

Fujitsu outlines its XBRL software development capabilities to members of the superannuation community

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XBRL Australia recently held a conference to update software developers in regards to the latest developments in XBRL. The conference was taking advantage of the presence in Australia of Olivier Servais who is the Director of XBRL Activities at the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation in London.

The conference was attended by software developers from the superannuation industry as well software developers from the Standard Business Reporting (SBR) community. While the developers for the SBR marketplace have had experience with implementing XBRL (many using Fujitsu-based software) those from the superannuation community may not have this experience. As XBRL will soon be mandated for B2B use within the superannuation industry (as part of SuperStream*), many software developers have asked questions about how to XBRL-enable their applications.

To address this requirement, Peter Campbell from Fujitsu Australia Software Technology (FAST) gave a presentation on how this had been achieved within the SBR context. He outlined some of the details of the SBR-specific Application Programming Interface (API) which FAST had developed, on behalf of Treasury, for accounting package vendors. Using this API had made it much more straightforward for software developers to XBRL-enable their applications for SBR. Developers did not need to understand deep details of XBRL. Instead they could focus on the business logic of their applications. Peter explained that this was achieved by embedding the various SBR rules and conventions within the API and only exposing the specific methods which were required for SBR.

As the SuperStream approach will use the SBR taxonomy and transaction model, developers asked whether the API would work with SuperStream. Peter explained that, while technically it would, the API had been developed for SBR on behalf of Treasury, and as such, all enquiries about the API should be directed to Treasury.

For more details on this article please contact xbml@au.fujitsu.com

* SuperStream: This is the name given to the package of proposals for improving the processing of everyday superannuation transactions.