the MBL allows SunGard to import the definitions used for the internal representation of MTs directly from SWIFT, the source of the standard, which guarantees that the definitions will be of high quality.

A further advantage is that, because the MT-XML Schema Library is updated and released by SWIFT simultaneously with the release of the annual MT standards update, the time between the standard being finalized and SunGard being able to ship definitions to its customers is significantly shortened. This is important because the implementation window for MT standards releases is fixed, and endusers of products like Ambit Messaging Hub benefit from receiving technical definitions as soon as possible to enable the development of integration with backoffice systems.

Graphical User Interface

Ambit Messaging Hub includes a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that allows users to view and work with messages. Ambit Messaging Hub takes a model-driven approach to GUI definition; the product includes tools that can generate the necessary user-interface logic for a message given a formal message definition, such as an XML schema.

In addition to the MT-XML Schema Library, which defines MTs, the MBL also includes enriched schemas for ISO 20022 (MX) messages, which extend the standard schemas available from ISO to include full textual names and descriptions for every message element. Both MT and enriched MX schemas can be used as the source for the generation of GUI definitions. Kurt Florus continues: “The enriched MX schemas allow us to generate automatically rich and detailed GUIs for ISO 20022. These message definitions can be large and highly complex; the model-driven approach that the MBL enables, provides very significant productivity advantages over more traditional techniques, which involve manually creating screen definitions from published documentation.”

The Future

The first version of the MBL is already proving the value of processable standards definitions to partners like SunGard. Future releases will build on these capabilities to add more processable content for such common requirements as testing and message validation. Andrew Owens continues: “Further significant savings for SunGard can be achieved by extending the MBL to provide machine-readable cross-field validation rules and smart test messages for MT. This would significantly lower costs of MT standards changes to the point where SunGard could simply run a set of automated tests to check for accuracy and correct implementation. We estimate that extending the MBL in this way would reduce our MT related R&D costs by over 50%.”

Solution Overview

The MyStandards Base Libraries

The machine-readable standards information used by SunGard will be available to SWIFT customers and partners during 2009, following the completion of a pilot programme currently targeted for the third quarter of 2009. It is one component of SWIFT's MyStandards Base Libraries, a coherent set of resources aimed at supporting all phases of standards implementation, from analysis, through to design, build, document and test. The MyStandards Base Libraries includes a machine-readable repository of message meta-data, which can be consumed in a variety of forms.

Conclusion

Adam Moulson, Head of Implementation, SWIFT Standards, concludes, “As an early adopter of the MBL, SunGard has already realised significant benefits. But this is just the start. We look forward to working closely with SunGard and other partners to define the next advance in processable standards from SWIFT, enabling greater accuracy and faster time-to-market for the benefit of our mutual customers.”

About SWIFT

SWIFT is a member-owned cooperative that provides the communications platform, products and services to connect more than 10,800 banking organisations, securities institutions and corporate customers in over 200 countries and territories. SWIFT enables its users to exchange automated, standardised financial information securely and reliably, thereby lowering costs, reducing operational risk and eliminating operational inefficiencies. SWIFT also brings the financial community together to work collaboratively to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest.

For more information, please contact your SWIFT account manager or visit <http://mystandards.swift.com/mystandards-base-libraries>

For more information about SunGard's implementation of the MBL, please contact ambitinfo@sungard.com