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January 5, 2007

Web Services Specifications: What About ebXML?*How ebXML Compares With Web Services Specifications In Structure And Support*

This is the tenth document in the "Status Of SOA And Web Services Specifications" series.

by [Randy Heffner](#)
with [Gene Leganza](#), Jacqueline Stone

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[When To Use Which Web Services Specifications](#)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Web services adoption continues, but it is taking a long time to work out all of the specifications and standards. Along the way, the industry has created confusion around and between ebXML specifications and the emerging Web services specifications. ebXML is targeted strictly at B2B interactions, and even though ebXML is incorporating some of the Web services specifications, a clear relationship between the two has yet to emerge. According to data from recent Forrester surveys, there is very little vendor or user support for ebXML. This, combined with the continuing confusion, means that most users should avoid ebXML for now — unless they have a targeted reason for using it and good support from their vendors.

LIST OF FIGURES

This report includes the following figures, available in downloadable PowerPoint and/or Excel spreadsheet format.

Figure 1: A Rough Functional Comparison Between ebXML And Web Services Specifications

Figure 2: Vendor And User Support For Key ebXML Specifications

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