Common Record:CommonLine Regional Technical Training

By Judy Martin  
NCHELP

The NCHELP Electronic Standards Committee is pleased to offer three regional technical training opportunities on Common Record: Common Line (CR:C). NCHELP, the Department of Education (ED) and PESC (Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council) worked jointly to establish Common Record standards to be used by the financial aid community. This collaborative effort enables the Common Record to bring consistency and standardization to the transmission of student financial assistance data.

CR:C allows processing Common-Line data in an XML manner, utilizing the Common Record structure. As all schools will be required to use Common Record to exchange data with ED, implementing CR:C offers an opportunity to provide streamlined, efficient processes to school customers and to the school software developers.

The regional two day training sessions are designed to provide detailed information to assist your organization in the implementation of CR:C. ESC subject matter experts will review the processes and functions in the Common Record: CommonLine Implementation Guide (posted on the NCHELP website, www.nchelp.org) and give sessions on a Crosswalk for CommonLine to XML and Data Transport. This forum is a great opportunity to ask questions and interact with other individuals and organizations implementing CR:C.

Midwest Region  
Oct. 16-17, 2003  
Sallie Mae Auditorium  
1100 USA Parkway  
Fishers, IN 46038

East  
Jan. 29-30, 2004  
Jacksonville, FL (tentative)

West  
Feb. 23-24, 2004  
Phoenix, AZ (tentative)

Location and hotel information will be posted to the NCHELP website as it becomes available.

The training is offered without a fee for participants. However, please register online so we can anticipate the number attending. Visit www.nchelp.org and click on CR:C Regional Training under Upcoming Events.
BY KIM SHIFLETTE
USA FUNDS AND NCHELP’S ESC

An updated version of the CRC documentation and master tracking document have been posted to the NCHELP website. The documentation is available in both a PDF and Word format.

The Master tracking document identifies sections/pages/text revisions and allow users to quickly locate changes within the documentation.

Version 1.01 has two additional sections finalized - Response Processing and Error Codes. With the exception of sections still annotated as draft, all documentation revisions are highlighted in the implementation guide and noted in the tracking document.

Based on the changes to the documentation there will be minor modifications to the corresponding CRC schemas. A separate notification will be sent when the revised schemas are finalized.

Any questions or concerns with the documentation or schemas should be submitted as an issue through the CRC Issue submission process.

The CRC documentation, master tracking document, schemas and issue form may all be found at www.nchelp.org/committees/e_standards/CommonRecordCommonLine.htm

New Members

PESC is pleased to welcome the following organizations to its membership!

Community College of the Air Force
PESC contact is Terri Amatuzzi
www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/

Consumer Bankers Association (CBA)
PESC contact is Harrison Wadsworth
www.CBA.net.org

edamerica
PESC contact is John Farinella
www.edamerica.org

Illinois Designated Account Purchase Program (IDAPP)
PESC contact is Chris Ruckoldt
www.idapp.org

New Institution Code List

Many organizations and vendors over the years have developed and created new codes for identifying institutions. As a result, the same entity can end up with numerous codes which can cause a variety of issues.

To help the higher education community map these codes, PESC continues to support a “crosswalk” table of some of the most common codes (e.g. FICE, ACT, College Board, etc.).

This crosswalk is freely available for downloading from PESC’s website at www.StandardsCouncil.org.

Prior to downloading, users must confirm that their use of the crosswalk codes is for internally programming purposes only.

A special thank you goes to Tom Hill from the Army’s AARTS Program who reconfigured the table for a Windows environment.
Minimum PC Requirements

for Financial Aid

In order to effectively and efficiently communicate with FSA and to keep pace with emerging technologies, the US Department of Education has recently published minimum PC requirements for schools effective January 1, 2004. They are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Configuration – Current</th>
<th>Minimum Configuration – January 1, 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBM or fully IBM-compatible PC</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 MHz Pentium Processor or comparable</td>
<td>Intel Pentium 4 Processor – 2.80 GHz / 533 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128 MB RAM</td>
<td>1 GB SD RAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 GB hard drive</td>
<td>80 GB hard drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 Kbps modem (that meets or is upgradeable to v.90 standard)</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5” / 1.44 MB diskette drive</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor and video card capable of Super Video Graphics Adapter (SVGA) 800 x 600 resolution (small fonts only) or higher</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows 95 keyboard with Microsoft compatible mouse</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laser printer capable of printing on standard paper (8.5” x 11”)</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24x CD-ROM drive or higher with sound board</td>
<td>48x CD-ROM drive or higher with sound board (CD-RW drive recommended)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technology Tidbits and Standards Snippets

- **California Governor Gray Davis** recently signed a bill outlawing spam to or from the state. The law fines spammers $1,000 for each unsolicited message sent and up to $1 million for each campaign. The bill requires the sender to determine if the recipient resides in California. According to an industry expert, with nearly 20 percent of email that is sent or received represented by California many companies will move to comply with California law across the board as opposed to trying to segregate California email addresses.

- **Microsoft and IBM banded together in New York to demonstrate preview code for the next set of Web service protocols designed to enable more complex, secure, cross-company e-business transactions.** Bill Gates, on hand with top IBM software executive Steve Mills, said the forthcoming WS-Security, WS-Reliable Messaging and WS-
Transaction protocols are designed to enable the kind of e-business relationship vendors hyped during the 1990s. The Web service application used in the demonstration was running on disparate systems -- a Windows 2003 Server, a Linux-based Websphere server from IBM and Linux-based wireless handheld. Portions of the demonstrated protocols are expected to be embedded in Microsoft programs over the next nine months. For additional information visit http://www.crn.com/sections/BreakingNews/breakingnews.asp?ArticleID=44591

According to a recent Chronicle of Higher Education article, "Many college administrators say the quality of their institutions' online courses may soon eclipse that of their brick-and-mortar offerings." One-third of survey respondents indicated that online education would be superior to in-class instruction at their institutions within three years. In addition, 57 percent said that Internet-based courses at their institutions were already at least equivalent to their lecture-hall counterparts in educational quality. The survey is available at www.sloan.org.

The Department of Education's recently released report about the Distance Education Demonstration Program calls on Congress to ease regulations that limits the growth of distance-education programs, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education. The Department has already eliminated the 12-hour rule that once was considered to prohibit growth in distance education, but Congress must change the federal law that forbids institutions that enroll more than half of their students at a distance from providing federal financial aid. This rule is commonly referred to as the 50-percent rule. The Chronicle article may be accessed at www.chronicle.com.

UT Austin Internet Server ‘SPEEDEs’ Along

August 2003 volume included:

- 48,997 TS130 transcripts
- 38,868 TS131 acknowledgements
- 6,299 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 7,647 TS189 Admission Applications
- 2,553 TS138 test score reports
- 119,163 total transactions
- 127 entities sent transcripts (plus about 300 Florida schools not counted as separate entities.)
- 189 entities received transcripts (same qualifier as above.)