Comments of OASIS SEE TC to SAWSDL

Members of SEE TC became familiar with both documents [1], [2] produced by SAWSDL WG. Initial comments have been produced through the mailing list, but the final discussion has taken place during F2F meeting of the SEE TC in Athens on the 8th of November 2006.

The work is well done, especially the Usage Guide, but there are several aspects, which we believe should be addressed. A general comment to both documents is that while we would expect from [1] to be a formal specification, it still includes the number of examples, which actually should become part of the primer/guide document [2].

If we take a look at these documents from an industrial perspective, it appears the WG is merely trying to move complexity away. The entire specification is about adding three attribute to WSDL (`modelReference`, `liftingSchemaMapping`, `loweringSchemaMapping`) and opening up a world of semantic magic. However as soon as a reader goes through it, it becomes obvious that the magic (as always) is nowhere to be found. The `modelReference` attribute itself is just a pointer useful for discovery, but lowering and lifting operations are very complex and should be described using difficult declarative languages (e.g. XSLT is not so well accepted by the industry, especially if XML2XML mappings are required). There would be a need to develop some grounding machine, that would be quite a complex piece of software that could (not should) be feed with declarative descriptions (XSLT, SPARQL, etc.) of the lowering and lifting operations.

Moreover, the behavioural annotation remains underspecified leaving many options open for describing the Choreography of the Web Service. We believe that WG mean Web Service Choreography when referring to "specify behavioural aspects", but the ordinary reader might not understand the same by behavioural annotations.

SEE has a Semantic SOA Reference Model which is inclusive of WSMO, where (functional) capabilities are attached not at the level of operations or interfaces, but to whole services, as an abstracted view of the whole functional behaviour. This raises this question of why the SA-WSDL `modelReference` attribute is restricted in those elements in the WSDL meta-model to which it can be applied, in particular why WSDL services cannot be given model references.

[1] http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/WD-sawsdl-20060928/
[2] http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/WD-sawsdl-guide-20060928/