

GovTalk

An XML framework for
electronic government

April 2000



GovTalk

Enabling software to speak the language of government

What is GovTalk?

- An XML framework for joined-up government and better electronic services
- An approach which simplifies the technical challenges of exchanging information, regardless of the underlying technology
- An opportunity to accelerate modernising government initiatives

... and just what is XML?

- The eXtensible Markup Language (XML) is the universal, open standards language for data on the Web



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GovTalk Objectives

- To provide the organisation and co-ordination for implementing the UK Government Interoperability Framework (UK GIF)
- To gain cross-industry agreement on government specific XML schema (and default XSL layouts)
- To provide a repository of UK specific XML schema
- To establish toolkits for jumpstarting projects
- To provide a source of best practice for projects across UK government

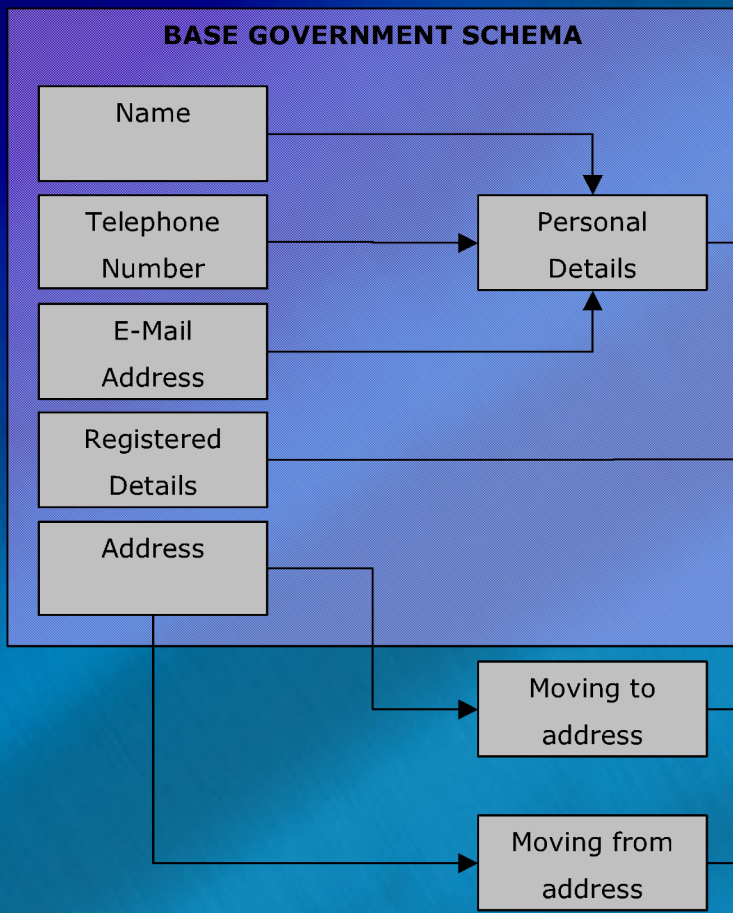


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GovTalk and interoperability in the UK

