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Phillip Kloeden

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**XBRL: ORIGINS,
IMPLEMENTATION
AND ACCEPTANCE**

Phillip A. Kloeden

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E. Philip Saunders College of Business - RIT

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ABSTRACT

A brief overview of the origins of modern accounting are examined with its genesis in the Italian Renaissance. During this time period, trade and commerce expanded and new methods for tracking and recording transactions became necessary. Double entry bookkeeping was first documented by Luca Pacioli in 1458. Innovative Italian merchants and scholars of this time period have become known as the fathers of modern accounting.

eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) is currently the revolutionizing concept in the modern accounting world. Originally, known as Extensible Financial Reporting Markup Language (XFRML) in 1998, it was a prototype language created by the early users of eXtensible Markup Language (XML). The origins of XBRL will be examined in greater detail as the paper progresses, as well as, some of the underlying framework regarding the coding structure and technologies.

The implementation of XBRL in industry will be addressed and how it is compared to any new technology in respect to market adoption and timeliness. The Technology Adoption Curve allows for one to estimate which stage and what time frame is associated with widespread acceptance and utilization. Taxonomies add complexity to the process, but cost savings and data accuracy and reliability are benefits derived via XBRL adoption and implementation.

The acceptance of XBRL within the U.S. and throughout the world will be evaluated. The variance in accounting principles and the standardization of XBRL codes are vital variables to be examined. The XBRL movement is already underway throughout the world and certain data will be examined reflecting this trend of acceptance and usage. The XBRL progress within the U.S. will also be examined, including the SEC's current view on reporting in XBRL format.

INTRODUCTION

The birth of modern accounting had its origins in the Italian Renaissance and the climate existed for double entry bookkeeping to develop during this time period.

Littleton (1933) indicated that there were seven “key ingredients” necessary to facilitate the creation of this system which hadn’t previously been available in combination, form and strength. These factors were private property, capital, commerce, credit, writing, money and arithmetic. Now, these factors existed in combination and trade and commerce flourished (Alexander, n.d.).

In 1458, Luca Pacioli wrote his fifth book, *Summa de Arithmetica, Geometria, Proportioni et Proportionalita* (Everything about Arithmetic, Geometry and Proportions). This was the first book on Algebra and is the first documented source of double entry bookkeeping. The book was written as a manual for existing mathematical concepts and only one of the five topics covered was bookkeeping. Actually, the double entry accounting method was used primarily for the illustration of algebraic equations (Alexander, n.d.). Men such as Luca Pacioli, and others from the Italian Renaissance period have become known as the fathers of modern accounting.

The groundwork for tracking business operations in a small non-global scale were set in Venice during the Renaissance period. The sequence of events listed in the accounting cycle and certain procedures are still utilized today by modern accountants, but adaptations have been made based on the evolution of business in both scale (size) and globalization. The basic double entry bookkeeping methods are familiar and similar in the modern accounting system, but the rules of accounting have developed over the years, especially in the last 40 years. In the 1960’s, the accounting rulebook could be

read in an afternoon, but now the accounting rulebook has expanded to over 4,000 pages, and is perpetually changing to accommodate new business practices.

In respect to the advent of new technologies and rules, the accumulation, processing and integrity of accounting data has become more complex and the volume of data available has increased significantly over the years. Human errors account for 30 percent of data lost and in 2003, data losses cost U.S. businesses an estimated \$18.2 billion dollars. The estimated losses in 1998 were \$12 billion dollars (McGoldrick and Shin, 2005). The standardization of data collection and the reduction in the number of parties inputting the data in a repetitive fashion could help reduce this cost. The cost to U.S. corporations in 2002 for data acquisition and input was \$404 billion dollars, which accounted for 11 percent of all U.S. wages (Pinsker, Gara & Karim, 2005).

The use of a standardized coding structure, such as XBRL would help reduce these wage expenses by removing the replication of data-entry over many channels and reducing lost data costs. Classic communications theory, developed by Claude Shannon in the 1940's, offers a model that can be used to describe almost any communications system, including financial reporting. According to the theory, the major components of the model are: a data source, a transmitter, a medium, a noise source, a receiver, and a data destination. Noise sources or interference can lead to distortion of the data and decoding of the information can also be adversely effected. The mediums of communication, whether human or technical, can produce errors, so limiting the repetition of identical tasks is vital for accuracy and consistency (Bergeron, 2003, p. 66). The use of XBRL coding would accomplish this and the integrity and validity of the accounting data would be enhanced due to the reduction in repetition of tasks.

The current shift toward the use of XBRL coding for financial and accounting data for all organizations on a voluntary basis has been gaining acceptance and momentum since 1998, when XBRL emerged from the prototype of XFRML, which is from the family of XML. This movement has been occurring both internationally and within the U.S. and the use of standardized coding would allow for legal, ethnic, cultural and national variances to be crossed and compensated for.

