SyncML Interoperability Testing Process

http://www.syncml.org/supporters/docs/syncml_?????.doc

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2001-01-24

SyncML Interoperability Testing Process, version 0.2

Abstract

The purpose of this specification is to define SyncML Interoperability Testing process. The SyncML Interoperability Testing Process is created to ensure that SyncML implementations are truly interoperable. Pre-requirement in order to take part this interoperability process is to first complete SyncML conformance testing process [1]. Vendors will have right to license the SyncML logo usage in product marketing materials after successful completion of this interoperability testing process.

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Consortium

The following companies are sponsors in the SyncML initiative:
Ericsson
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Matsushita Communications Industrial Co.
Motorola
Nokia
Palm, Inc.
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Starfish Software

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Comments
0.1	2001-01-15	First draft
0.2	2001-01-24	Changes according to TecCom review in SV

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this specification is to define SyncML Interoperability Testing process. SyncML Conformance Testing Process is a pre-requirement for this SyncML interoperability testing process. A vendor is intended to accomplish both SyncML conformance- and interoperability testing processes before entering an implementation to the markets. The only reason not to complete interoperability testing part is that implementation is using such a data object(s) that are not supported by other manufacturers.

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2 SyncML Interoperability Committee

SyncML Interoperability Committee (SIC) is formed from the representatives of SyncML sponsor companies. The SIC is responsible to organize activities related to SyncML Conformance Testing and Interoperability Processes. The SIC is also responsible to make decisions related to problem situations within interoperability issues.

A detailed description of SyncML Interoperability Committee's role and tasks can be found from SIC charter document [4].

Please refer to SyncML web pages (www.syncml.org) to find out up-to-date information about SyncML Interoperability Committee and ongoing activities.

3 SyncML Interoperability Testing Process

This chapter defines the actual SyncML interoperability testing process. Vendors are required to follow this process in order to complete SyncML interoperability testing requirements properly.

3.1 Process description

Figure 1 gives a diagram view of SyncML Interoperability Testing Process. The process consists of three main phases: preparation for interoperability testing, SyncFest and completion of interoperability testing. These phases are described in sub-chapters below with more detail.
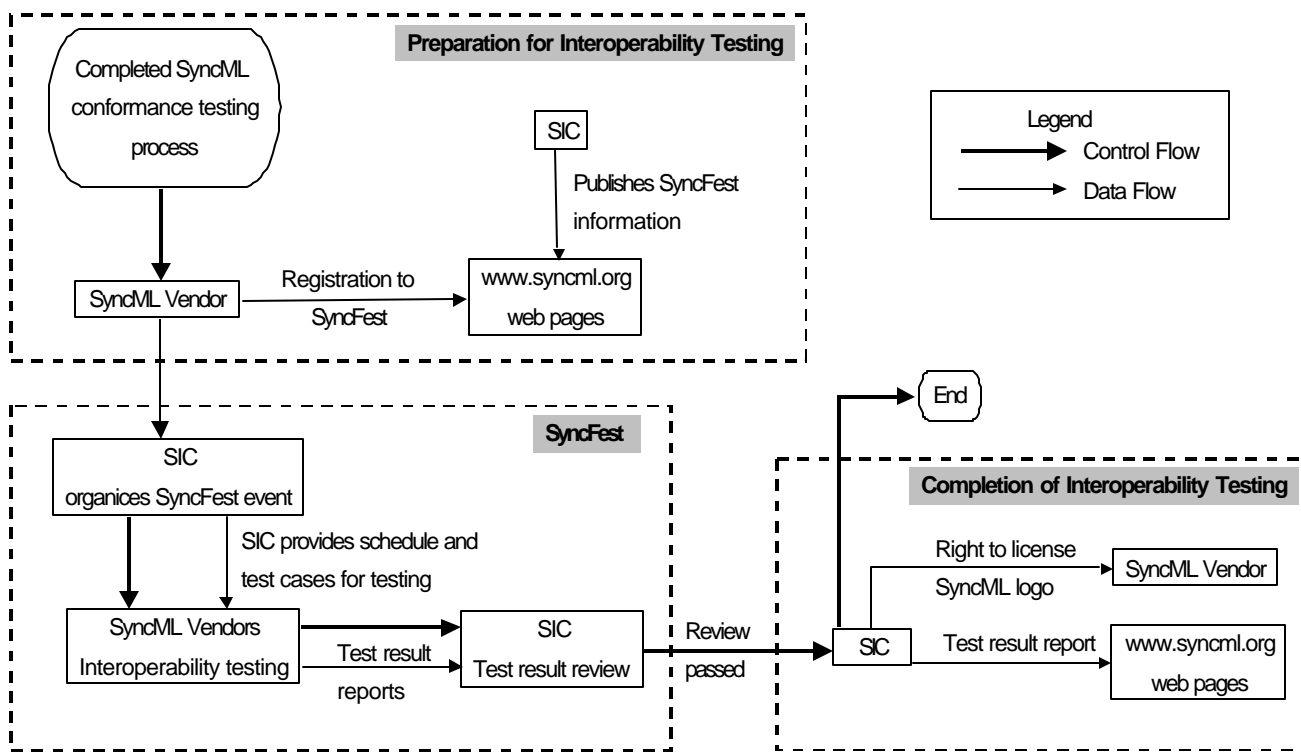
Figure 1 SyncML Interoperability Testing Process Diagram

3.1.1 Preparation for Interoperability Testing

Pre-requirement for SyncML interoperability testing is to complete SyncML Conformance Testing process [1]. After successful completion of SyncML conformance testing process, vendor has right to take part of SyncML interoperability testing process. In cases where SyncML implementation supports common object types (such as PIM objects) it is required that vendor has to always complete SyncML interoperability testing (in addition to conformance testing). Only reason not to complete SyncML interoperability testing process is that there are NO other companies, which are supporting synchronization of same data object(s).

