

Missions of the CAPE-OPEN Laboratories Network

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The CAPE-OPEN Laboratories Network (CO-LaN) is the internationally recognized user-driven organization for the testing and management of the CAPE-OPEN (CO) standard targeted at Computer Aided Process Engineering (CAPE) tools. The standard defines rules and interfaces that allow applications or components to inter-operate. CO-LaN also helps to facilitate implementation of standard interfaces in commercial software such as AspenPlus® from AspenTech, Hysys.Process from Hyprotech, gProms from PSE Ltd, VALI III from BELSIM SA, INDISS from RSI, etc....

In January 2002, the missions of the CO-LaN have been re-defined as follows:

1. User priorities for CO standards: work with software vendors to clarify user priorities for process modeling software component/environment interoperability and also to promote communication and cooperation among CAPE software vendors to insure that the CO standards actually translate into commercially valuable interoperability;
2. Exploitation and dissemination: promote the CO standard to end-users and distribute CO information and technology internationally;
3. CAPE-OPEN specifications life cycle management: organize the maintenance, evolution, and expansion of the specifications;
4. Testing, interoperability facilitation: supply compliance testers to support development of components, organize interoperability tests between suppliers of PMCs (Process Modeling Components) and PMEs (Process Modeling Environments)
5. Training/Migration facilitation: ensure that training modules, guidelines and tools to facilitate component wrapping are developed and available.

The organization operates as a network of virtual and physical offices. It mainly uses the internet for internal communication and for communication with other parties.

- ➔ Dissemination will be mostly through the web site, through contributions to scientific venues and through awareness meetings arranged for end-users and developers;
- ➔ Specifications approval will follow a Request For Comments process;
- ➔ Harnesses for testing the CAPE-OPEN compliance of PMCs as well as PMEs will be developed by CO-LaN and made publicly available for development support and component pre-screening;
- ➔ Interoperability tests will be organized periodically to ensure commercial-level interoperability of CAPE-OPEN compliant commercial PMCs and PMEs;
- ➔ "Migration wizards" and other tools and guidelines will be supplied to support the wrapping of existing components or the production of new ones;
- ➔ The specification management and support work will be allocated to Special Interest Groups (SIGs).