



Electronic Access Conference

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Standards & Open Systems

Session # 50

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Agenda

- *"Standard"* Defined
- Benefits of Standards
- Open Standards
- Players & Stakeholders
- Hierarchy
- History in Financial Aid
- Relevance – Today and Tomorrow
- Getting Involved

"Standard" Defined

- Specific guidelines for data exchange that can include:
 - Transport/transmission of data
 - Data itself (format, element names, definitions, transactions, etc)
 - Security (protocols to protect data)
 - Authentication (identity recognition and verification)

"Standard" Defined

- Agreed upon guidelines set:
 - By government regulation or legislation
- Formally through cooperation, study, and approval by designated accredited standards-setting bodies:
 - National and/or international
 - Industry agreement and collaboration

"Standard" Defined

- Data standards must be supported by business standards, agreement on common policy and process
 - Common policy (Common Manual)
 - Common terminology and definitions
 - Common business purpose and transactions (CommonLine)

"Standard" Defined

- Proprietary methods:
 - Are often misrepresented as standards
 - Become a duplicate of existing or new standard
 - Are often created intentionally to “capture” or “lock-in” customers or partners
 - Are often controlled by small but influential groups *without open or public participation*
 - Raise costs for everyone
 - Become impediments for industry progression road blocking ability to move forward with new features and technologies

Benefits of Standards

- Streamline processes – eliminate unnecessary complexities
- Improve service to customers by expanding functionality and reducing costs
- Decreases delivery time of new services to customers
- Future services can be added to a standard framework

Benefits of Standards

- Reduces or eliminates the cost of maintaining multiple methods
- “Level the playing field” and promote competition based on service, not on process or technology
- Ability to plug-n-play and interoperate
 - Partners can integrate, communicate, and exchange information easier which enables value-added services
 - Simpler interconnectivity between partners allows new business alliances

Open Standards

- Ensure input from all interested parties
- Are developed by an objective body who is NOT itself a stakeholder (the standards body doesn't benefit directly from the services which use the standard)
- Are available and accessible for public comment