The SyncML Interoperability Committee (SIC) publishes information about SyncML interoperability testing activities. Up-to-date information of these activities can be always found from SyncML web pages (www.syncml.org/interop). In practice, vendor needs to find out a suitable SyncFest event,

which it is willing to join and register participation. The SIC will organize SyncML interoperability testing events in periodic basis (these events are called SyncFests within SyncML initiative).

A preparation for SyncML interoperability testing has been done after a vendor has registered their participation to SyncFest event.

3.1.2   SyncFest

"SyncFest" term is used to describe the actual SyncML interoperability event. These events will take place periodically at various geographical locations.

SIC will organize SyncFest events and create schedule for the events. SIC will also provide testing schedule and test case for SyncFest.

SIC will create a testing schedule for SyncFest event. Vendors have to perform one-to-one testing according to this schedule. SICS (SyncML Implementation Conformance Statement) [2] can be used as criteria in order to select testing counterpart for each implementation. The main idea of scheduling is enable testing with as many counterparts as possible.

Actual testing has to be performed using test cases that are provided by SIC [3]. Test report form has to be filled out from each one-to-one testing session. This means that output of SyncFest testing is as many test reports as there has been one-to-one testing sessions according to schedule. Test reports has to be delivered for the SIC.

The SIC reviews test result report. A criterion for passing this review is that test reports indicate successful test results with at least two other companies' implementation. This means that no every test session has to be successful.

3.1.3   Completion of interoperability testing

Once test result reports review has been completed and passed, the SIC informs SyncML vendor about the right to license the SyncML logo usage in product marketing material.

List of implementations that have successfully completed SyncML interoperability testing will be published in SyncML web pages (www.syncml.org).

3.2   Additional interoperability requirements

In addition to process diagram phases there exists also two additional interoperability requirements.

3.2.1   Process repetition requirement

The SyncML Conformance testing process has to be repeated for every major revision of any particular SyncML implementation.

3.2.2   Backward compatibility requirement for SyncML servers

It is presumable that there will be new minor versions of SyncML specifications (such as 1.x, 1.y, etc.). If SyncML server is upgraded to support a new minor version of specification, it is required that the server MUST also support TWO earlier versions of the same major SyncML specification.

An example case:

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1) SyncML server is based on SyncML specifications version 1.0 and has completed conformance and interoperability process.

2) A new intermediate version 1.1 of SyncML specifications is published. The server is upgraded to support the new version of specifications.

3) The upgraded server is required to re-pass conformance and interoperability processes. Addition to this, it MUST be interoperable with SyncML 1.0 clients. In other words, a new server has to be able to go through interoperable testing process with SyncML 1.0 and 1.1 clients.

It is not required for SyncML clients to be interoperable with servers that are based on former version of SyncML specifications.

3.3   Problem handling

Presumable (such as in any technology) there will be flaws in SyncML Technical Specifications, test cases and within interoperability testing process itself. Problem reports related to interoperability testing should be submitted to the SIC. Instructions how to submit problem reports can be found from SyncML web pages (www.syncml.org/interop).

The SIC will review all the problems reports and makes decision about the course of actions if needed.

4   SyncFest directives

This chapter consists of some directives related to SyncFest interoperability testing events.

4.1   Confidentiality

It has to be possible to bring un-announced product to SyncFest events. This means that vendors have right to take actions in order to protect confidentiality of their products. Other vendors have to respect this fact. All kind of competitor espionage activities are strictly prohibited.

4.2   SyncFest participants

Invited participants for SyncFest events are a part of vendor's SyncML engineering staff. The number of delegate members from each vendor has to be moderate. Not invited individuals are persons which belong categories such as students, press, observers, sales and marketing professionals. SyncFests are not places to learn SyncML technology or neither events for marketing purposes.

SyncFests are purely technical testing events and it is therefore strongly prohibited to join the SyncFest event with other than SyncML interoperability testing intention.

4.3   SyncFest participation fees

There will be fee for SyncFest participation. Collection of participation fees is a part of SyncFest registration process.

4.4   SIC has right to observe

SIC is responsible to look after that SyncFest event is taking place according to requirements and directives described in this document. Therefore, SIC has a right to observe that SyncFest participants are following these rules. This does not mean that SIC has a right to violate confidentiality directive. Observation has to be done with a respect to vendors' right to protect confidentiality of their products.

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5   Terminology

5.1   Definitions

SyncFest – SyncML Interoperability testing events that are organized periodically and are hold at one geographical location.

Interoperability testing process – SyncML Interoperability follows the SyncML Conformance Testing Process. Interoperability testing Process requires vendor to demonstrate SyncML implementation functionality against other manufacturers' SyncML implementation.

SyncML Conformance Testing – involves testing of the capabilities and behavior of an SyncML implementation against what the implementor states in the SICS. It does not include testing of items such as performance or reliability of an implementation.

SyncML vendor – In this document, SyncML vendor is any manufacturer that introduces its' product for SyncML Conformance Testing.

5.2   Abbreviations

BIT   Basic Interconnection Tests

ICS   Implementation Conformance Statement

IOP   Interoperability

ISO   the International Organization for Standardization

SIC   SyncML Interoperability Committee

SICS   SyncML Implementation Conformance Statement

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6 References

[1]   SyncML Conformance Testing Process

[2]   SyncML Implementation Conformance Statement Proforma

[3]   SyncML Manual Test Cases

[4]   SyncML Interoperability Committee (SIC) charter