■ GovTalk base schema



XML Transform

Dept 1



XML Transform

Dept 2



XML Transform

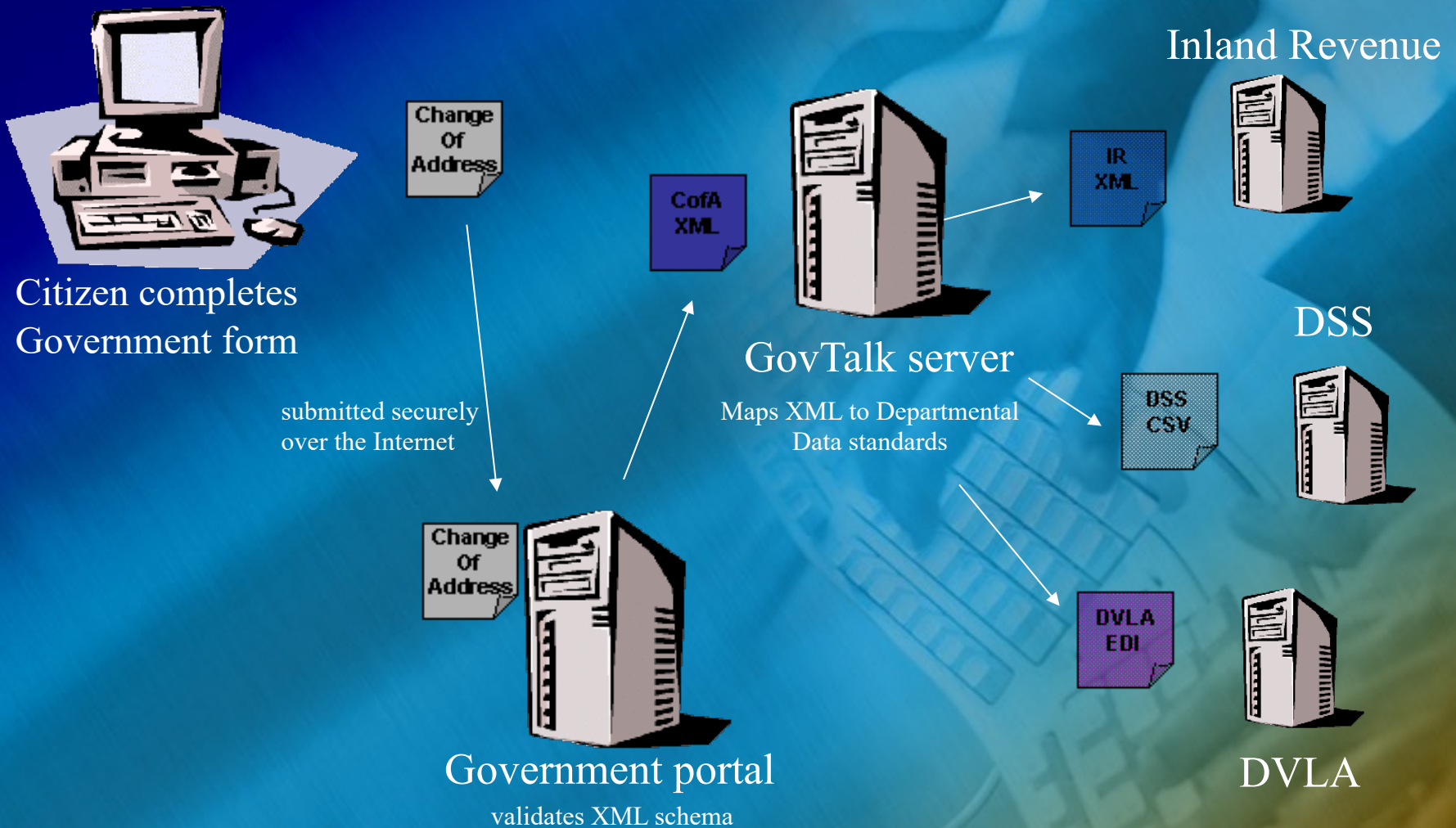
Dept 3



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GovTalk in action



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Example: Self-describing data

Data stream in a typical interface...

“ABC47-Z”, “100”, “STL”, “C”, “3”, “28”

Same data stream in XML...

<INVENTORY>

<PART_NUM>ABC47-Z</PART_NUM>

<QUANTITY>100</QUANTITY>

<WAREHOUSE>STL</WAREHOUSE>

<ZONE>C</ZONE>

<AISLE>3</AISLE>

<BIN>28</BIN>

</INVENTORY>



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```
File Edit Format Help
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<AUCTIONBLOCK>

  <ITEM>
    <TITLE>Vase and Stones</TITLE>
    <ARTIST>Linda Mann</ARTIST>
    <DIMENSIONS>20x30 inches</DIMENSIONS>
    <MATERIALS>Oil</MATERIALS>
    <YEAR>1996</YEAR>
    <DESCRIPTION>Still Life</DESCRIPTION>
    <PREVIEW-SMALL src="burl-s.jpg" width="300"
height="194" alt="Vase and Stones"/>
    <BIDS>
      <BID>
        <PRICE>6000</PRICE>
        <TIME>3:02:22 PM</TIME>
        <BIDDER>Chris</BIDDER>
        <TIMESTAMP>1307</TIMESTAMP>
      </BID>
      <BID>
        <PRICE>5700</PRICE>
        <TIME>2:58:42 PM</TIME>
        <BIDDER>John</BIDDER>
        <TIMESTAMP>1315</TIMESTAMP>
      </BID>
      <BID>
        <PRICE>5600</PRICE>
        <TIME>2:54:32 PM</TIME>
        <BIDDER>Andrew</BIDDER>
        <TIMESTAMP>1308</TIMESTAMP>
      </BID>
      <BID>
        <PRICE>5500</PRICE>
        <TIME>2:48:08 PM</TIME>
        <BIDDER>Chris</BIDDER>
        <TIMESTAMP>1307</TIMESTAMP>
      </BID>
      <BID>
        <PRICE>5000</PRICE>
        <TIME>2:47:58 PM</TIME>
        <BIDDER>opening price</BIDDER>
        <TIMESTAMP>1298</TIMESTAMP>
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  </ITEM>
</AUCTIONBLOCK>
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table.xsl

