Diffuse Final Conference

Convergence of Web Services, Grid Services and the Semantic Web for delivering e-Services?

A conference organized by the IST Diffuse Project and hosted by the European Commission

12th December 2002, Centre Borschette, Brussels

Opening Keynote Address by Commissioner Erkki Liikanen, European Commission

http://www.diffuse.org/event3.html

The Internet is for everyone. And the Internet does not stand still. Web Services, Grid Services and the Semantic Web are three strands of development today that promise a new era of the Internet. But there is no certainty that promising technologies will deliver on their promises. How should "success" be defined? Why is it important that certain technologies need to succeed? Who make the decisions? As technologies become interwoven with the fabrics and functions of society, those technologies with transformative potentials raise profound issues in many different contexts and spheres.

Objectives
The conference will review, explore and discuss the strategic issues concerning and surrounding the three interrelated technologies of Web Services, Grid Services and the Semantic Web from a broad perspective, with the following specific aims:
- Provide a strategic overview of the current status of the three technologies
- Explore the relationships between these technologies in particular regarding
    innovation aspects, knowledge aspects, enterprise aspects, and economic aspects
- Examine current initiatives in harmonization and spotlight the issues surrounding interoperability in the widest context, including
    role of open source software, harmonization work needed, value propositions of interoperability, convergence in practice, and control & management issues
- Identify and discuss the critical points to facilitate further development especially in Europe, realistic targets and milestones, and what strategic measures and actions are needed from the stakeholders

Speakers
In addition to the Commissioner, keynotes from **Carl Kesselman** (a Founder of the Grid), **Bruce Perens** (Primary Author of the Open Source Definition) & **Guus Schreiber** (Co-Chair, W3C Web Ontology WG) Senior speakers from ABN AMRO Trust, BEA, Berkom, IBM, Sun, TIEKE and Universities of Heidelberg & Toronto; Chair: Man-Sze Li, Diffuse Project

Target Audiences
Research communities – Information service developers and providers - ICT providers - Business representatives and entities - Consumer interest groups - Public sector organizations and NGOs - Investors and financial institutions - Anyone who is interested in the impact of the latest IT developments

Participation in the conference is free of charge upon prior registration at the conference website.

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