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DoD COI Newsletter

DoD CIO Information Policy & Integration Directorate



Introducing the DoD COI Newsletter!

Announcements

Next COI Forum
- 8 April 2008

Data Sharing/
COI Training
- Executive Overview
April 9 for FO/GO and
civilian equivalents
- Detailed Training May 6
& 7 for Capt-Colonels and
civilian equivalents

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Welcome to the inaugural release of the DoD Community of Interest (COI) newsletter. This is a quarterly release for the burgeoning numbers of COIs across DoD and partner organizations. What is a COI? The DoD Net-Centric Data Strategy of May 2003 defined them as “A collaborative group of users that must exchange information in pursuit of its shared goals, interests, missions, or business processes and therefore must have shared vocabulary for the information it exchanges.” Basically, COIs are groups of individuals who are trying to improve some capabilities but need to understand the information or context of the information to be able to exploit it. COIs represent a forum for warfighters, program managers, system developers and others to work together to implement capabilities the warfighters need. Just as the Internet has created a wealth of never before envisioned capabilities such as posting low gas prices on a map and making travel, hotel and car

arrangements all in one click, COIs have the potential to create a new wealth of capabilities for our warfighters. COIs have the potential to significantly alter our attitudes about information sharing within the DoD—people will begin to question why we are not sharing information rather than asking permission to share information.

You may already be in a COI; you may be thinking of using a COI to help you achieve your mission; or you may not quite know what a COI can do. In any case, this newsletter is intended to help spread the word and help COI participants help each other. This newsletter is your forum. Would you like your COI work to be featured? If so, please contact the COI_HelpDesk@osd.mil to share your story and lessons learned.

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COI Certification & Accreditation Instruction Signed

On November 27th 2007, John Grimes, the DoD Chief Information Officer, signed DoD Instruction 8510.01, which sets forth guidance concerning the DoD Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP). The DoD (CIO) Information Policy and Integration (IP&I) Directorate has developed a draft template to assist in applying the DIACAP to Communities of Interest (COIs) activities and other Enterprise Information Sharing Initiatives that cross organizational boundaries. While the intended final process will be based upon federal certification and accreditation guidelines, the DIACAP is believed to be very close to what is expected to be in the final federal guidance. Therefore piloting cross organizational domain C&A based upon the approved DIACAP process is a valid demonstration of a repeatable process and will confirm the usefulness of the

template. The Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Data Sharing (DS) COI, is now working on its Spiral 2 and Spiral 3 pilot developments. One of the goals of Spiral 2 is to accredit and certify the completed Spiral 1 pilot product and initial Spiral 2 demonstrations, based on a mash-up of Google Maps and real time data collected on ships, to be hosted at a DECC early this spring. A cross organizational C&A is expected to be completed by the end of March and a Spiral 2 demonstration is scheduled for April 7th. Any lessons learned from piloting the C&A process will be used to modify the C&A template and future guidance.

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Quarterly Spotlight COI Maritime Domain Awareness – Data Sharing COI

In February 2006 the Maritime Domain Awareness Data Sharing Community of Interest (MDA DS COI), which involved joint participation from Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Department of Transportation (DOT), was established to address issues related to the sharing of information relevant to MDA. For Spiral 1, the MDA DS COI successfully demonstrated the ability to provide an initial situational awareness of ships in certain geographic regions by making AIS data from multiple AIS aggregators across federal government agencies visible, accessible, and understandable via a common vocabulary, schema, and SOA framework. The MDA DS COI received the 2007 Federal Chief Information Officers (CIO) Council Leadership Awards award at the GSA-sponsored 46th Interagency Resources Management Conference (IRMCO) for demonstrated leadership that successfully met technical, resource, and organizational challenges to

improve maritime situation awareness objectives related to homeland defense and national security.

With the successful completion of Spiral 1, the MDA DS COI began to focus on Spiral 2. For Spiral 2, the COI is focused on developing value added services leveraging the AIS data exposed in Spiral 1. The Data Augmentation Service (DAS) augments the AIS sensor data being published with authoritative data. The Historical Archive Service allows a user to conduct a federated query against multiple AIS archives and returns the data in vessel report format. The Anomaly Detection Service includes providing the AIS data from the MDA DS COI to the NATO BRITE capability which then generates anomalies and publishes them back to the COI. In addition, Spiral 2 extends the capabilities demonstrated in Spiral 1 to new data producers including satellite AIS from TACSAT2 and harbor radar and AIS data from the Sector Command Center – Joint in San Diego as well as data

consumers such as NORTHCOM, the Comprehensive Maritime Awareness (CMA) JCTD, and the Maritime Automatic Super Track Enhanced Reporting (MASTER) JCTD. The MDA DS COI has also been involved in DISA's Early User Testing, JTF-GNO's Information Sharing Operations (ISO) Pilot, and the OSD/NII Enterprise C&A Pilot. The MDA DS COI has already started Spiral 3 which will focus on Advanced Notice of Arrival (ANOA) data and Single Integrated Look Out (SILO) data using an attribute based access control capability to ensure proper information sharing. The MDA DS COI will also be participating in Trident Warrior 08 and CWID 08.

