



The Banking Industry
Architecture Network (BIAN)

Newsletter

01 // February 09

Dear all,

We are happy to provide you with the first edition of the BIAN Newsletter. Many BIAN activities have progressed since launching the Working Groups in the second half of 2008. The BIAN newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis and will provide details about our organization, the ongoing definition work and implementation, development of our members and much more.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues and associates.

Yours truly,

Oliver Kling
Secretary General of BIAN

1 BIAN Board and Organization

New Chair and Vice Chair
Bob Stutz, SAP and Dr. Thomas Mangel, Postbank

At the BIAN Board Meeting on February 6, the Board elected Bob Stutz, Corporate Officer and Member of the Executive Counsel of SAP as the new Chairman of the BIAN Board.

We are happy to inform that Dr. Thomas Mangel from Postbank has been elected as the new Vice Chair of the Board, following Dr. Alewyn Burger from Standard Bank South Africa.

The BIAN Board and all BIAN Members thank Johan Kestens for his great leadership and highly valuable contribution. A great thanks to Dr. Alewyn Burger who was a committed sponsor since the very first steps of BIAN and its predecessor the IVN for Banks.

Board Decisions

1. Communication plan and procedure- To increase BIAN's market reach the board agreed on the pragmatic step to publish BIAN deliverables to the market. The starting point for the communication is an introduction to BIAN, its thinking, ideas and concept. The document is planned to be available in April. After setting the stage with this introductory publication we will follow up with first versions of the BIAN Service Landscape and Service Definitions.

2. Collaboration Infrastructure – The board decided about the usage and implementation of the BIAN collaboration infrastructure. The secretariat has started working on the basic setup including individual spaces for working groups as well as collaborative tools like calendars, messaging and blogging.

3. Membership - A priority is to increase the number of BIAN members. The board decided on a marketing plan to spread the news with senior managers of banks and IT vendors.

Six new Members since our Foundation

BIAN has 23 members of the finance and banking industry with an international orientation. In April 2008, 17 companies founded the BIAN association. Since that time BIAN has been delighted to welcome six new members who have their focus on Consultancy of financial services.

zeb/rolfes.schierenbeck.associates became a Member of BIAN after its foundation in April 2008. zeb provides competent advice on strategy, sales, organization and corporate management. CGI and innobis AG joined BIAN in July 2008. CGI provides for over 30 years high quality services to a huge customer range. innobis AG has its core competences in the consulting of SAP solutions in banking and financial services, especially in the loans and credit area. IKOR Financials GmbH and FERNBACH Software AG joined our association in July 2008. IKOR is a former member of the IVN for Banks and provides his know – how in supporting finance services in the area of Organisation and Strategy. Fernbach is a global leader in the provision of comprehensive solutions for the finance industry.

Validata Software Ltd was established in 2003 to fulfil a world class quality management and test automation infrastructure that would support the next generation of model-driven test automation methodologies and became a member of BIAN in September 2008.

BIAN currently runs 10 Working Groups, focusing on three main topics:

Architecture – everything BIAN needs to provide a consistent set of semantic Service Definitions (the major goal of BIAN) including a Service Landscape a Meta model and a methodology.

Service Definitions – focused on the four themes: Payments, Business Partner, Lending and Analytics.

Building Blocks – focused on themes such as Service Repository, Architecture Management and a comprehensive overview about all SOA relevant aspects in a Bank.

The Working Groups (involving over 80 participants from 20 companies) are currently finalizing first deliverables.

Already in review:

- The BIAN Service Landscape
- The BIAN Meta Model
- Payment Service Definitions on Level 1
- Business Partner Service Definition on Level 1

Building Block results in review:

- Service Lifecycle Process
- Service Repository Overview

03rd CoreTeam Meeting in London at SunGard

The third CoreTeam Meeting took place on January 29 – 30, 2008 in London when SunGard hosted us at their Canary Wharf offices. This followed the BIAN Architecture Board meeting on January 28.

In total, 42 Members joined the CoreTeam Meeting and discussed in breakout sessions and in plenary the key issues of BIAN and the BIAN Working Groups. C&W and SunGard presented their SOA approach and the way how they applied the findings of BIAN in their company.

Each Newsletter will carry a featured article which will focus on a core topic within the BIAN activities. For this first newsletter we have selected what BIAN means by 'Levels of Detail' within Architecture.

Standardizing Banking – Even if this is done on a semantic level only – it requires considerable work, in-depth knowledge and experience in banking, architecture and modelling. Looking at the huge amount of definitions ahead it is clear that the work must be cut into smaller packages which is what BIAN is doing. Besides the functional / capability oriented cut of the Working Groups (Payments, Business Partner...) the Architecture Committee of BIAN delivered a set of defined level details.

Level 0 – Describes (in one document) a Banking Service Landscape as a hierarchical decomposition on Domain Level

Level 1 – Describes the sub domains in which a Domain is structured based on the description of their capabilities and responsibilities as well as the identification of Services, Use Cases and Business Objects.

Level 2 – Defines the Service Groups and Operations on a semantic level including a business rationale, their message model, their pre- and post conditions and the input and output messages.

Level 3 – Subsequently refines Level 2 including the wire format and data typing.

BIAN is currently working on Level 0 and Level 1 – first Working Groups have started on Level 2 and expect to explore Level 3 in the next months.

The level approach fit neatly to the idea of an iterative proceeding, which is applied overall, where the reach of a level marks an important milestone.

We welcome your comments on our featured article. Please send them to Oliver Kling: oliver.kling@bian.org