Open Standards

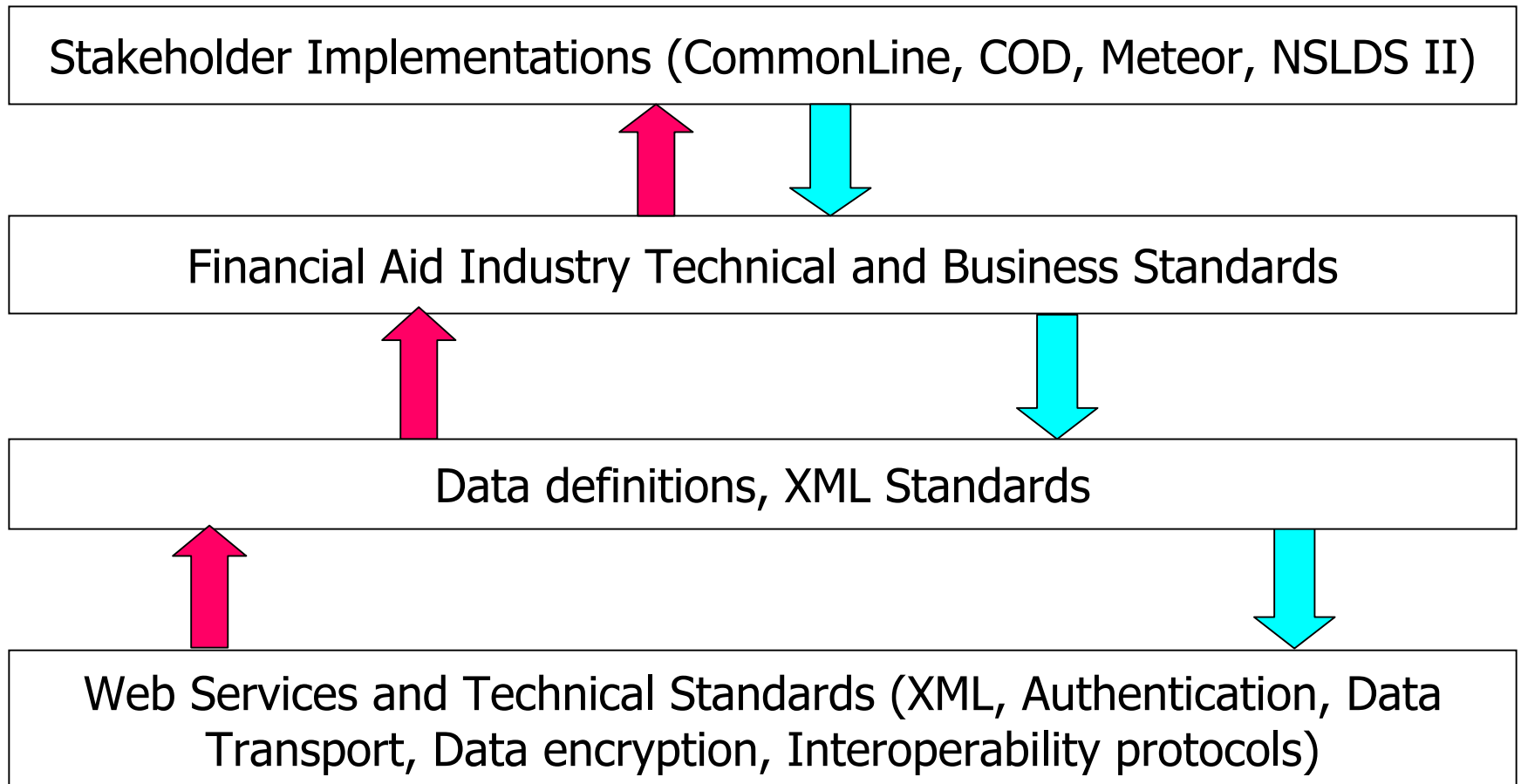
- Allows interoperability between implementers
- Precludes a participation cost or fee to use
- Do not require participants to use proprietary software/hardware

Players & Stakeholders

- Technical, industry-independent groups
 - OASIS, W3C, X12
- Government groups - FSA
- Higher Education
 - Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC)
 - AACRAO's Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange (SPEEDE) Committee for EDI Academic Transcripts and Test Scores
 - NCHELP's Electronic Standards Committee (ESC) for CommonLine

