VCoI Call Notes

*7 June 2021*

# Attendees

* Mike
* Claude
* Rob

**Apologies:** Bobbin

# Agenda

* Finish the summary document
	+ Detail

# Meeting Notes

## Getting from Here to There

First thing: get the slide deck complete

 - a detailed write-up can follow later

Get feedback – get feedback from various groups

For example if we found they would not use it we would not have a motive to develop those parts further.

So far we have used that feedback to keep the thing moving along.

Main feedback so far is from

* GovDTF
* FDTF
* Blockchain PSIG

Potentially:

* AI PTF
	+ Where there is also the Nick thing

### Nick Stavros Wiki Initiatives

The wiki pages (per Nick) are potentially one part of the output of the process and tools we are describing.

## Presentation

Starting point: what is our understanding of the assistance and deliverables needed by the other groups to function:

* What is the pain point that we propose to relieve

Need buy-in on whether that is the problem as these groups see it.

OMG: 250th spec over a 32-year period.

In which, everyone is using various terms to refer to various concepts, with much overlap between concepts and between terminology (i.e. different terms used by different people to refer to the same concept)

Resolving that chaos: a model and a language of vocabularies.

Establishing common practices to propose t all the groups. So when they refer to a concept or define a term they do so consistently and such that anyone else can find, in a common place, the common terms and concepts used across the OMG.

That is:

If we have an understanding of this being the need, we can talk to people on how we are approaching this, starting with the metamodel for vocabulary.

Introduction leads to the conceptual model of Context/Concept/Term

Before we determine how we would store the vocabulary and whether one store or several, the mechanisms for organization of that information.

So we have 2 audiences to convince

* The OMG as a whole
* Individual TF and SIG leaders

The genesis (anecdotal) – we started with the specific request from GovDTF to FDTF needing an overall definition for each of a set of financial terms. FDTF pushed back stating that use of terms is highly contextual. So we started this group.

From that history:

(add History to the slides)

Not only did GovDTF want to help US Government etc with this issue, we identified this as a common problem with the OGM groups.

Example: what we learned about the term 'metadata' when we analyzed those initial GovDTF terms.

At this point we recognized the need for something larger across the OMG.

Things we found:

* Vocabulary overlap
	+ In OMG Specs
	+ In TFs etc.
* The need for Context v Term
* The need to define Concept specifically
* The need for a thing that links these

The pain point – is the lede on this (what Lars needed done)

The use by TFs in developing RFIs and RFPs, to have the references readily available so each RFx did not need to re-create the terminology.

On this: we noted this in an early PoC of this WG, on Blockchain PSIG

 - this is the one where MB collected some definitions and references, found what stuff to I needed to retain that was not retained in the RFx itself (e.g. term origins, adaptations)

So we have a nice 2-pronged back story:

* The initial requirement and subsequent SIG needs
* The broader OMG ecosystem requirements

Recall that the initial GovTF requirement was for an outward-facing delivery: definition is that could be presented to outside people as being an OMG definition (qualified as to context).

From this we also justify how we are not coming up with a full-blown solution right away. WGs take time to achive their deliverables, while people appreciate updats to status during the time they are working on their deliverables.

Interesting stuff:

Context based in TFs and SIGs etc.: give a 'good enough' system for them to support their work. This is not the same as coming up with a Standard Vocabulary that is useful for everything.

Make this an OMG argument to support TFs and help SMEs who are working with TFs.

Important verbs:

* Support
* Facilitate

Not: dictate

State Objectives:

* What the objective
* What the objective is not

Potential objectives detail:

* Exposing things
	+ They have a concept, a term; expose this to the OMG
	+ People then know elsewhere in the OMG when there is a new meaning of a given word e.g. 'Activity' in some new context
	+ E.g. Occurrences in one standard, versus 'Event' in BPMN, expressing the same concept as different words in those distinct contexts.

Also: Where someone in some TF wants to use a given term for a given concept, others may want to be able to push pack and note the potential inconvenience or inappropriateness of a chosen word, before it is too late.

This adds to the objectives.

The object is not to dictate what terms people use.

Objective: make it possible for people to declare terms v concepts they use so others can use or be aware.