XBRL International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) taxonomies are being constructed and organized in a logical structure. Digital translations, known as XBRL element tags, are created to represent financial reporting concepts so they can be reused. These tags will be used in a digital financial report, called an XBRL instance document. The XBRL IFRS taxonomy defines over 3,000 unique elements that represent financial reporting concepts. The design decisions help ensure maximum reusability and comparability (Ramin & Prather, 2003).

Section II of this paper will discuss the origins of XBRL and some of the details of the language and its use of taxonomies for producing instance documents. An overview of the structure of the XBRL system is provided in this section. Section III looks at the implementation of XBRL into the financial, governmental and investor communities on both an international and domestic level. Section IV evaluates the acceptance of XBRL by the related and concerned parties throughout the world. The adoption of this new system is evaluated using the s-shape Technology Adoption Curve. Section V offers a conclusion to the paper and an evaluation of XBRL usage and the associated costs and benefits. The paper provides visualization of materials through the use of associated diagrams and graphics.

ORIGINS OF XBRL

Coding Development

To facilitate the sharing of electronic documents, there was a transformation from system-specific formatting or markup coding to standardization in coding. General Markup Language (GML), which was introduced in the late 1960's, was the first widely recognized coding standard (Bergeron, 2003, p. 107). In 1978, with the introduction of the PC and the electronic spreadsheet, a need for international standardization in coding became evident. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) formed a committee to develop a language, which would be based on GML; the resultant language was Special Generalized Markup Language (SGML).

The World Wide Web was introduced in 1990, but the introduction of first-generation Web browsers didn't occur until 1993 and the first version of the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) emerged simultaneously. As the Web evolved and the Dot-Com Era began, there was a need for interactive Web pages that could process business transactions. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) recognized this problem and due to the newly created demand for software, version 1.0 of the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) was released in 1998. Members of the accounting industry became early adopters of XML and they created a prototype language called Extensible Financial Reporting Markup Language (XFRML), specialized for their specific industry requirements (Bergeron, 2003, p. 108). In 2000, an accounting industry specific language was released, this was version 1.0 and it was renamed the eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL). Several crucial events and their corresponding dates which preceded the release date of XBRL will be listed and discussed below.

XBRL Evolution

The definition of XBRL, as listed on the XBRL.ORG Web site, located at (<http://xbrl.org/default.aspx>) is as follows, “The eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) provides an XML-based framework that the global business information supply chain can use to create, exchange, and analyze financial reporting information including, but not limited to, regulatory filings such as annual and quarterly financial statements, general ledger information, and audit schedules. XBRL is freely licensed and facilitates the automatic exchange and reliable extraction of financial information among various software applications anywhere in the world.” (Hoffman & Strand, 2001, p. 11).

On August 30, 1999, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), six information technology companies, and the five largest accounting and professional services firms of the time, reported that they had joined forces in an attempt to develop an XML-based Financial Reporting Language. The proposed language, currently called XFRML, will help in the preparation and exchange of financial reports and data, and will be the digital language of business (Cover, 1999). This movement is designed to help improve the accessibility of financial information and has the potential to revolutionize the way financial information is communicated, accessed and used. This was the position of the accounting world as the inception on XBRL progressed into 1999.

Charles Hoffman, a CPA and a member of the AICPA, along with Wayne Harding, a friend and associate, originally presented the XBRL coding concept to the AICPA in 1998. As a result, Mr. Hoffman is considered one of the “fathers of XBRL” and Mr. Harding is considered the “godfather of XBRL” (Hoffman & Strand, 2001). The Institute’s High Tech Task Force was presented with the concept that there was a

growing need for creation of a global open-standard data-tagging protocol for financial information. The open-standard concept is traditionally developed by numerous parties and is available to all software developers for unrestricted use with all applications, without any royalty payments for usage. The AICPA was receptive to this new idea and funded the creation of a prototype, once a plan was presented. When the prototype was finished, the AICPA created and promoted XBRL International. The group was formed as a not-for-profit global consortium of companies and agencies with one common goal, the development of XBRL and the widespread acceptance and use of the new global coding standardization process for financial information (Tie, 2005, p.33).

XBRL International and the SGS

Currently, the XBRL consortium has an estimated membership of over 400 companies and agencies worldwide, all with the common goal of building the XBRL language and promoting and supporting the adoption of the XBRL concept. The XBRL International consortium is governed by the XBRL International Steering Committee, which has the same powers as the Board of Directors of most corporate entities. The Steering Committee is composed of elected representatives from Established jurisdictions and 8 At-Large representatives, and the president of XBRL International is also on the Steering Committee. The local jurisdictions focus on the progress of XBRL in their respective regions and the jurisdictions are broken into Established and Provisional units. The Established Jurisdictions include Australia, Canada, Germany, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, Developing Jurisdictions-Direct Participants, and the Affiliate Organisation-XBRL in Europe. The Provisional

Jurisdictions include Belgium, Denmark, France, Korea, South Africa, and Sweden. The current structure and membership of the International Steering Committee (ISC) can be viewed in Figure 1. The above information was provided by XBRL International Inc. at (<http://xbrl.org/default.aspx>).

