

**Composition System Replacement Industry Day  
GPO Responses to Industry Questions  
March 21, 2007**

1. What is a locator and how is it different than XML?
  - Locators, developed by GPO in the 1970's, are specific tagged identifiers that are placed within text data. Locators have a corresponding identifier in a separate format file with typesetting attributes. XML is data or content oriented whereas locators are style or composition oriented. Locator tagged data exists in a two level hierarchy which is a format tag followed by a series of locator tags. XML can result in multiple level hierarchies. More information on locators can be found in [Publishing From a Full-text Database](#).
2. What program(s) languages were used to develop Microcomp?
  - C code wrapped in C++ generating postscript.
3. Is the structure of the locator code (bell, number, etc.) specific to a customer (e.g., Congress, Senate, House)?
  - No. Locators are intended to be used for multiple purposes and are not tied to a specific format file. The same locator can have separate typesetting attributes in different publications.
4. How many locators are typically used from a single format?
  - 20 or 30 are typically used per format. However a single publication may use multiple formats.
5. How many formats has GPO identified?
  - Approximately 1500.
6. How is GPO making the translation from XML to locators?
  - GPO is currently using XSLT translation and proprietary DTD translation. However, we would be interested in hearing about other options from industry.
7. Will the typesetting specific instructions contained in the locator be lost if an XML translation takes place?
  - It depends on the translation method being utilized and is something that GPO doesn't currently do. However, GPO would like to go to a XML-only workflow so translations don't occur.
8. What is the XML editor that Congress is using?
  - Customized versions of XMetal.
9. What is the XML standard the Congress is using?
  - Please reference the Congressional DTDs at [xml.house.gov](http://xml.house.gov).
10. Will CSR allow agencies to submit content in everything from handwritten notes, ASCII, and XML?
  - Yes.
11. Are there any financial benefits for customers who submit XML?
  - GPO currently offers a discount for Federal Register submissions based upon the type of file and amount of work required to print those files.
12. Will customized workflows be supported and will CSR need to support the repurposing of data?

- Yes, CSR must support repurposing of data. We would be interested in learning about industry's thoughts on customized workflows.
13. Does data have to be acquired from databases for composition?
- No. Most agencies freeze their data prior to submission to GPO for publication so no dynamic updating occurs even if it originally came from a database.
14. Is GPO looking for help in the creation and maintenance of DTDs or schemas?
- No. The support and maintenance of the schema or DTDs are not a part of this project.
15. Is GPO tied to a schema and/or DTD only?
- This is driven by the tools currently utilized by GPO customers and what future tools require. The current tools are DTD based.
16. When files come in will they be contained in a separate database and processed from there? Where will files be stored? Will the receiving and processing system be separate from the output repository?
- [FDsys](#) will be the primary content repository for GPO. The final versions of files will be maintained in FDsys.
17. How will content versions be handled for the proof or editing process? If the file is changed will the content go back to the content originator?
- It depends on the publication. In many cases, the timeframe determines that proofs cannot be supported so GPO acts as a proxy and makes the changes on behalf of the originator. There is a dialog that takes place between GPO and the originator for a majority of the content submitted. These changes are often text based and format changes rarely occur. CSR must be able to support both hard and soft proofs.
18. Are the Congressional Record and Federal Register GPO's biggest challenges to produce on a daily basis?
- Yes, the Federal Register and Congressional Record are two of the largest publications that GPO produces on a daily basis the shortest turnaround time.
19. Will the existing DTDs be used and will they need to be backwards compatible?
- The existing DTDs and data formats should be used as a starting point. However changes should be kept to a minimum due to the size and complexity of the authoring communities.
20. Is the focus for CSR print only?
- No. GPO's hope for CSR is that it supports all forms of dissemination, including print and web.
21. Does CSR overlap with FDsys for dissemination purposes?
- No. When CSR is implemented, the native document files and PDF will be deposited into FDsys for access and preservation purposes. CSR needs to be able to produce these files for submission to FDsys.
22. Was Microcomp designed to handle XML?
- No. However, enhancements have been made to provide limited support..
23. Are your current workflows automated?
- There are both manual and automated workflow processes.