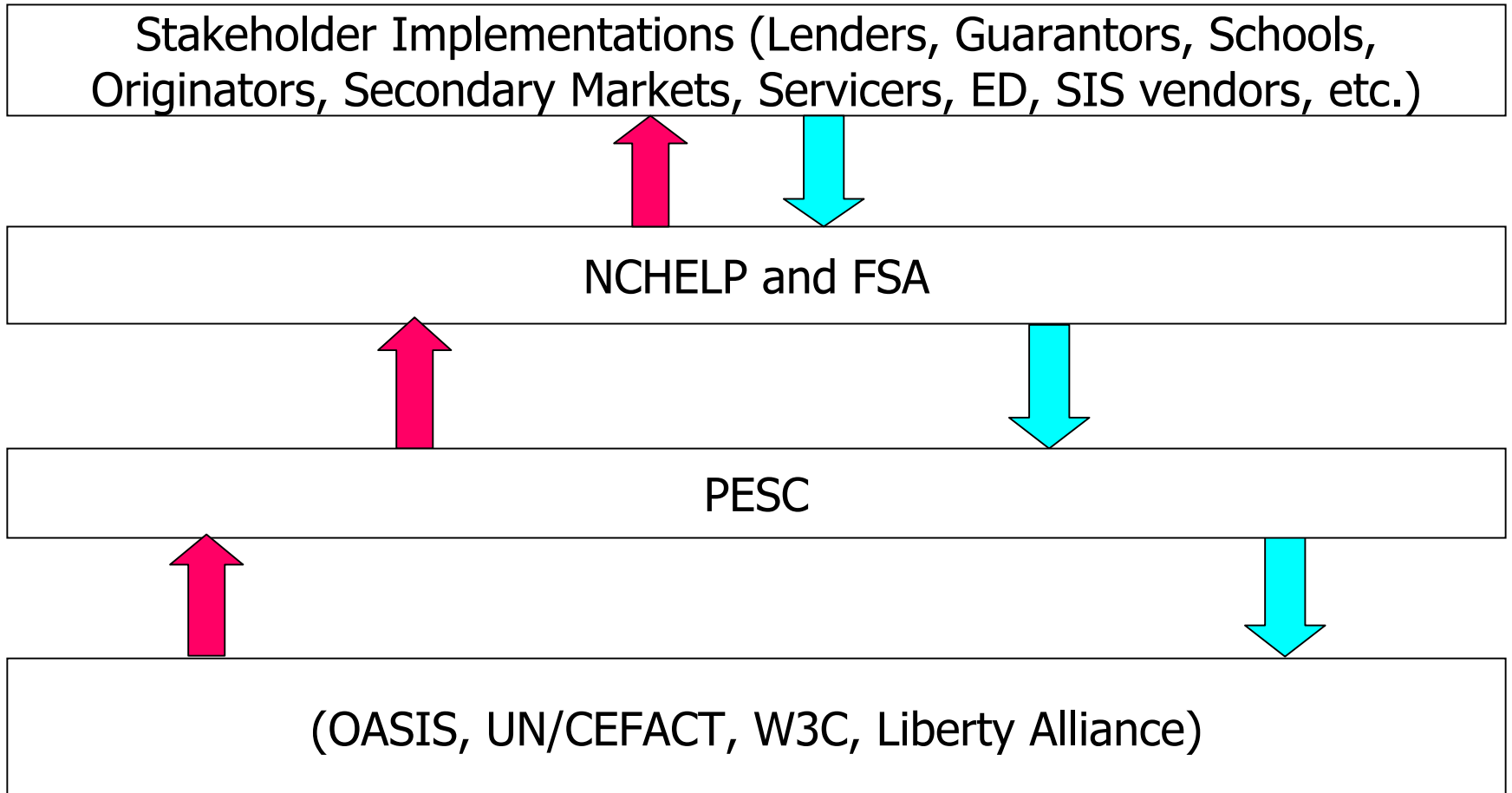
Hierarchy

Standards are built upon standards



Hierarchy

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History in Financial Aid

- CommonLine
- Common Account Maintenance (CAM)
- NSLDS
- E-Sign
- Common Record
- CommonLine/Common Record Convergence
- PESC Core Data Dictionary and Web Services

Relevance – Today and Tomorrow

- Real-time services – another evolutionary step
- Standards are the necessary linchpin to make new technology happen
- FSA is committed and active in standards-setting and development (PESC, CommonLine/Common Record convergence, Web Services)

Relevance – Today and Tomorrow

- Meteor – developing communication, authentication, and data definitions built on work of public and industry standards-setting bodies (PESC, OASIS, JA-SIG, Internet 2)
- CommonLine/Common Record convergence
- XML-based data transmission
- Web Services
- Decreasing and limited role for proprietary processes and layouts

Getting Involved

- *Participate in the standards process* – your participation provides a voice and influence for you institution and service providers
- *Practice and promote the standards* – this will maximize time and monetary investment
- *Pre-empt efforts* to develop proprietary methods

Getting Involved!

■ PESC

- Join PESC and the XML Forum
- membership info available at www.StandardsCouncil.org

■ NCHELP

- Visit www.NCHELP.org
- Join the ESC
- Join the School Advisory Group

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