XBRL International Inc. publishes the XBRL Specifications and Guidance Stack (SGS), which is an overview of the most important documents published by XBRL International. A three-level framework is used in an attempt to help readers understand which parts of the XBRL framework relates to them. There are three layers of XBRL documentation, comprised of technical foundations, modelling rules, and usage guidance. The documents within these three layers are aimed at different audiences comprised of three groups. The groups are strictly software developers, mainly software developers, or primarily for accountants or equivalent business users (See Figure 2).

The Technical Foundations or Level 1 is composed of four segments. The XBRL Specification is the primary building block for XBRL and sets out the technical rules for XBRL and is aimed primarily at the advanced software professionals. The Conformance Suite is used to assure interoperability of XBRL materials with consistent interpretation of the specification by the software developers. The primary control over these specifications is the conformance suite. The Formula Functions is a set of functions that can be used to extract pieces of information from a set of interrelated XBRL documents that all reference each other. The Formula Linkbase is a new and optional module of the specification that will allow the definition of complex computations involving validation or derivation.

The Modelling Rules or Level 2 is another layer of guidance materials which have been developed and assist in the production of XBRL software applications, via the Ledger Taxonomy. These level 2 documents are relevant to software vendors seeking to produce, extend or consume taxonomies and produce or consume instance documents. These rules provided detailed guidance as to how to use XBRL, but it is not mandatory to follow the guidelines set out in these documents, though strongly encouraged. There are seven components comprising level 2.

The Financial Reporting Taxonomy Architecture (FRTA) is a set of rules about the way that taxonomies should be constructed for maximum interoperability and the document is aimed at software developers and advanced taxonomy developers. The FRTA Conformance Suite accompanies the previous component and provides a computerised representation of the bulk of the FRTA rules. The Financial Reporting Instance Standards (FRIS) component is a set of rules regarding the construction of the instance document for maximum interoperability and is primarily aimed at software developers. FRIS is subsidiary to FRTA, meaning that FRTA conformant taxonomies will allow the production of FRIS conformant instance documents. The FRIS Conformance Suite component accompanies the previous component and aides in the development of software products that conform to the guidelines.

The Link Role Registry (LRR) component is a public online data set that documents roles and their usage. There is a set of standard roles and arc roles that may appear in XBRL documents. The LRR is the mechanism by which new definitions and rules of usage can be added to FRTA. The LRR Conformance Suite accompanies the

previous component so that XBRL tools can be identified as to whether they support online access to the LRR while processing XBRL documents.

The GL Taxonomy component is a fully compliant XBRL taxonomy for the specific purpose of recording and exchanging individual transactions, associated with business activities that in total will become reporting concepts. The GL taxonomy allows the interoperable exchange of data and the creation of certain reports. Currently, there is no GL Conformance Suite for this component, though its development is being contemplated.

The Usage Guidance or Level 3 in the stack is most relevant to accountants and reporting professionals seeking to use XBRL tools to produce or consume high quality electronic reports. Users at this level will be able to rely on the authoritative implementation of the technical rules of XBRL rules through use of their chosen software tools. There are four components at this level. The Jurisdictional Taxonomy Guidance component helps those involved in the creation of jurisdictional taxonomies and extension taxonomies. Individual jurisdictions are also publishing their own taxonomy development guidance materials. The Preparers Guide will offer suggestions regarding the best way to tag data with XBRL taxonomy concepts. It will also offer suggestions on the best way to extend XBRL taxonomies. These guides are intended for use by accountants and reporting professionals. The Jurisdictional Instance Guidance component assists in the construction and publishing of instance documents utilizing the appropriate taxonomies. The General Ledger Conceptual Guide component offers guidance for individuals using the General Ledger taxonomy. The above information

was provided by XBRL International Inc. at (<http://www.xbrl.org/technical/SGS-PWD-2005-05-17.htm>).

XBRL Taxonomies

XBRL taxonomies are the dictionaries used by XBRL and they define the specific tags for individual items of data. Different taxonomies will be required for different financial reporting purposes and National Jurisdictions may need different taxonomies to reflect their own local accounting regulations. The taxonomies which have been officially recognized by XBRL International are listed under a section called Financial Reporting Taxonomies. A special taxonomy group, called GL taxonomy, which is designed to support collation of data and internal reporting within an organization also has been officially recognized by XBRL International.

There are two levels of taxonomy recognition, the first, Approved Taxonomies, which comply with the official XBRL guidelines regarding that type of taxonomy, and are in compliance with respect to XBRL Specification, and the second, Acknowledged Taxonomies, which only have to be in compliance with the XBRL Specification. Some jurisdictions have important taxonomies under development and are currently not in the acknowledged taxonomy category.

