

The background of the slide features a large, ornate classical building with a central dome and a statue in the foreground. The building has multiple stories with many windows and a prominent central dome. The statue is a large, standing female figure, possibly a personification of Liberty or Justice, holding a torch and a tablet. The scene is set outdoors with a blue sky and some clouds.

# The increasing importance of Open Web Standards to improve eGovernment

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# World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

Leading the Web to its Full Potential

# W3C

- Founded by Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee (1994)
- W3C Provides the Vision and the Standards to Lead the Web:
  - From a Web of Documents... toward One Web:
    - of Data and Services
    - on Everything
    - for Everyone

# Where's ~~Wally~~ eGov?

## Web Applications

- XHTML
- SVG CDF
- SMIL
- XForms
- CSS
- WICD

## Mobile

- XHTML Basic
- Mobile SVG
- SMIL Mobile
- XForms Basic
- CSS Mobile
- MWI BP

## Voice

- VoiceXML
- SRGS
- SSML
- CCXML
- EMMA

## Web Services

- SOAP
- MTOM
- WSDL
- WS-CDL
- WS-A

## Semantic Web

- OWL
- SKOS
- SW BP
- RIF

## Privacy, Security

- P3P
- APPEL
- XML Sig
- XML Enc
- XKMS

Web Accessibility / Internationalization / Device Independence / Mobile Access / Quality Assurance

XML, Namespaces, Schemas, XQuery/XPath, XSLT, DOM, XML Base, XPointer, RDF/XML, SPARQL

XML Infoset, RDF(S) Graph

Web Architectural Principles

URI/IRI, HTTP

**One Web**

Internet

# Why W3C cares about eGovernment?

- The Web has become the main channel for Governments to deliver services to citizens
- Web technologies are crucial in the relationships between Govs, and Govs and Industry
- Use of W3C Technologies in eGov is increasing
  - W3C standards named in laws (e.g. Web Accessibility)
- Governments give increasing importance to consensus building and open standards

# eGovernment efforts at W3C

- Series of discussions to better understand the needs of Government in deploying current Web standards and the directions that future Web standards should take to best address delivery of Government services.
- European Symposium on eGovernment, Gijón, Spain, 1-2 February 2007
- Toward More Transparent Government: Workshop on eGovernment and the Web, Washington DC, USA, 18-19 June 2007

# Improving eGov through use of Open Web Standards

- Openness
- Interoperability
- Privacy, Security and Trust

Openness



# What Open Standard means?

- Transparent process
- Open participation
- Technical Consensus
- Running code
- Free and Persistent Specification
- W3C Patent Policy for Web Technologies

# Why Open Web Standards?

- Open Standards increase innovation and competition
- Increase citizens and market trust
  - not tied to proprietary solutions
  - avoid vendor lock-in
- Govs should help define Open IST Standards
- Govs should store and share information using open standards

# Best Practices and Methodologies

- The development of standards-based interoperable frameworks is important to improving efficiencies and increasing the value of IT investments
- Accessibility as an example:
  - adherence to standards makes it easier for the content providers to serve browser-independent content
  - Government leadership is important in getting the technology vendors and the content providers to do the right thing for all citizens

# Interoperability, Data Integration

# Basic Interoperability

- What about Web pages that can only be accessed using a given browser?
- New technologies, old problems, e.g.:
  - mobile phones as enablers of Government services (e.g. in developing countries)
  - difficult to build an interoperable solution (too many devices, browsers...), see the Mobile Web Initiative (MWI) work

# Semantic Interoperability

- Lots of initiatives and interoperability frameworks built or in the works
  - usually work only in a given context (national, regional...), hard to interoperate between them yet
- Producing XML does not mean being interoperable
- Interoperability is not a technical (only) issue

# Data Integration

- Use Semantic Web technologies
  - allows mixing data from very different sources
  - no need to throw away your existing data or systems, just build on top
  - share, publish, use standards (RDF, OWL, SPARQL...), plan for unexpected reuse
  - use IDs (URIs)
- Governments should be an authoritative source of Semantic Web-enabled information

Privacy, Transparency, Trust



# Creating a Trust Context

- Opacity is not the solution, transparency is the way to go
  - use the data for the purpose it was collected
- Privacy and Security are requirements to build trust with citizens to use eGovernment services
- W3C's work in Web Security can help governments to standardize and provide solutions that citizens can understand clearly and trust
  - and is already doing so

# Conclusions

- eGovernment Services increasing sophistication, but “good old problems” not solved yet
- The use of Open Standards can help
- Need cooperation and skip reinventing the wheel, e.g., use cases and best practices
- Governments should be involved in development of open standards
- eGovernment should be accessible to all



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Slides at:

<http://www.w3.org/2007/Talks/1010-Paris-JA/>