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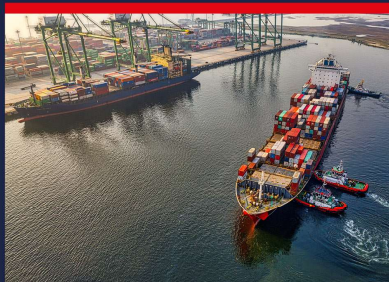
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# The vision on future of EDI

Piergiorgio Licciardello, Director EDI GS1

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# GS1: who we are



- **GS1** is a neutral, not-for-profit standards organisation that helps companies do business across the world:
  - A federation of **116** GS1 Member Organisations
  - Developing standards to support over **2 million companies** worldwide
  - **25** industries served across **150** countries
  - Over **2 billion** products carry the **GS1 barcode**
  - Barcodes scanned more than **10 billion** times a day globally



*Source:* <https://www.gs1.org/docs/gs1-strategy-booklet-2023.pdf>

# EANCOM: 35 years of collaboration



- First release published in June of 1989
- Subset of EDIFACT, including 46 messages:
  - Master data: PARTIN and PRICAT
  - Order to cash: ORDER, ORDRSP, DESADV, INVOIC...
  - Other processes
- More than 130.000 identified users, with billions of messages exchanged every year.
- The periodic surveys report a trend of adoption that is still positive



# And the future?



## • IS EDI DEAD?

- in 1999, it was the Internet
- ...then it came XML
- ...then SOAP APIs
- ...then Blockchain
- ...the JSON
- ...then REST APIs
- ...



[Dead End](#) by [Bill Smith](#) CC BY 2.0 DEED

# Some common misunderstandings



- **EDI is not a technology**

- Electronic Data Interchange is a methodology or, better, the business requirement of exchanging data, with partners, in structured way.
- EDIFACT, XML, JSON etc. are technical solutions used to implement EDI

- **Can then be «killed» by a new technology? No.**

- Has the introduction of cars or airplanes «killed» the mobility?



# Some common misunderstandings

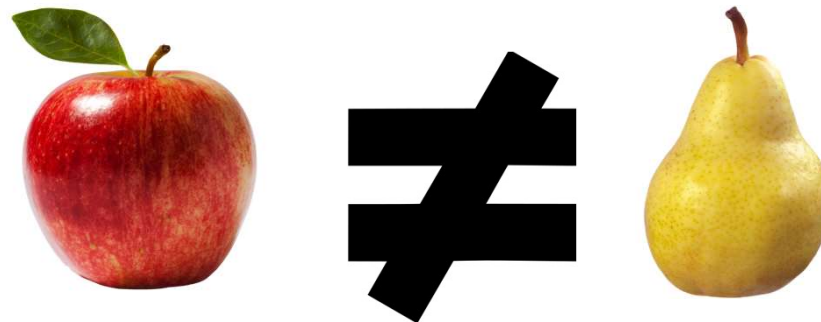


- **API and EDIFACT are not competing technologies**

- EDIFACT, XML, JSON, X.12 etc are technical representations
- API, X.400, AS/X, Blockchain, VANs etc. are exchange technical infrastructures

- **Multiple representations can be used with multiple technologies**

- An EDIFACT message can be used as a payload in a REST API

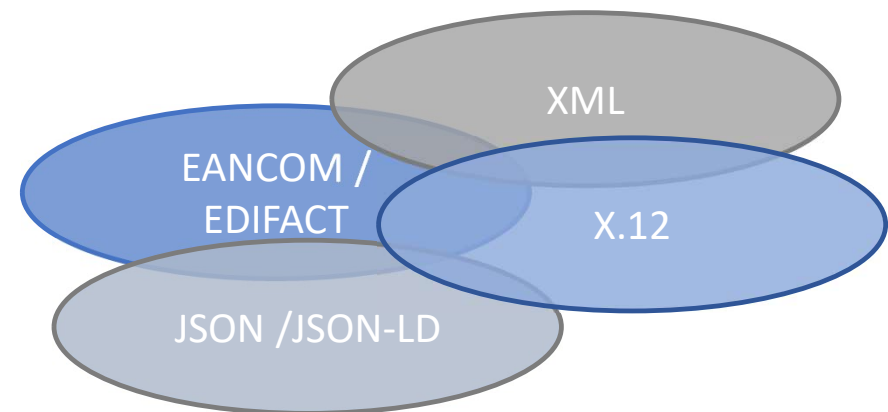
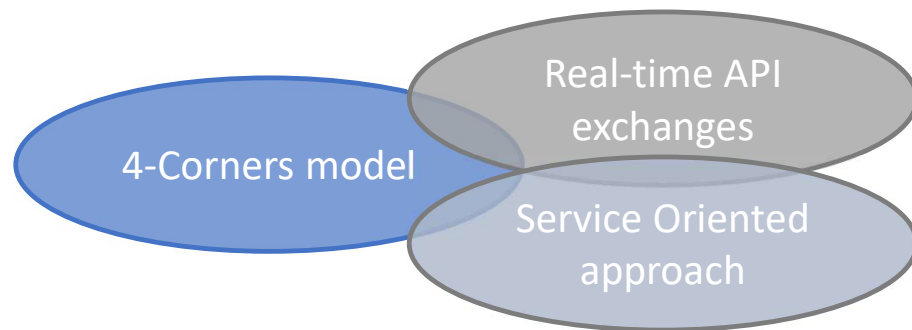