Currently, in the United States, there are eight taxonomy components that are finalized and approved in the Financial Reporting Taxonomies group. Four components are U.S.GAAP for Commercial and Industrial, Banking and Savings, Insurance, and Investment Management. One for SEC Certifications and the remaining three for U. S. Financial Reporting Management Report (USFR-MR), U.S. Financial Reporting Accountants Report (USFR-AR), and U.S. Financial Reporting Management's

Discussion and Analysis (USFR-MDA). The above information was provided by XBRL International Inc. at (<http://xbrl.org/frontend.aspx?clk=LK&val=23>).

An XBRL Taxonomy Document is a dictionary or vocabulary of financial facts (Hoffman & Strand, 2001, p. 70). The document is a collection of financial data and facts and has a particular purpose associated with it. A taxonomy document contains certain information for each financial fact contained within the document and provides a description. Name, Data Type (Monetary, Decimal, Text, etc.), Documentation, To (parent name of the fact), Weight (Numeric Relationship), Order, Label, Reference Name, Reference Number, Reference Chapter, Reference Paragraph, and Reference Subparagraph are all components of a taxonomy document. XBRL financial facts have a hierarchy or relationship to one another and the hierarchy is expressed in a taxonomy utilizing a rollup element. For example, a Balance Sheet is the parent and has two “children” elements, which are assets, and liabilities and shareholders equity; the assets have two children, which are current assets and non-current assets. This hierarchical approach is utilized throughout the Balance Sheet and the weight attribute explains the mathematical relationship of all subgroups (children and such) to the parent. XBRL doesn’t do the calculations for the user; it only expresses how the calculations are to be done (Hoffman & Strand, 2001, p. 70).

There are six basic components or files which comprise an XBRL Taxonomy. An XBRL taxonomy schema file defines the actual concepts that make up the XBRL taxonomy. Their names, data types, period type, etc. are all part of these files. The XBRL Specification defines the properties of concepts or elements. The XBRL linkbase files contain the explicit relationship definitions between the concepts defined in the

XBRL schema (Ernst & Young, n.d.). There are five linkbase types included in the XBRL version 2.1 Specification; and they are Label, Reference, Presentation, Calculation, and Definition (See Figure 3). Using communications based on XML documents that share a schema defined by a standards committee, XBRL International, will guaranty that electronic documents being exchanged by various parties will be readable by all parties. The guaranty is based on the use of an industry-wide schema in the preparation of the documents (Bergeron, 2003, p. 142).

IMPLEMENTATION OF XBRL

Benefits and Applications

The potential applications for XBRL; include use for financial statements, taxes, regulatory filings, accounting and business reports, authoritative literature, and audit schedules. Also, CPA's and CPA firms, companies who prepare financial statements, independent software vendors, financial publishers and data aggregators, and analysts, investors and regulators will eventually all benefit from the use of XBRL. Importantly, XBRL will solve two significant problems through the efficient preparation of financial statements and reliable extraction of data. Currently, financial data gets entered several times in various forms, depending on the ultimate end-use, and this repetition increases costs and likelihood of error. Data is also manually extracted when specific data analysis is required, and this non-automated process increases costs and the potential for error.

The above information was provided by the AICPA, located on their Web site at (<http://www.aicpa.org/innovation/baas/xbrl/homepage.asp>). Technology independence and full interoperability are two other key benefits of XBRL implementation and utilization.

The purpose of XBRL is “to enhance the flow of financial information through the creation of a globally useful language in which to describe financial facts and concepts” (Kearney, 2005). XBRL documents can be prepared efficiently, exchanged reliably, published more easily, and analyzed and transmitted more quickly. All these benefits add up to cost savings by reducing the costs from lost data and repetitive data extraction and inputting, as mentioned earlier in the paper.

The benefits from XBRL use are not limited to large corporate entities either, creating a taxonomy designed specifically to meet an individual company’s needs is possible. The taxonomy must conform to XBRL standards, currently XBRL 2.1, and be hosted on the Internet, allowing the Instance documents to reference the taxonomy correctly, thus allowing for it to be interpreted by any system (Kearney, 2005). Usually, a company will have its own style sheets and this allows them to view the financial data in a manner consistent with their goals and needs. Stylesheets are designed to capture particular parts of financial data from a single XML document, and then allowing for the data to be viewed in a particular business format; such as a Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement, or other statements concerning specific operations (Bergeron, 2003, p. 123).

The implementation and use of XBRL is influenced by four variables; which are cost, quality, quantity and speed. These variables are orthogonal qualities and one can’t achieve one without a partial sacrifice of another. Management must determine its strategy and define the compromise that must be established among the four variables. The pyramid relationship assumes fixed technology and ignores shifting economies of

scale and the variables are a reflection of the technology available or readily affordable (Bergeron, 2003, p. 85).