24. Is workflow the same as job tracking and reporting?
- No, job tracking and the subsequent reporting are components of workflow. Workflow is a series of steps and associated rules that triggers events. Workflows can be supported with automated processing that triggers a series of pre-determined processes. Job tracking is the capability to provide a response to a query to current job status. Report functionality provides the capability to generate manual or ad-hoc reports on job or process statistics.
25. Can you explain the composition of multiple publication fragments?
- In the current state, GPO divides up publications into fragments and distributes them to multiple people to keyboard, typeset and proof. For example: a 100 page document may be given to 20 different typesetters to compose. After composition, a galley proof that is formatted with large type is produced and after approval, the fragments are merged back together to produce a single publication.
26. Is there a single table model that describes and supports all the tables that GPO is using and is it an industry standard?
- There are three table models GPO uses, none of which are industry standard:
    - i. For Bills, GPO is using a customized version of the CALS table model.
    - ii. Sub-format generation model for SGML/XML: used for the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations.
    - iii. Sub-format generation model for locators: used for all other publications.
27. What percentage of tables are tagged when submitted to GPO?
- Approximately 3% of tables are tagged.
28. If a table is submitted as a graphic, is there a requirement to turn it into data?
- Yes.
29. Are any of the tables dynamic? Would we be pulling the data from a database?
- No. Most agency publications are in the final published format, and Microcomp does not link to external databases.
30. Does GPO reject table graphics without alt tags or key in tags?
- GPO and the rest of the Legislative branch are not required to comply with Section 508, but content published by the Office of the Federal Register and other Executive Federal agencies must comply. Since GPO disseminates these publications, compliance with Section 508 is required.
31. Do you see users continuing to use text editors such as TextPad or Xywrite?
- GPO would like CSR to support multiple editors and allow the user to select the editor they prefer. An author and a GPO typesetting operator may need to use different editors that suit their needs. We are interested to hear what industry suggests.
32. Is GPO giving precedent to an XML editor or complete end to end solution?
- GPO's customers determine what tools they will utilize. However, GPO is open to any proposals that vendors may have and anticipates working with the vendor to develop a preferred solution. However, it will depend on tools the end users want to use. GPO's vision is that XML editors will be utilized primarily in the future.
33. In reference to the desktop version of the application – would the user want to utilize the end to end workflow?

- The desktop version will allow a user to author, compose, and output documents. The server version will offer this functionality and will also enable the automated workflows GPO has defined for its composition and production purposes.
34. Does the user interface have to be 508 compliant?
- Yes.
35. Does CSR user need to be able to select the documents they choose to process?
- Yes.
36. Will the vendor be required to convert the existing Microcomp formats?
- GPO anticipates that the solution will provide a user interface to create style sheets/formats for use in the new composition engine. The GPO Microcomp formats will not need to be automatically migrated from the current system to CSR. GPO does not expect vendors to learn the complex syntax of GPO Microcomp formats.
37. How many external originators use Microcomp?
- There are approximately 250 external Microcomp users. GPO estimates that there are about 500-700 total users of Microcomp.
38. How will GPO rollout and implement CSR?
- That is yet to be determined but at a minimum GPO wants the implementation to be based on industry best practices and be as simple to use and install as possible.
39. How will GPO handle updates to the CSR version and will users be able to refuse updates?
- CSR must be able to automatically and manually push updates to users and it will be determined by the user if they choose to accept or roll back the update.
40. Is GPO open to capability to give limited user IDs to customers so they can submit docs via the web?
- External users will go through the FDSys web interface for content submission.
41. Will there be overlap in submission channels initially?
- This will be driven by the recommended solutions. Although, GPO anticipates utilizing current channels (e.g., hot folders) as well as FDSys interfaces for content submission.
42. Do you allow the insertion of A-B pages and how does GPO handle large edits and its effect on text reflow?
- At this time, GPO does not use A-B pages. GPO does try to limit the impact of the reflow for large changes. We try to make changes without reflow during the middle of a production process. If a change is large enough, GPO will reflow but try to limit the extent of the reflow as much as possible.
43. How much will the batch system have to control changes as opposed to the interface itself?
- The interface should provide the capability to turn select functionality on and off (e.g., specify a page range for reflow and “try to retain page breaks” or “don’t try”). GPO would like to do as much processing in an automated manner as possible. However, GPO wants to reserve the right to manually intervene and compose the pages manually. GPO also needs the ability to view all composition errors in the process, bypass them, and come back to them later in order to meet

