The HKSARG Interoperability Framework
- An Enabler for Joined-up E-government Services

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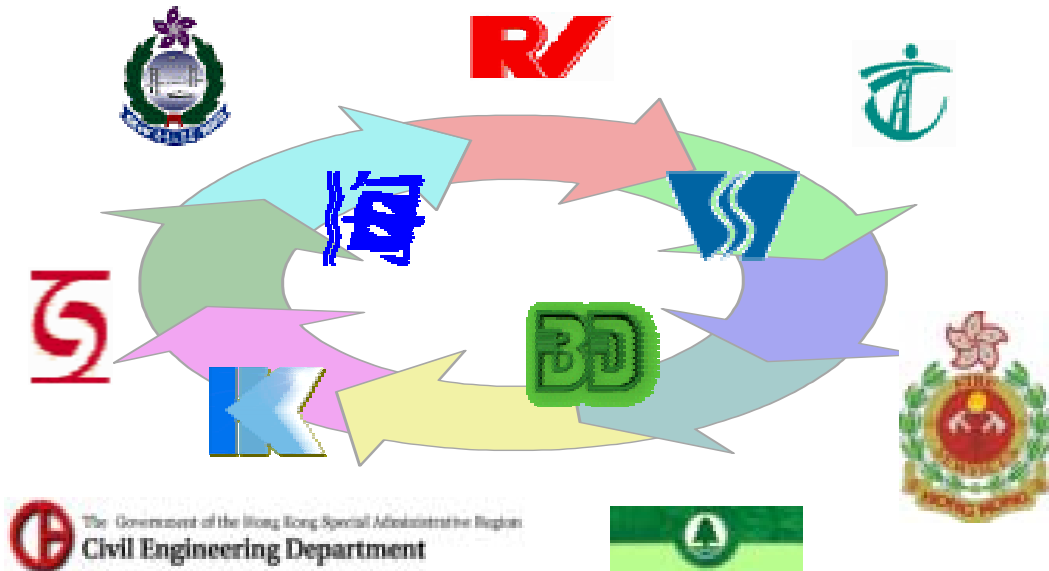
**Legislative Council Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting**

9 December 2002

Agenda

r Overview of the Interoperability Framework (IF)

r Benefits of the IF

r Establishment and management of the IF

r Challenges of implementing joined-up services

r Handling the challenges

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How will an IF help ?

What is the IF ?

- r Technical specifications and data specifications for use at the interface between interacting applications

- r Adoption of eXtensible Markup Language (XML) for information exchange

- r Defines the way for B/Ds to do e-business

- r No binding on interactions among members of the public
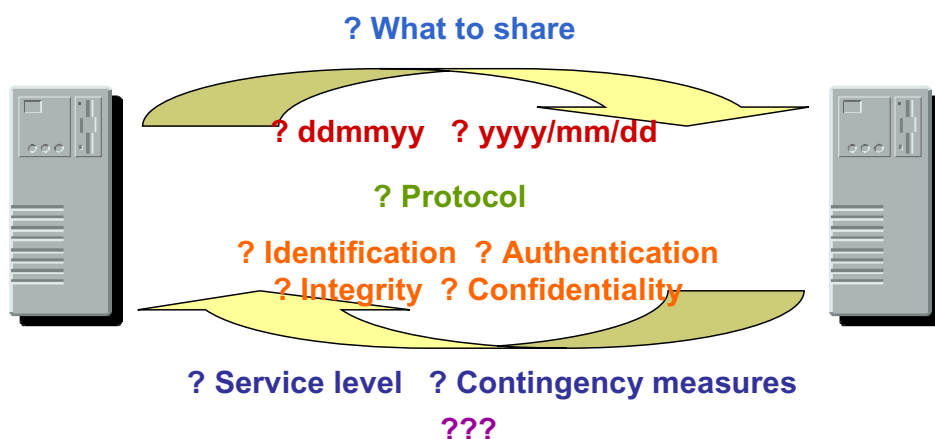
Similar initiatives in other economies

r UK's e-GIF (first issued in October 2000)

r New Zealand's e-GIF (first issued in July 2002)

r Australia issued their draft framework in May 2002

r US CIO Council formed an XML Working Group in 2000
   to develop XML adoption strategies

r US GAO recommended more central co-ordination to
   facilitate the effective use of XML among agencies

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Before two parties can share information
- *in the past, before we have the IF*
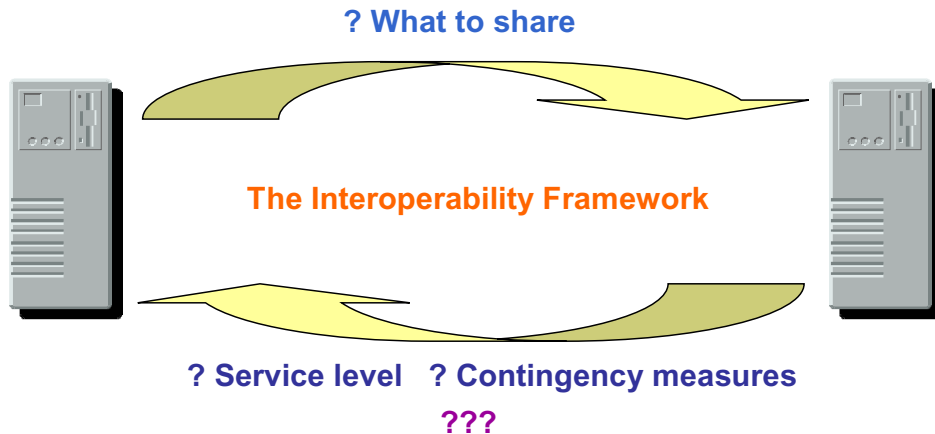
A lot of issues need to be aligned