Implementation Process

The implementation of an XBRL-based reporting system can be viewed as a six-step process, regardless of the size and scope of the reporting activity. The process consists of Fact Finding, Planning, Resource Allocation, Implementation, Evaluation, and Deployment. After the Deployment is finished, there will be recurring issues and costs involving training and maintenance of the system (Bergeron, 2003, p. 185). There are four key areas of risk associated with the XBRL-based financial reporting initiative; these relate to technology, resources, the implementation process, and the people involved directly and indirectly with the initiative. The last factor tends to be the most relevant since there are political, cultural and economic variables which exist within and outside the organization and decision making can become clouded in emotion (Bergeron, 2003, p. 181).

XML is a universally accepted data description language used to describe and tag the data we create, store, manipulate, and transmit over the web. XML is a language designed to help develop other languages, such as XBRL. The tags are in the form of a “Taxonomy” and have a hierarchy and these tags are used describe data. Ernst & Young LLP is a founding member of XBRL International and is promoting the XBRL coding process. Taxonomies have been and currently are being produced for both vertical industry and horizontal cross-industry groups (Ernst & Young, n.d.). The concept of this process is shown in Figure 4.

Currently, there needs to be more financial support of the XBRL initiative for the development of essential XBRL infrastructure components, such as high quality comprehensive taxonomies. The AICPA and the XBRL member organizations have done much to help, but they cannot sustain their efforts indefinitely. In addition, there simply isn't enough XBRL-related training and education currently available for XBRL use to take root and grow (Tie, 2005). Many look to the U.S. as a leader and the initiator of the XBRL process, and the movements toward acceptance of XBRL by the SEC and the AICPA have helped add legitimacy to the process.

Technology adoption is a process which takes time and the process holds true for both individuals and corporations. Corporations actually tend to change or adapt at a slower rate than individuals. The use of the Technology Adoption Curve (TAC) or (s-curve) can be used to track the time and adoption level relationship for a technology, such as, XBRL. The time required for group buy-in for XBRL can be perceived. The curve is broken into five stages: Innovators, Early Adopters, Early Majority, Late Majority, and Laggards (Bergeron, 2003, p.151). Opinion Leaders can also be included in the TAC (See Figure 5). It appears that based on the activity in the accounting industry, in 2003 XBRL entered the Early Majority of adoption (Bergeron, 2003, p. 154).

On February 3, 2005, the SEC issued a final rule to allow registrants, on a voluntary basis, to furnish supplemental financial information utilizing XBRL through EDGAR (Ernst & Young, n.d.). The SEC XBRL VFRP is now underway. While speaking at a U.S. XBRL conference, the SEC Chairman, Christopher Cox, stated that the SEC would play a leadership role in pursuing the implementation of interactive data. Mr.

Cox desires results in months and not years; he states that the real basis for the SEC's promotion of XBRL is in the protection of investors.

ACCEPTANCE OF XBRL

As previously stated in the paper, the acceptance of XBRL is underway in the U.S. and in most parts of the industrialized world. XBRL International Inc. is a viable and functioning organization which has a large membership which actively promotes the XBRL initiative. The need for more financial support is now becoming more of a concern though. The XBRL coding is a license-free concept, but software to assist in the coding process is necessary. The software companies have been reluctant to pursue these projects, due to the uncertainty in cash-flows, but now this issue seems to be reversing itself after encouraging statements from the SEC.

Since the SEC announcement by Mr. Cox and XBRL's expanding international profile, software vendors are developing and launching a remarkable set of tools to help the end user make efficient use of this important technology (Anonymous, 2005). EDGAR Online, Microsoft, Oracle, and Adobe are some of the major companies to bring XBRL solutions software to market in 2005. Now, the rush is on to develop and market software and the new philosophy is, Better, Faster, and Smarter, according to the developers (Anonymous, 2005).

Rivet Software has introduced Dragon Tag 1.5, which is fully compliant with XBRL 2.1. Dragon Tag runs as an Office add-in and appears in the menu structure and tool bar of Word or Excel. "Dragon Tag makes the process of tagging existing financial reporting data in XBRL format simple, fast and efficient. Financial professionals can mark up and create XBRL reports using five basic steps: Entity Profiles, Markup, Review

Markup, Validate Markup and Export XBRL. The result is an XBRL document, a concise report of business facts in XBRL format that is transmittable over the Internet and sharable with other XBRL-aware applications.” The above information was provided at (<https://www.rivetsoftware.com/content/index.cfm?fuseaction=showContent&contentID=92&navID=82>) by Rivet Software.