Price	Time	Bidder
\$6000	3:02:22 PM	Chris
\$5700	2:58:42 PM	John
\$5600	2:54:32 PM	Andrew
\$5500	2:48:08 PM	Chris
\$5000	2:47:58 PM	opening price

bar.xsl

Vase and Stones by Linda Mann		
Chris (3:02 PM)		\$6000
John (2:58 PM)	\$5700	
Andrew (2:54 PM)	\$5600	
Chris (2:48 PM)	\$5500	
	\$5000 opening price (2:47 PM)	

art.xsl

Vase and Stones
Linda Mann

Size: 20x30 inches Oil, 1996

High bid: \$5700 (John)
Opening bid: \$5000

Copyright © 1997 Linda Mann, all rights reserved.
Linda Mann Art Gallery

Different styles enable tailored views into the same underlying data



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```
File Edit Format Help
auction.xml - Notepad
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<AUCTIONBLOCK>

  <ITEM>
    <TITLE>Vase and Stones</TITLE>
    <ARTIST>Linda Mann</ARTIST>
    <DIMENSIONS>20x30 inches</DIMENSIONS>
    <MATERIALS>oil</MATERIALS>
    <YEAR>1996</YEAR>
    <DESCRIPTION>Still Life</DESCRIPTION>
    <PREVIEW-SMALL src="burl-s.jpg" width="300"
height="194" alt="Vase and Stones"/>
    <BIDS>
      <BID>
        <PRICE>6000</PRICE>
        <TIME>3:02:22 PM</TIME>
        <BIDDER>Chris</BIDDER>
        <TIMESTAMP>1307</TIMESTAMP>
      </BID>
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        <PRICE>5700</PRICE>
        <TIME>2:58:42 PM</TIME>
        <BIDDER>John</BIDDER>
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        <TIMESTAMP>1307</TIMESTAMP>
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        <PRICE>5000</PRICE>
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        <BIDDER>opening price</BIDDER>
        <TIMESTAMP>1298</TIMESTAMP>
      </BID>
    </BIDS>
  </ITEM>
</AUCTIONBLOCK>
```

ie5.xsl
ie4.xsl
nav3.xsl



nokia.xsl
sony.xsl



edi_x.xsl
sap_y.xsl
flat_z.xsl



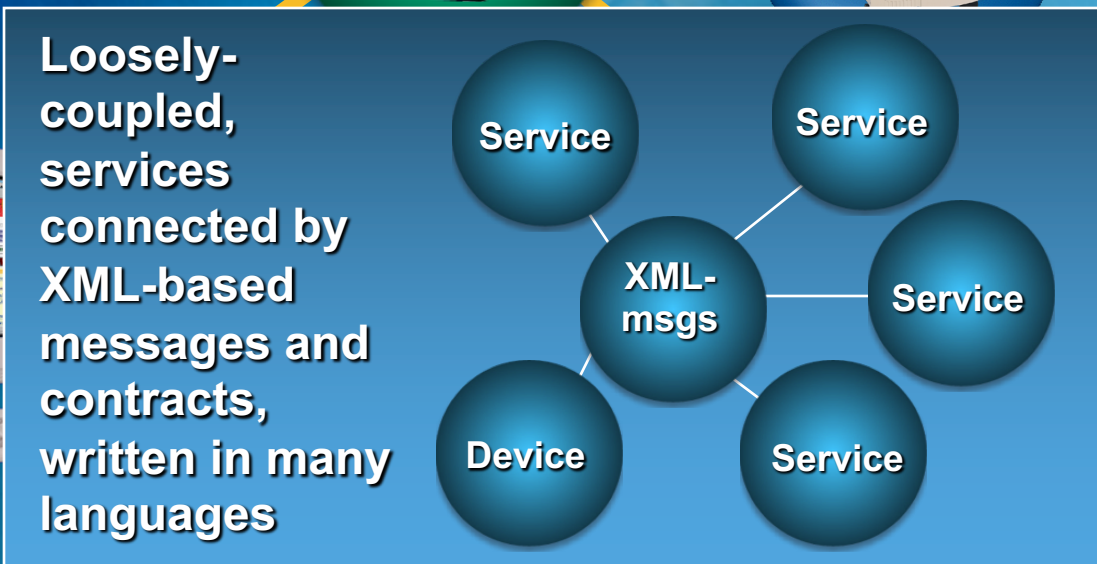
Different styles enable
tailored views dependent
upon device



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Web Services Architecture



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Current developments

- GovTalk underpins the Government Interoperability Framework (GIF)
- The UK based GovTalk group comprises
 - Industry partners
 - Lead departments
 - Cabinet Office (CITU) lead
- Govtalk.gov.uk web site being established to:
 - Host base GovTalk schema
 - Develop best practice
 - Provide early adopters toolkit for Government



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