# Some common misunderstandings



- **Technologies are evolving as well as the exchange models but the different models and technology will probably continue to co-exist:**

- «It works, why change?»
- Legal requirements
- Technical complexity, especially for SMEs
- Big investments along the years

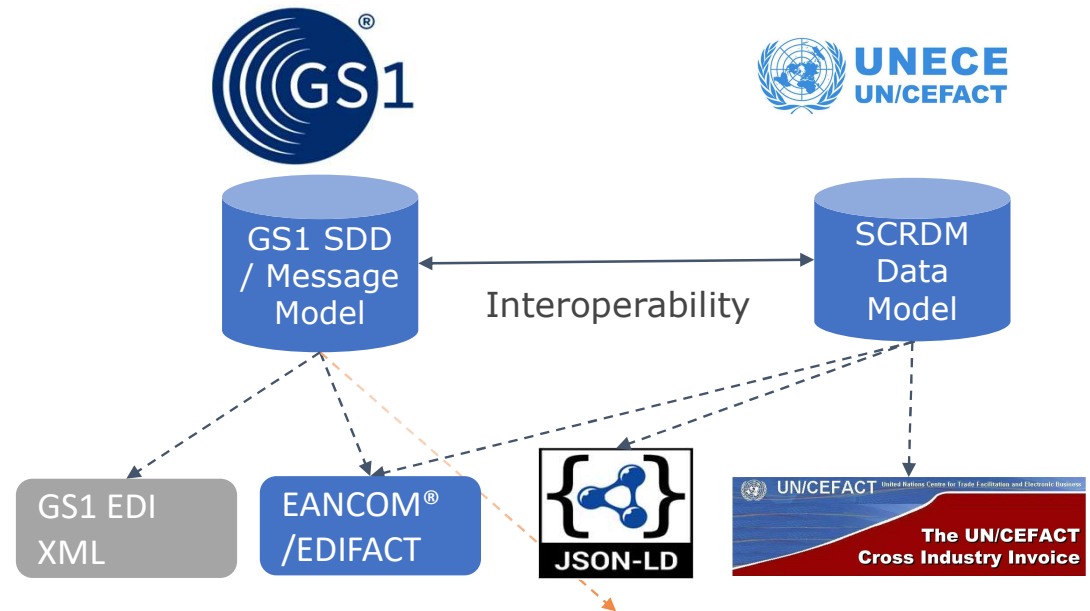


# Data Models Interoperability



- **Data models are becoming more and more centric in data sharing domain**

- Data meaning and interpretation is more relevant than the technological representation
- New technologies, like AI, can support an easy transformation from a format to another but only if the data are really well defined and interoperable

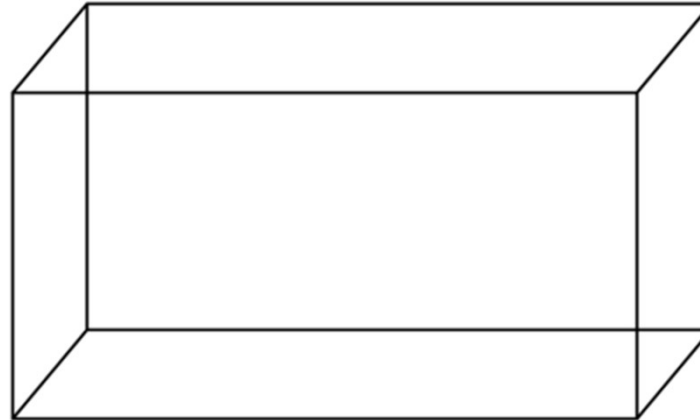




## A concrete example: item dimensions



- **Option A**
- Depth
- Height
- Width



- **Option B**
- Length
- Width
- Height

- **Are Depth and Length synonyms?**
- **Are the definitions of height and Width consistent across different standards?**

# A concrete example: item dimensions



- **UNTDED 2005:**

- Height and Length exist as terms but with generic definitions
- Depth and Width are not defined

|     | Height   | Length | Depth   | Width  |
|-----|--|--------|---|--|
| GS1 | The vertical dimension from the lowest extremity to the highest extremity. |        | Measurement of the distance between the front and the back. | The measurement of the extent of something from side to side. Width is the measurement from left to right. |

- **How to determine the lowest extremity?**

- GS1 has defined a guideline for determining the three dimensions for the different use cases

# In conclusion



- **Actual technologies will continue to be relevant**

- GS1 will continue to support actively EDIFACT as a technical format for EDI

- **Data model interoperability is the key for the future**

- The core will be more and more on data rather than on formats
- The harmonisation of the semantics of data is not as simple as it may seem and requires collaboration among the standardisation organisations
- The more clear and harmonised the data models will be, the easier will be to move from a format to another, quickly responding to market requests (for instance legal regulations, etc)



# Thank You

Presented by: Presenters Name/Company here

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