EDGAR Online is delivering XBRL Processing Services through use of its I-Metrix product suite and has now added I-Metrix Xcelerate. The new product will enable filing agents, exchanges, and regulators to process content into an XBRL format. Edgar Online is a founding member of XBRL International and has been active in the promotion and evolution of XBRL over the last several years. EDGAR Online will continue to be in the forefront in respect to the development, implementation, and acceptance of the XBRL coding and reporting standards. More information regarding the above position of Edgar Online can be found on their Web site, located at the following address, (<http://www.edgar-online.com/investor/news/011106.aspx>).

The TSX Group Inc. was the first in Canada to use XBRL reporting. They were the first Canadian public company, as well as, the first publicly listed stock exchange globally, to report their financial results in XBRL (Colman, 2004). This was an historic moment in respect to financial reporting techniques and use of the XBRL system. Meanwhile, in the U.S. there were nine corporate filings, as of December 1, 2005, which utilized XBRL in a voluntary fashion. The companies included Adobe Systems Inc., Brown & Co. Inc., Business Objects S.A., RR Donnelley & Sons Co., EDGAR Online Inc., EMC Corp., InfoSys Technologies LTD, Microsoft Corp, and United Technologies

Inc. (Sinnott, 2006). There is now evidence that the acceptance and use of XBRL has begun on both an international and domestic level.

CONCLUSION

After researching the topic on XBRL and tracing the concept from its origins, I have developed an understanding of a topic which I knew nothing about, previously to my project. I had an opportunity to evaluate the framework of XBRL and discovered the interrelationship of the processes. I learned of an organization, XBRL International, and the importance of the consortium, in respect to the promotion, evolution, and adoption of the XBRL system.

Based on my research and studies, it appears that the implementation and acceptance of XBRL is underway, both internationally and domestically. The endorsement that came from the SEC formalized and legitimized the XBRL concept as becoming a standard. The software developers moved in respect to the SEC statement, and immediately began to develop and market XBRL software for use in the coding of financial data and reports. The associated software was on the market in 2005.

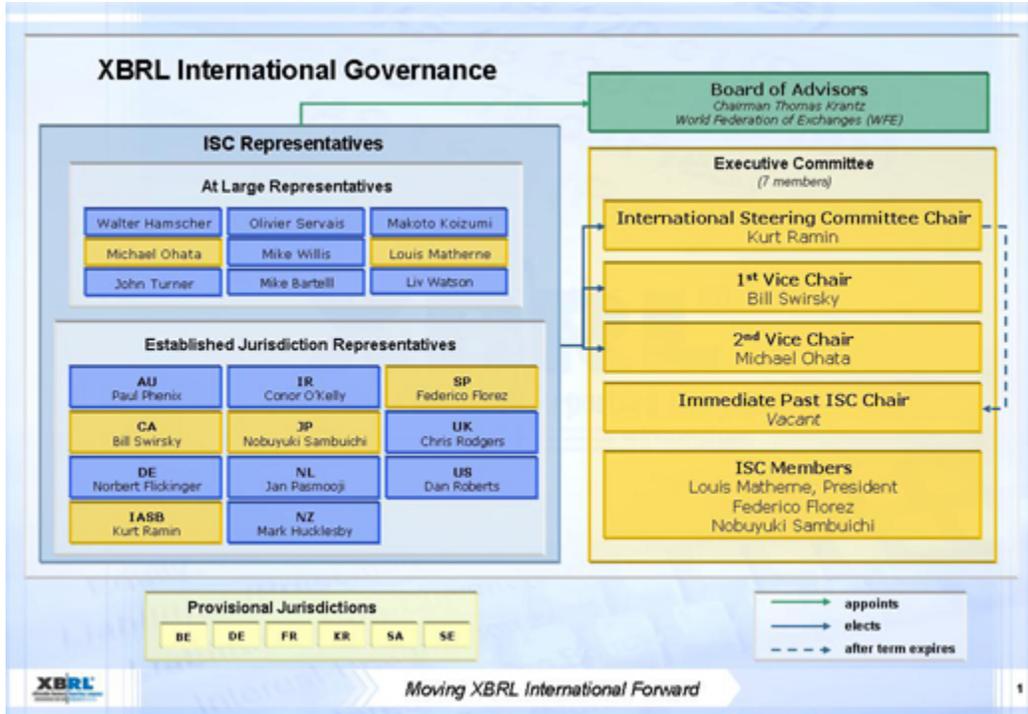
Companies are already voluntarily submitting SEC filings and reports in XBRL and this trend should only continue into the future, until it becomes mandatory to report financial data in XBRL form. The U.S. is taking the initiative and the rest of the industrialized world will follow suit, based on the recent trends within the U.S. and attitudes on financial reporting by the SEC. If a reporting system were broken down and put back together in an XML/XBRL environment, then you could align it with any management intention, including a BSC methodology (Stenzel & Stenzel, 2005).

