



The Banking Industry  
Architecture Network (BIAN)

# Newsletter

02 // May 09

Dear all,

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of the BIAN newsletter. Considerable progress has been made since our first newsletter in February with Working Groups readying first deliverables. Finally we will start publication of BIAN content as we are eager to get feedback from the banking marketplace.

An 'unofficial' kick-off of content was made in interviews with David Vander and Martin Schroter by Martin Whybrow from IBS-Publishing.

Our marketing and communications plan will deliver the formal rollout of BIAN content and insights on a broader basis, including blogs, in the coming weeks. Watch for announcements!

This newsletter reports a significant milestone - our 1st Anniversary. We also preview our upcoming 4th Core Team meeting, the BIAN content that is being published, and a featured article on the BIAN Metamodel.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues and friends in your company or other interested organizations. And stay tuned!

Yours, truly

Oliver Kling  
Secretary General of BIAN

## 1 | 1st Anniversary

On April, 29th 2009 BIAN had its first Anniversary celebrated by a meeting of the Board of Directors and the 1st formal General Assembly of BIAN.

One year after our formation it was time to look back, analyse what has been achieved and what we might have done better, and adopt proceedings to ensure BIAN achieves the status, market presence and usage of content it deserves. The conclusion was that we are doing the right things but that momentum can now be ramped up.

Step by step:

- Bob Stutz reported about BIAN activities in the first year.
- David Vander explained the budget planning and closure of accounts 2008.
- The auditor Rainer Lindner reported the results of the financial audit he completed in April, 2009.
- The General Assembly unanimously accepted the report and accounts for the BIAN operational and financial year 2008.
- Members unanimously accepted the budget for 2009.

We then had a fruitful discussion on BIAN's priority activities for the operational year 2009:

- Member Acquisition - the agreed vision of BIAN requires support by a larger community.
- Communication to the market, publication of content and debate with the market is key.

- Speed up Service Definition activity by focusing on a deep dive into two topics (payments and business partner / customer information) by for example increasing the available project management resources in combination with a clear milestone driven procedure.
- Members will use and showcase these two service definition deliverables within their individual roadmaps and plans.

## 2 BIAN 4th CoreTeam in Horgen - Bocken / Switzerland

The 4th BIAN CoreTeam, partly sponsored by Credit Suisse, will take place at Horgen - Bocken, located at Lake Zürich from June 8 – June 9, followed by the traditionally Architecture Committee meeting.

The agenda for the two days includes presentations and discussions on content and future plans, complemented by two small get-togethers in the evening.

BIAN driven program points include:

- Planning and discussion of the focus of 2009 activities including the definition of the level of detail of final deliverables.
- A look beyond BIAN. Who should BIAN interact with and what other comparable organizations should BIAN be talking with?
- A drill down into the major deliverables of BIAN including member feedback and outlook for the next months.
- A view on BIAN activities and upcoming actions and plans from the secretariat perspective.

Member program points include:

- Presentations looking at SOA experiences from an individual perspective.
- Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Züricher Kantonalbank will dive into some special topics.

Members can still register for this event – participation is as always free of charge. We are looking forward meeting you in Horgen - Bocken, Zürich.

## 3 BIAN Content Delivery

You have heard, and read above, that BIAN's first anniversary has passed. It is time to report on the status and availability of BIAN deliverables which have passed BIAN's governance procedure and entered the publication phase. This phase is seen as very important as BIAN delivers very specific results for part of the overall picture that need a broader market context as a positioning frame.

BIAN Service Landscape, Version 1.0

BIAN has finalized a first version of the Service Landscape. This was started at the beginning of the preceding project - IVN for Banks - and includes input, discussions, feedback and fine tuning by more than 20 institutions including many banks. The service landscape is a structured, hierarchical management of IT specific service providers in a banking IT. If you have not seen the blog of David Frankel, it might be interesting for you. [>> more](#)

The BIAN Metamodel, Version 1.0

As with the Service Landscape the Metamodel has history embedded. Started as a taxonomy for defining the important terms of BIAN early in 2006 the BIAN Metamodel now describes the understanding of BIAN members about the scope of IT services in the complex environments of activities, processes and use cases, consistent modelling of exchanged messages derived from a business object model, grouping and clustering of banking specific IT capabilities in Service Landscape, and the link to the derived interfaces in tangible software products.

BIAN Service Definitions for Payments and Business Partner

These are based on levels of detail defined by BIAN. See the blog of Oliver Kling for further information. [>> more](#)

The Payments working group focused on services to be provided to multiple internal and external channels and capturing systems as well as on services needed to manage individual agreements on how to handle payments.

The Business Partner / customer information working group has defined a first version of the relevant domain including a deep dive into the object model.

## The BIAN Metamodel

Why does BIAN need a Metamodel?

The answer is simple:

- There is the need to capture the understanding of how BIAN sees and defines the term service and its broader context
- The model is also the basis for the specification and design framework of BIAN defining all the perspectives needed to provide standard service specifications

But does BIAN need its own Metamodel?

The answer to this second question is not that simple. When we started in 2006 the public availability of prepared metamodels for SOA was limited. While this is no longer true if one looks at the focus of BIAN - the semantic definition of services - we have not found a sufficiently rich, comprehensive and detailed model.

BIAN thus made the decision to provide its own metamodel that links available different concepts according the BIAN focus. The BIAN metamodel is organized into views on and around the core deliverable "service". BIAN currently recognizes following views:

- *Service Landscape* view (a BIAN definition) that captures a hierarchical view on the functional capabilities of a bank.
- *Software* view which links BIAN activities around service definition to the implementation of these concepts in software.
- *Business process* view that provides via activities of compound and atomic characteristics an anchor point into the universe of business process modelling.
- *Use case* view, which captures the idea of reuse by understanding actors and constraints.
- the *message model and object model* view providing the basis for a definition of a global and consistent semantic language.

For all but the first view (Service Landscape) at least one available candidate model and methodology was in discussion. This underlines the idea of BIAN to avoid reinventing the wheel. Looking beyond BIAN, especially in the generic areas, is considered key for driving convergence and take up of standardization to drive the significant benefits standardization brings.

What is your view? We welcome your comments on our featured article. Please send them to Oliver Kling: [oliver.kling@bian.org](mailto:oliver.kling@bian.org)