time deadlines.

44. Is the index system currently run through Microcomp?
- Microcomp generates the index after all the pages have been composed and it has the capability to use separate applications to map the indexes to other publications.
45. Does CSR require that the output of the new composition system use all existing utilities?
- No. For example, if CSR has an indexing feature, you don't need to use our old tool.
46. Are the existing utilities listed somewhere?
- No. However, the functionality of these utilities are reflected in the RD.
47. Are the majority of the utilities for workflow?
- Yes. There are also a number of them that are used for translating and previewing. Our workflow is essentially based on a group of hot folders and is not well documented. GPO would like an overall workflow system where the pipelines can be monitored and controlled. GPO needs visibility into the automated processes. Right now, it takes someone to realize that a folder is getting large, or not being populated.
48. What is the difference between the white paper and the capabilities statement?
- Capability statements should address specific areas defined in the Requirements Document and state specific solutions for the areas. The white papers are more overarching statements that address gaps between current technology and CSR areas, any concerns with CSR documentation. Concerns should be accompanied by clear recommendations supported by industry best practices for refining documentation. Additionally, the white papers should provide technology roadmaps, with implementation timelines for CSR area support, and budgetary estimates. Lastly GPO has a requirement that states that CSR must continue to accept locator codes. GPO would like industry to respond to how this requirement will affect the overall program cost and schedule.

The following information is taken from the CSR RFI:

Following Industry Day and keeping GPO's goals in mind please outline how your products and/or technology provide any of the listed areas, or describe how your products and/or technology set provide additional solutions that would be advantageous for the Government. Please also list budget estimates along with estimated implementation timelines and effort.

Vendors who are interested in any or all of the solution sets must submit a packet of material which includes:

1. A separate capability statement (10 pages or less per area; no marketing material). Address specific solution sets or clusters.
2. A single page listing company points of contact (name, title, email and phone) and GSA Schedule information (if applicable).
3. A separate White Paper (no more than 50 pages total) that:
  - a. Addresses gaps between current technology and notional areas.
  - b. Addresses any concerns with CSR documentation. Concerns should be accompanied by clear recommendations supported by industry best practices for refining documentation.
  - c. Provides technology roadmaps, with timelines for CSR area support.

Capability statements and/or other white papers and documentation related to Industry Day must be submitted MS Word Files by noon on 30 April 2007, to [pmo@gpo.gov](mailto:pmo@gpo.gov) (subject heading "**CSRs Industry Day Additional Vendor Information**"). Faxed copies are not acceptable.

Questions regarding capability statements, white papers and other documentation must be submitted in writing to: Contacting Officer – Herb Jackson  
U.S. Government Printing Office, Acquisitions Services Division, 732 North Capitol Street, NW Room A332, Washington, DC, 20401. Questions must be submitted by 3 April 2007.

49. Should the capability statements cover just the parts we are capable of?
  - Yes.
50. What are you going to do with the capability statements?
  - Once we've reviewed the capability statements and other documentation, we will report to our stakeholders, frame their expectations with regards to technology maturity, industries ability to meet requirements, gaps, timelines and budgetary info. This will help GPO determine the next steps.
51. When will an RFP go out for CSR?
  - GPO is conducting market research for CSR. We do not have an acquisition timeframe.
52. Are you requiring vendors that want to participate in the RFP process to participate in the capability statement process?
  - No.