New WP organisation (updated)

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Introduction:

The STA committee has organised its work around 5 main Working Parties, namely the

◊ NewsCodes WP (former News Metadata)

◊ News Management WP

◊ NewsML Support WP

◊ NITF maintenance WP

◊ Specialised Content WP.

Under each of the Working Parties we find Working Groups, ad hoc groups or task forces in charge of very specific subjects with—in theory—a shorter life time.

While scrutinising the existing IPTC standards as a first step of the "Roadmap 2005" effort their high interdependencies were obvious and this was expressed by the "Tower of Standards" view introduced in May 2004 and by the Global Metadata Framework initiative.

As a result Working Groups (e.g. EventsML) are considering adopting components which are common to several standards thus making a standard a composition of specific and common components.

In parallel, it is recognised that within the NewsML Support WP, and to finalise NewsML2 several different issues are discussed which are not specific to a standard for General News purpose but are more structure oriented with definition of common rules to be applied on all IPTC Standards.

In October 2004 it was proposed to the STA chair to reconsider the committee's working structure to provide a more effective way to achieve the goals of the IPTC Roadmap 2005 and to obtain a much better result regarding any future release of a new IPTC standard.

After long and exciting discussions, exchange of ideas, and conference calls, this document is circulated to provide a guideline and a proposal for a new organisation for the STA Committee and its Working Parties.

Comments:

In this effort, we have two separate issues that have to be agreed upon by different instances:

- The technical issues which are behind the technical work of creating the tools, the methods in the standards generation process; these issues are to be managed by the STA Committee;

- The communication and branding issues that have to be managed by the MAN and the PR Committees.

In conclusion all given names within the document could be modified at a validation stage and the NewsML2 branding and concept will be adapted if necessary.

1 Goal and Solution

The **Goal** is:

- to simplify the understanding and implementation of IPTC standards and to facilitate wider adoption
- to give IPTC Standards a common base with a family style
- to shorten the overall standard development cycle
- to ease and improve the support and management of standards
- to make sure that all IPTC standards share as much components as possible

The **proposed Solution** is to develop a generic model (abstract notions specifying the Architecture behind IPTC Standards) used as a **master plan** for all IPTC work and to define and manage **common components** used whenever possible by all IPTC standards.

Then each specialised IPTC standards will be created by specialising this generic model plus the inclusion of specialised extensions and use of the common components.

2 Areas of work

2.1 The generic model for "News"

The work of the IPTC should be based on a generic understanding and model of news – in a broad sense.

While discussing the structures of our standards and how to reconcile them in a way to fit into a "Tower of Standards" architecture our model evolved to:

		Layer/Tier	Description	Technical term	Various scopes of „something newsworthy"				
					General news	Event	Sports Event	Program Listings	e t c
Level of abstraction	Scope of the IPTC work	Exchange	Is about the (B2B) exchange of managed content	Exchange Envelope					
		Management	Is about managing content	Item	Item of type "NewsML"	Item of type "EventsML"	Item of type "SportsML"	Item of type "Program GuideML"	
		Content Metadata	Is about metadata about the content	Metadata added to the Item	Set of metadata for "NewsML"	Set of metadata for "EventsML"	Set of metadata for "SportsML"	Set of metadata for "Pr.Gd.ML"	
		Content	Is about the „Real World" – uses free and structured forms of expression.	Content	e.g Car crash: On-scene report as text, photo, video	Concert: Formal write up: Where, when, who performs	Football game: Formal write-up: score, players….	(List of) Programs on radio or TV	
		„Real World"	The world as it is – as item or as event	Real world item or event					

The basic concepts of this model are:

- It has five layers (or tiers) representing different levels of abstraction.
  Any kind of news is representing the world on a first level of abstraction, this level and additional three layers on top of this one pertain to the scope of work of the IPTC.

- "News" is understood in a broad sense. Not only "traditional" journalistic types of news, like text, photo or video are covered, but also more formalised types like a structured set of information about events, sports-events, radio & TV programs, financial market data …

- All the IPTC standards (the one in the area with the bold blue boarder) are at the same level of architecture; they are only different in the ways to approach the representation of the "Real World" item or event for a specific communication angle.

2.2 The structure of work

The aim is to structure the work at IPTC in conformance with this generic model of news.
The proposal is to use the generic model and to apply an overlay to it (area with the bold blue boarder).

This area is divided into various regions identifying the scope of work of various working parties and working groups while a few areas of work covering the whole scope of the IPTC can be perceived like another overlay in a different layer.