The MDA DS COI Spiral 2 demonstration is on 28 April at DISA Skyline.

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Metadata Registry & Community of Interest Directory – Merged!

As part of its ongoing effort to better integrate the capabilities that DISA provides to its customers, DISA recently integrated the Community of Interest (COI) Directory and the DoD Metadata Registry (MDR). These two capabilities have always been very closely related, and by hosting the COI Directory on the MDR, DISA has enabled the Department to take a huge step forward in increasing the visibility, accessibility, and understandability of COIs.

What is the COI Directory?

The COI Directory was established to provide an authoritative listing of COIs. This listing provides much more information than just a list of COI names – it includes all of the high-level information about a COI. Among other fields, the COI Directory captures every COI's mission, status, sponsoring domain, and Point of Contact information.

What is the DoD Metadata Registry?

The DoD Metadata Registry is the authoritative source for structural metadata in the Department of Defense. DoD Directive 8320.02 mandates the use of the MDR for this purpose, and partially as a result of this, the MDR now has over 8,000 users and 180,000 XML artifacts. The MDR also hosts the DoD Discovery Metadata Specification (DDMS) homepage, which is a DoD standard through which customers can improve the visibility of their data for the purposes of facilitating discovery. The MDR has evolved significantly over the past 10 years, with some of the most exciting functionality to date being fielded as a part of Version 6.0, the latest major release.

Why Combine these Capabilities?

Hosting the MDR and the COI Directory helps tie together a suite of

tools for COI users. Through Single Sign-on, COI participants will be able to access the list of Mission Areas, Domains and COIs, as well as the collaborative workspaces hosted on DKO. They will also be able to upload their work products (structural metadata to the MDR, other content to DKO), and find and leverage the DDMS specification – all from one login. By integrating these capabilities together, DISA has helped reduce the barrier of entry of participating in a COI, and has helped to simplify the process of posting and sharing the work products of a COI. The combined site can be found on the DoD Metadata Registry. A CAC card OR site registration is required. You can find the site by googling DoD Metadata Registry.

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COI Resources on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.dod.mil/cio/coi/>

Coalition Information Sharing at USSTRATCOM

United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) has undertaken a Coalition initiative with the United Kingdom (UK) Ministry of Defence (MOD) that seeks to exchange eXtensible Markup Language (XML) formatted event information between our respective national secret networks via a Web services based Cross Domain Solution (CDS). Working towards a larger vision of Coalition information sharing involving Web services, chat, documents and web browsing, this effort to exchange information between the STRATCOM Knowledge Integration Web (SKIWeb) and an equivalent UK system is the “pathfinder” to achieve the first of these net-centric capabilities.

SKIWeb is an integrated event management and collaboration tool that provides an open forum for any information owner to share important or critical insight immediately. As SKIWeb capability matured and expanded its user base from 60 to over 12,000 users, it was inevitable that Coalition and other external organizations might want to use, acquire or share data with SKIWeb. Therefore, SKIWeb was enabled with SOAP-based Web services to exchange event information in DoD’s Universal Core (UCore) format. A sense of urgency was placed on exchanging event information with our Coalition partners as a result of a UK trip to USSTRATCOM in 2006

when SKIWeb was showcased. Impressed with its rapid community adoption, user capabilities and ease of use, the UK began its own pilot initiative to develop an event management system similar to SKIWeb – called Strategic Knowledge Information Portal (SKIP). Within 6 months, the UK requested a partnership with USSTRATCOM to achieve a cross domain information sharing capability between SKIP and SKIWeb to enable warfighters to collaborate on critical world events.

USSTRATCOM and its partners in the UK and at NSA, DISA, JFCOM and Joint Staff/J6 seek to implement a solution that satisfies the needs of the operational warfighter and opens rich information exchanges via services with our allied partners. Pending approval of the Defense Information Assurance Security Accreditation Working Group (DSAWG), an operational Web services CDS capability, connecting the SIPRNet and UK’s Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) network through DISA’s Globally Reaching Interactive Fully Functional Information Network (GRIFFIN), is planned for implementation at a Defense Enterprise Computing Center (DECC) as early as December 2008.

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COI Toolkit Migrated to DKO

We are pleased to announce the move and redesign of the COI Toolkit. The COI Toolkit is now hosted on DKO and is intended to provide up to date information on the activities of key Communities of Interest. The COI Toolkit includes tools to support collaboration between COIs as well as staff on hand to support the standing up and execution of COIs. Access to DKO is required to view content on the COI Toolkit.

The COI Toolkit include links to policy documents, current and past issues of the COI Newsletter,

The re-designed website is an exciting work in progress and we will constantly be adding new features and content. Please visit the COI Toolkit on Defense On Line. You can find the toolkit by logging into AKO/DKO and searching for COI Toolkit

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