? What to share

? ddmmyy   ? yyyy/mm/dd

? Protocol

? Identification ? Authentication
? Integrity ? Confidentiality

? Service level   ? Contingency measures
???

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Before two parties can share information
- with the IF

The IF helps to reduce negotiations and alignments

? What to share

The Interoperability Framework

? Service level   ? Contingency measures
???

Benefits the IF can bring

r To E-government

   q help speed up the development of joined-up services

   q help lower the cost of implementing joined-up services

r To the public

   q more efficient services to citizens and businesses

   q help improve our overall competitiveness

r To the IT industry

   q complement e-business standardization initiatives in the private sector
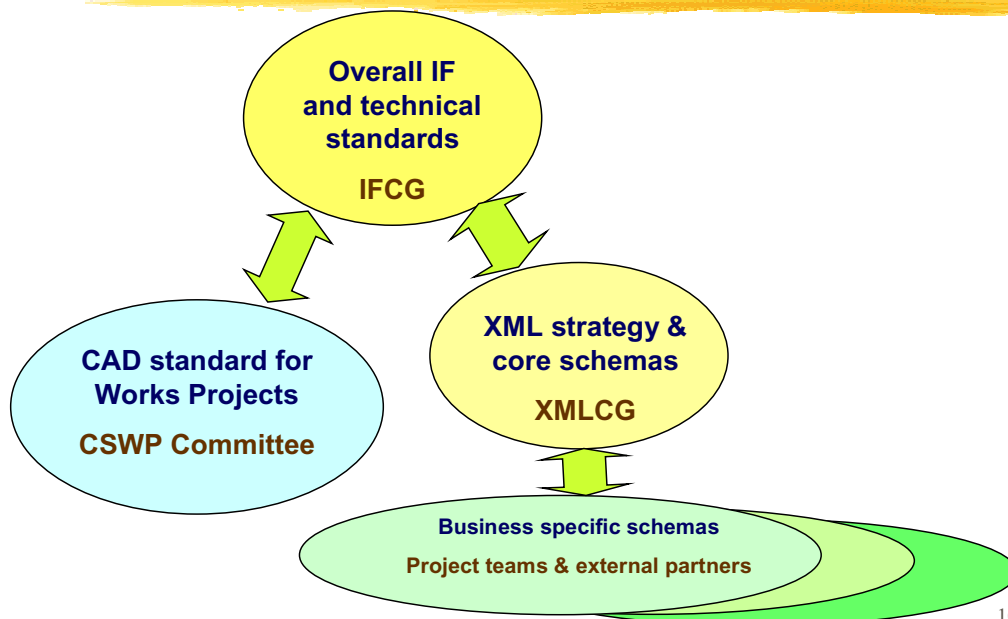
Establishment of the IF

r Consultation undertaken

    q widely consulted B/Ds, the IT industry, and the public

    q briefed the IIAC at various stages

    q various parties indicated strong support

r Promulgation of the IF

    q promulgated to B/Ds in Nov

    q SCIT will issue gazette notices to promulgate additional formats relevant for electronic submissions under the ETO

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Parties managing the IF

Overall IF and technical standards

IFCG

CAD standard for Works Projects

CSWP Committee

XML strategy & core schemas

XMLCG

Business specific schemas

Project teams & external partners

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Maintenance and management of the IF

r Review the IF every 6 to 12 months

r The IF will yield best results only if the stakeholders (B/Ds and the IT industry) use it

r Must be pragmatic & addresses (and balances) the needs of the stakeholders

r Stakeholders have access to the IF documents

r Stakeholders may request changes at any time

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Some challenges of implementing joined-up services

r Business partners have to go through tedious data alignment before they can connect their applications

r Problems : they have

q different business vocabulary

q different data attributes

r Without an agreed convention, such alignment have to be repeated for each joined-up initiative

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Handling these challenges

r   Follow pre-agreed XML schema design guidelines

r   Re-use pre-agreed schemas for common data items

r   Put in place a mechanism for schema maintenance

r   Design project schemas with re-use in mind

r   Share schemas through a registry

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Work plan for 2003

q   Produce XML schema design and
    management guidelines

q   Progressively define core schemas

q   Facilitate schema sharing through a registry

q   Continue to review & update the IF

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Thank You

Please refer to the IF documents at

http://www.itsd.gov.hk/itsd/english/infra/eif.htm

Comments and suggestions are welcome

Please send to :

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