This is shown in the table below, (see also the Legend):

		Tier/Layer	Description	Technical term	Various scopes of „something newsworthy"				e t c
					NewsML	EventsML	SportsML	Program GuideML	
Level of abstraction	Scope of the Standards Committee	Exchange	Is about the (B2B) exchange of managed content	Exchange Envelope					
		Management	Is about managing content	Item	Management / Item Basics	Management / Item Basics	Management / Item Basics	Management / Item Basics	
		Content Metadata	Is about metadata about the content		Selected Common Components / Specialised Components	Selected Common Components / Specialised Components	Selected Common Components / Specialised Components	Selected Common Components / Specialised Components	
		Content	Is about the „Real World" – uses free and structured forms of expression.	Content	General news specific content markup	Events specific content markup	Sports data specific content markup	Radio/TV program specific content markup	
		„Real World"	The world as it is – as item or as event	Real world item or event					

Legend for colours used in the cells above		
Colour	= Scope of … WP/WG	Scope of the
(cyan)	Generic News Std Structure WG	Architecture WP
(green)	Generic Item Management WG	
(pink)	Common Components Working Group of the Architecture Working Party	
(orange)	One of the specific "…ML"-Working Groups of the Content Working Party	Content WP

In doing so we have identified the following **areas of work**:

The **Generic News Standard Architecture** to study, define and propose the construction rules and concepts behind all standards. Up to now it was identified as the Framework behind the new IPTC Standards. These are the basic principles with a lot of abstract notions, conventions, structures,

rules and definitions. (We should use the object-oriented programming concepts and vocabulary)
It seems that the initial work load is high but also that the maintenance and follow up could be easy, at least for one generation of standards.

The identification, development, maintenance and support of **Common Components.** Not all components (or modules) are to be classified as being Common. The requirements and specifications for any new component should be defined by the respective (Specialised) Content WGs according to their needs. A specific ad hoc group should, after a pre-study decide either to include it in the Common Components list or, if too specific, assign it to local management at the (Specialised) Content WGs level. It is an ongoing effort during a standard's life time.
This for example would include Person-component(s) or Location-component(s).

The **Generic Item Management** is the transposition of the existing work done by the News Management WP, including processing rules. Its scope is widened to **any item**.
After an initial heavy involvement on the specification and development it seems that because of implied complexity, the maintenance and support work load could be relatively high.

The **General News Content** is in fact covering all issues regarding the general news domain as undertaken today within NewsML. In fact it could be defined as one of the Content standards for free format journalistic information.

The **Specialised Content standards** are today including EventsML, SportsML, ProgramGuideML, WeatherML standards. They should continue their respective work within the new IPTC framework with a focus on structured information.

The provision of a Global Framework for Metadata comprises how to express, refer to, describe, maintain, extend… controlled and uncontrolled vocabularies used by **any of the IPTC standards**. This is the task of the **Global Metadata Framework** (GMF) working group.
It seems that the initial work load is high but also that the maintenance and follow up could be easy, at least for one generation of standards.

The **News Codes** as a standard set of metadata values for controlled vocabulary – the metadata can be used by **any of the IPTC standards**.

The maintenance of standards not to be aligned with the Generic News Standards Architecture:
- The maintenance of the **NITF** standard.
- The maintenance of the **NewsML1** standard.

The study and recommendation for an **XML Schema style** to be used in common for all IPTC standards. A specific Task Force was formed in October 2004 and its mission is to come with recommendations or alternate options by the Spring 2005 meeting.
It seems that the initial work load is high but also that the maintenance and follow up could be easy, at least for one generation of standards.

3   Proposal for a New WP Organisation

The "design rule" for the new organisation is to have three areas or "domains" of work:
- Architectural domain: the result of this work is an abstract/generic framework to be implemented by specific standards; no specific standard is specified or targeted by any group of this domain;
- Content focused domain: the scope of any working group of this domain is a specific IPTC standard;
- Specialised groups: they focus on areas not covered by one of the domains described above.

First the "architectural domain":

At the STA Committee level, most of the work of the current "NewsML Support Working Party" – which is to develop NewsML version 2 – is transferred into a new **Architecture Working Party** and reorganised.

Its mission is to take into account all common architectural issues of the "new generation" of IPTC standards.

It will be organised in Working Groups with the following initial composition:

- The **Generic News Standards Structure WG** dealing with an abstract news model customisable to the needs of the IPTC standards;

- The **Generic Item Management WG** formed by the transfer of the current News Management WP;

- The **Common Components WG** to cover all related issues and to include an Ad hoc group to deal with reviewing submissions from the Content Working Groups;

- The **Global Metadata Framework WG** with its same existing mission statement;

Next the "content focused domain":

The **Specialised Content Working Party** will be renamed to **Content Working Party** and will maintain its existing form, with the same mission and charter but we would include the **NewsML 2 WG** as a new working group with the mission to cover all content of the type "General journalistic news".

The Content WP responsibilities are increased as it is required to provide full comprehensive specifications/requirements to the Common Components WG and take into account the components and related processing and holding structures as made available within the set of Common Components.