Then on the machinery: provide mechanisms for people to consume, ingest, re-use etc. the vocabularies from other TFs.

We think: this could facilitate a conversation among TFs that might lead to more standardization in certain areas and concepts.

Avoid the perception o dictating. Especially in the vocabulary itself.

Recall: VCoI does NO vocabulary itself for people's use

Might even need common meanings across all Platform TFs.

On Domain side: that would never be a requirement or expectation; they each have their own vocabulary, by definition.

Example: Healthcare 'Clinical Path' is not really a 'Process' but something more.

There is no reason for this to be considered right or wrong in any other group.

What we do want: some mechanism where someone can:

* Find the term
* Find what it means
* Understand the context in which it its defined
* Be aware of its existence so others may choose to use, specialize, imitate or ignore that specialist

Of the 2 audiences, this feeds into the OMG-wide audience. Keyword: reuse, awareness.

Key thing that our 'Contextual calculus' is key to that usage.

Context is critical

Start: can be a word

Better: can be a formal reference (URI) e.g. hom page of that TF's Wiki)

Best: the ontological representation of that which makes up Context (Ontology (2) in our two ontologies note)

 - that is the one this WG maintained

 - doesn't exist yet

 - describe and commit to what it will be.

## Taxonomies

Incidental 'PoC' from AI

(see slide)

### Facets

2 possible meanings of Facet:

* The kinds of organizing principle in the broader notion of Taxonomy
* Classification facets in a Generalization taxonomy

So we have 2 concepts in play here.

e.g.

How we gather information from SMEs:

Start: indented spreadsheet

Next: load into viz tool (Sharepoint?)

In which:

Level 1 of the SME gathering is the Facet

Level 2: we focus in on the Generalization facet

Statement: Facets are all related to the domain of discourse but are not all hierarchical (or not all Generalization-hierarchical)

e.g. in oil. Can then do a hierarchical taxonomy within each of the original facets.

Can then take each notion and tag with 1 or more tags from one or more facets.

e.g. Jurassic period (a time facet); Saudi Arabia (a geographical)

### Terminology:

* Facet 1: Viewpoint facet (different taxonomic organizing principles)
* Facet 2: Classification Facet (different generalization based classification)

These both relate to how people classify information in order to store and retrieve it more reliably.

Outcome: Improving both precision and recall.

Compared t something with no organizing principles (different taxons or other facets)

### Outcomes

On this: some of adds to our theory base

Some of it goes into the History piece

## Slides

Then stuff in Slide 9 feeds into the way have broken down the things:

* Terms and Definition
* Acronyms
* References

Then we can show some of the examples from the PoCs

 - as illustration for that part

### Ordering:

Maybe do the outputs part next

THEN

Show the internal thingumyjig that supports that

e.g. MVF and / or SKOS, SBVR etc. to mechanize that

THEN

We identify the metamodel needs to support that

 - include how to use parts of e.g. MVF (which one is Word, which one is Concept). Same for SKOS

These are our 2 ongoing deliverables:

* The metamodel / machinery / tooling / advice etc.
* The annotation wish list

THEN

2 ontology needs

* Ontology (1): for the Domain
	+ We provide guidelines only, the TF maintains it
* Ontology (2) for Context and for References
	+ We do that

THEN

Some refined output from these:

Here is where we loop back to Concept / Context etc.

 - need to define the ontology for Context related concepts

THEN

Round it all up with the OMG-wide proposition

Define what this WG's 'Deliverables' might actually be

### Additional material

Also:

How to consider existing standards (both OMG internal and external) to comply with, in order to facilitate the ingestion of information

e.g. must it comply with API4KP (from Ontology PSIG)

e.g. mechanisms for capture / extract in SKOS or OWL

(the LHS of the main graphical slide)

That is we are not about to provide any new representation mechanism for representing OMG vocabularies but instead:

Our remit is to hep you comply with established OMG and non-OMG standards to manage ontology and vocabulary.

(e.g. also ISO 1087 vocabulary - and thereby also SBVR)

## Outcome

Hopefully this should start a discussion and not lead to the breakout of an argument.

## Next Meeting

OMG QM next week; post-OMG Hiatus the week after.

Next call 28 June