

iECM Charter Statement

The Enterprise Content Management community has seen a change in the way organizations view content management. Historically, organizations have thought in terms of departmental, point solutions which caused a proliferation of content silos to be developed within organizations. Today's content rich applications require access across these cross-organizational and cross-corporate silos. These content silos make it impossible to be able to find, access, retrieve manipulate and report on information. Not only are there numerous content silos, but the silos are implemented on a variety of platforms that are controlled by a variety of applications and need to be accessed by numerous means. The iECM, Interoperable Enterprise Content Management Consortium is focused on standardizing enterprise content management components and capabilities so that applications can utilize the components regardless of the content silo in which it is contained. Interoperability standards can provide the means to share information both within an organization and across organizational boundaries.

The creation of the iECM will involve the vendors responsible for ECM and related systems and products; system designers, developers, and integrators; and a wide variety of industry and government organizations that are the end-users of the iECM products. iECM implementation will take several years and encompass numerous standards, services, and applications across all ecosystems and domains. The solution to information sharing for the next generation ECM is of paramount importance to the economic growth of the U.S. and world economy. AIIM has decided that the iECM problem would best be solved by a consortium of stakeholders responsible for iECM development. The iECM Consortium will be the centralized source for assistance, information, and interoperability standards for content management.

The iECM Consortium will inform and assist stakeholder communities in the challenges of managing content over disparate systems and possible solutions for creating an interoperable ECM environment. The iECM consortium will be responsible for developing and maintaining an architectural framework that promotes the interoperability of content management systems to enable content sharing over organizational, system and geographical boundaries. To accomplish this, the iECM consortium will endorse existing applicable standards, work collaboratively with standards organizations to enhance applicable existing standards to improve interoperability and develop standards where no standards exist.

The standardization driven by the iECM initiative is of clear value to the end user community in that they will have pervasive access to all relevant content without customized connectors. IT departments will be able to redirect funds from these expensive tasks to projects addressing the core business functions of the enterprise. The ECM vendor will benefit from the inevitable expansion of the content management market. Once sufficient standardization has been achieved, application developers will be able to include content management as an integral part of virtually any type of application, much in the same manner they do with RDBMSs today. Solutions integrators will benefit by being able to deliver high value business applications more rapidly and with greater margins, once they are no longer required to create and maintain expensive connector plumbing. Achieving ECM interoperability will result in billions of dollars of new sales and services income to vendors and integrators and many times that in increased profits, savings, and enhanced business efficiencies for the consumers of these products. Within the next 10 years the value and relevance of business and government will be based on their ability to seamlessly interoperate with organizational, national and global information flows.