Next the "specialised groups":

The **NewsCodes** and **NITF maintenance Working Parties** are continued in their existing form, with the same mission and charter.

A **NewsML 1 Maintenance WP** will be established with the mission to maintain NewsML 1 as required.
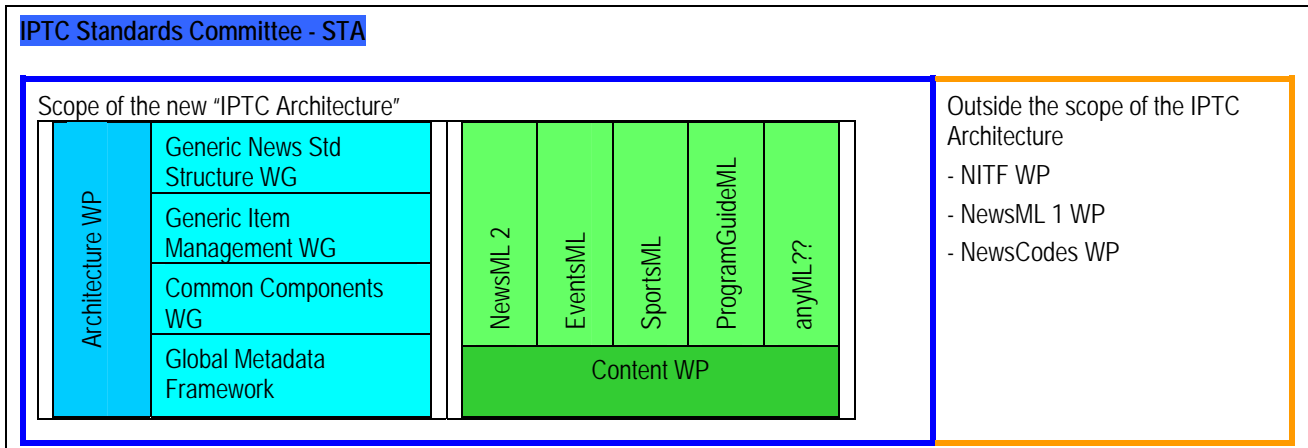
As the **XML Schema style** task force has a very limited life time with recommendations to be applied to all Standards, it will remain directly under the STA Committee.

Finally the Committee itself:

The **STA Committee** will then co-ordinate the work of the NewsCodes WP, NITF maintenance WP, NewsML 1 maintenance WP, (Specialised) Content WP and Architecture WP plus, on a temporary basis, the XML Schema Style task force.

This new structured is shown in the figure below:

4   E-Communication Structure

For the electronic communication of these Working Parties and Working Groups these facilities will be set up:

WP/WG	For internal use only	For public communication	= already existing facility
Architecture WP		Yahoo: iptc-architecture	
GNStdStruct WG	Yahoo: iptc-gnss-dev	Yahoo: iptc-architecture	
GItemMngmt WG	Yahoo: iptc-gim-dev	Yahoo: iptc-architecture	
Comm.Comp.WG	Yahoo: iptc-cc-dev	Yahoo: iptc-architecture	
Gl.MetadataF.WG	Yahoo: iptc-gmf-dev	Yahoo: iptc-metadata	Yahoo: iptc-metadata
Content WP			
NewsML2 WG	Yahoo: iptc-newsml2-dev	Web: www.newsml.org Yahoo: newsml2	Web: www.newsml.org
EventsML WG	Yahoo:iptc-eventsml-dev	Web: www.eventsml.org Yahaoo: eventsml	Web: www.eventsml.org Yahaoo: eventsml
SportsML WG		Web: www.sportsml.org Yahoo: sportsml	Web: www.sportsml.org Yahoo: sportsml
PgmGdeML WG		Web: www.programguideml.org Yahoo: programguideml	Web: www.programguideml.org Yahoo: programguideml
NewsCodes WP		Web: www.newscodes.org Yahoo: newscodes	Web: www.newscodes.org Yahoo: newscodes
NITF WP		Web: www.nitf.org Yahoo: nitf	Web: www.nitf.org Yahoo: nitf
NewsML1 WP		Web: www.newsml.org Yahoo: newsml	Web: www.newsml.org Yahoo: newsml

5   Glossary

Component: a component is a specific part of an overall structure used within the exchange of newsworthy information and it is to be specified by the IPTC.

The generic scope of use of such a component is being adopted by any IPTC standard for news exchange on an optional basis; hence these components are attributed as "Common Components" of IPTC standards.

These Components have to be independent from each other to a high extent.

Examples are: Labels, Rights Management, Management and Identification.

An **item** is a managed object.

An **atomic-item** is the smallest unit of management for all IPTC compatible systems.

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