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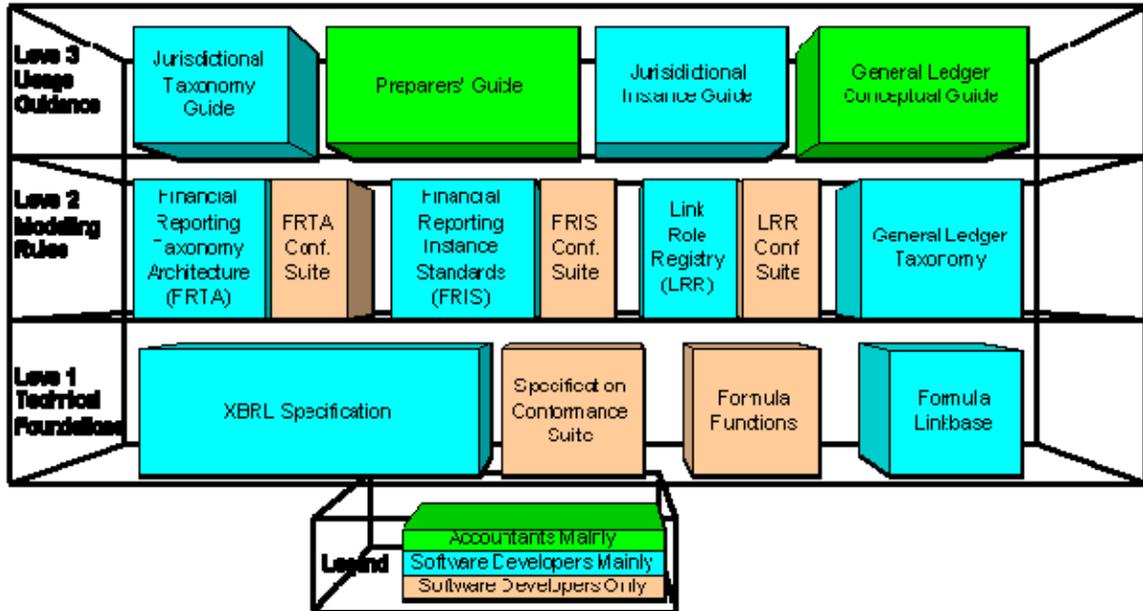
FIGURE 1
XBRL Organizational Chart



