

GS1 Architecture – Who and What is it and Why Have it?

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During the GS1 Forum held in February 2008 a representative group of the GS1 Architecture Team presented to the GS1 community an overview and vision of what GS1 Architecture and what the GS1 Architecture Team is all about.

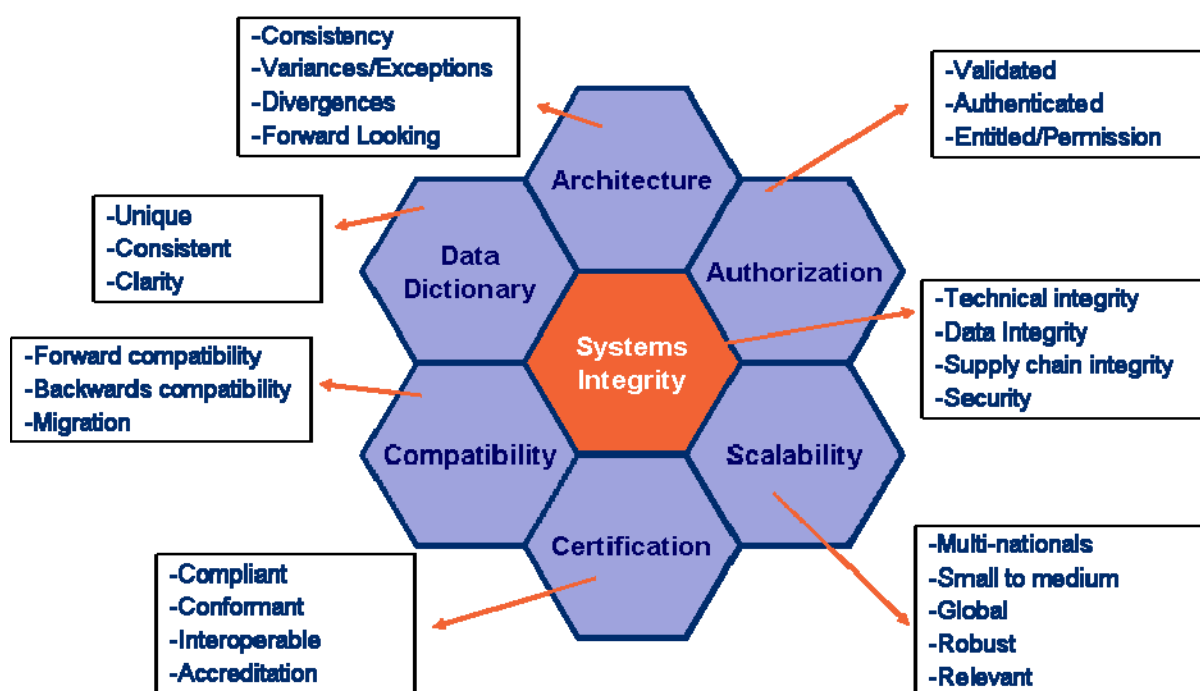
So what is the GS1 Architecture?

The purpose of the GS1 System Architecture is to describe how all the components, i.e. GS1 Identification Keys and attributes, GS1 Bar Codes, GS1 eCOM, GS1 GDSN and GS1 EPCglobal fit together.

A GS1 Architecture will:

- Ensure that when developing, updating or initiating changes to the current sets of standards we get a clear picture of the impact (either positive or negative) to the other components of the system
- Enables ALL standards development activities to have a clear picture of where and how each part fits together
- Contribute to the facilitating strategic decisions on the future growth potential and opportunities that the GS1 System has to offer our current and future users needs
- Enable our users to more effectively implement the entire GS1 System and realise the added value of beyond compliance adoption

Taken together, this clearly articulate set of principles and policies will help all GS1 Stakeholders ensure greater System Integrity



In future, the function of the GS1 Architecture will be to transform the architecture from its current undefined state to a clear, elegant and easily understood description. Thereafter the architecture will be maintained as standards and solutions develop and check proposed new or changed standards for architectural consistency.

Who is a member of the GS1 Architecture?

Current members of the GS1 Architecture group include representation from all GS1 Business units, Member Organisations and the User community. The roles and responsibilities of the GS1 Architecture Group are defined in the GSMP User Manual that can be found at http://www.gs1.org/services/gsmg/support/user_manual.html.

This group reports to the Board Committee for Standards (BCS) within the GSMP framework.

Current GS1 Architecture Activities

Although it has been just 18 months since the group was formed, the GS1 Architecture team has been dealing with many topics. The main activities at this current time include, but are not limited to:

- **GS1 Architecture Principles:** A document that defines the core principles by which the GS1 Architecture (and hence our GS1 System) will be defined by. This document has just gone through a public review process and all comments are currently being assessed. Expected completion for open publication is anticipated to be June 2008
- **60 Day EPCglobal Standards Review:** Towards the middle of last year the GS1 Architecture Group undertook a massive task to facilitate the review of the EPCglobal standards versus the GS1 Standards and address any divergences or issues identified by those who had submitted input to the review. Over 290 comments were received by the community and these comments were categorised into like groupings to create a total of 14 groupings. Currently members of the GS1 Architecture team are now working through the various tasks and we will bring you updates as they progress. There is an Action Items list (*60 day review Resolutions Actions Tracker*) with deliverables/dates and identifies those who are responsible. This document is updated monthly.
- The work plan for the year ahead includes:
 - Create the GS1 Architecture
 - Finalise and publish the request for Finding Process
 - Address the comments on the Principles Document after the community review
 - Review the items identified on the EPCglobal standards roadmap
 - Reviewing EPCglobal standards as they progress through the Standards Development Process (both at Requirements and Last Call Working Draft stage)

Details on the GS1 Architecture Group can be found on the [GS1 Community Room](#) , via the emerging [Training Library on Learn](#) or directly from Bernie Hogan (BHogan@gs1us.org) as the chair of the group or Sue Schmid (sschmid@gs1au.org) as the communications contact.