Source: <http://www.xbrl.org/AboutTheOrganisation/>

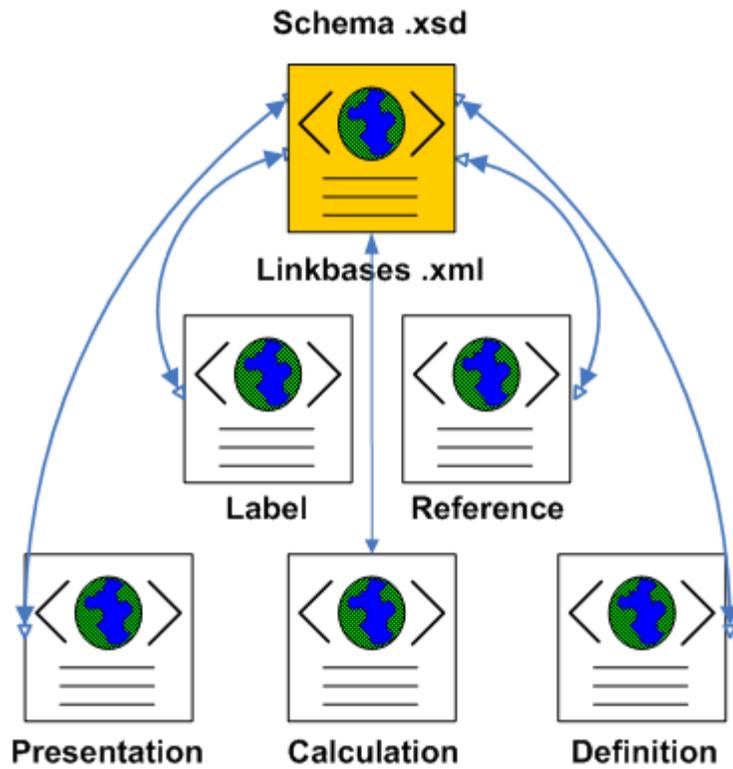
FIGURE II

SGS Diagram



Source: <http://www.xbrl.org/technical/SGS-PWD-2005-05-17.htm>

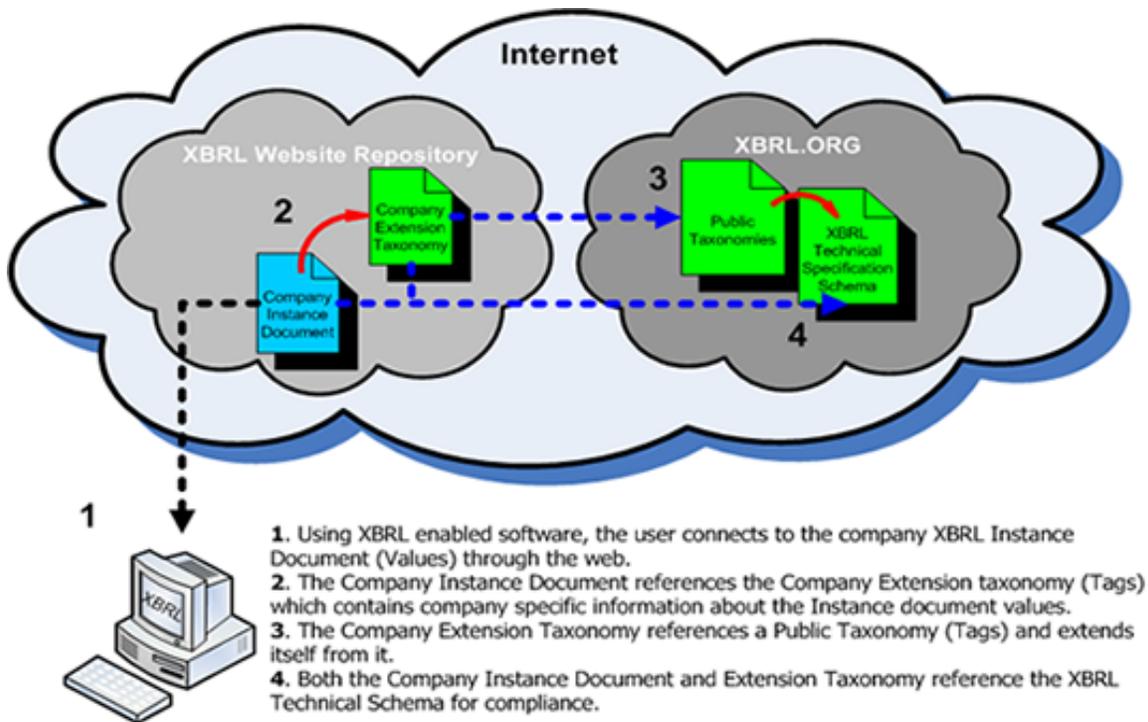
FIGURE III
Taxonomies



Source: <http://www.ey.com/global/content.nsf/International/XBRL->

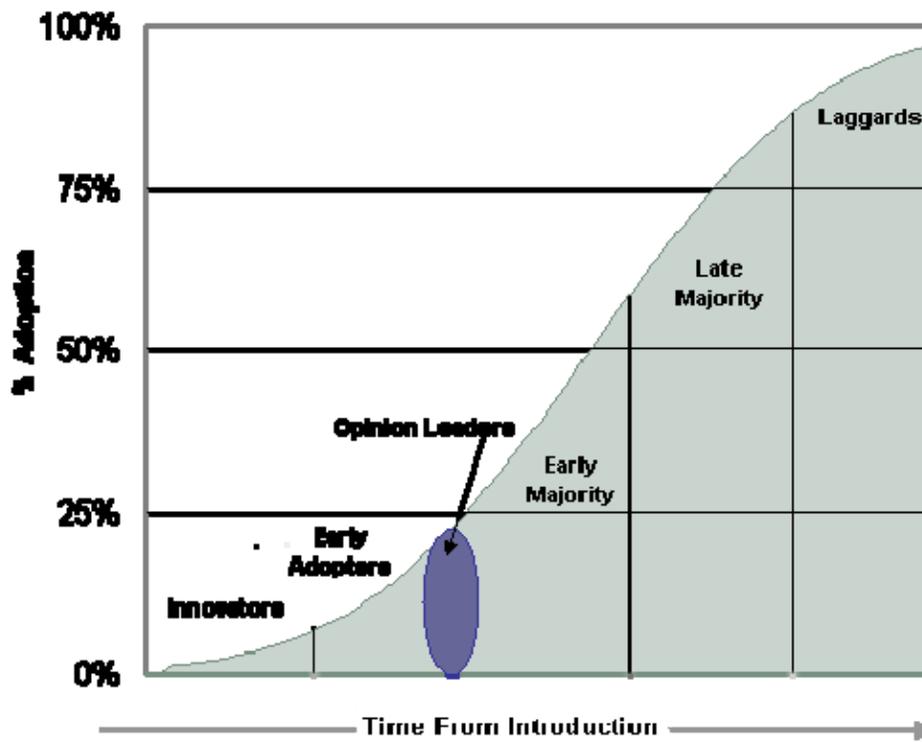
[What are Taxonomies](#)

FIGURE IV
XBRL Interchange



Source: http://www.ey.com/global/content.nsf/International/XBRL-How_Does_It_Work

FIGURE V
Technology Adoption Curve



Source: <http://www.sageresearch.com/TechnologyAdoption.htm>