

# Foreword

**This memo is a clarification that clears up the former presentation**

*(available on this site @ <http://www.i-o-t.org/post/2008/03/31/first>).*

**It does reply some comments made at a roundtable (EU commission)**

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- In the former presentation, « Opening the EPC Namespace » was not considered as a technical issue to be solved :
  - The EPC Naming space is already technically « open » (as mentioned on slide 4) and able to be used with many other naming schemes (DUNS, EIBCC, PURLS, etc.)
- However the question was about the control of the issuing of EPC numbers (current naming structure) in an EPCGlobal environment : I.E. assignment of parts of the namespace (ranges of numbers) to others entities (Today 100% Gs1/EPCGlobal : fee based)
  - For other entities to be able to issue EPC# to their communities / customers

# EPCGlobal's Current scheme

## Lifecycle of an object

- EPC numbering
- EPCGlobal network (including lookup services such as ONS and Discovery services)
- EPCGlobal/ GS1 governance

B2B (GS1)

Private sphere  
(consumer)

- EPC numbering (when buying an object at the supermarket): renaming ?
- Which lookup services ?
- Which governance ?
- Deactivation of the ID (tag, etc.) to « secure privacy » ?
- Changing of the ID data carrier ?

- Which numbering ?
- Which ID data carrier ?
- Which network ?
- Which governance ?

After sales  
services, others

# Alternative 1

## Lifecycle of an object

- EPC numbering
- EPCGlobal network (including lookup services such as ONS and Discovery services)
- EPCGlobal / GS1 governance

B2B (GS1)

Private sphere  
(consumer)

- Other identifiers (when buying an object at the supermarket) such as HANDLE, snipurl, etc.
- Discovery Services (ONS should not be used in that case) capable to address both « worlds » (EPC, HANDLE, PURL, other IDs based on URI, etc.) and to make possible the link between former and newer IDs
- Separated and isolated governances (name issuing)
- Deactivation or rewriting of the ID (tag, etc.) to « secure privacy » and use of a different numbering scheme

- Which IDs ?
- Which network ?
- Which governance ?
- Coherence with former phases ?

After sales  
services, others

Increases complexity in the design of discovery services, traceability impacts (breaks in the value chain). How to ensure uniqueness of IDs on the network ? Data alignment ?

## Alternative 2

### Lifecycle of an object

- EPC numbering
- EPCGlobal network (including lookup services such as ONS and Discovery services)
- EPCGlobal / GS1 governance

B2B (GS1)

Private sphere  
(consumer)

- « Open » EPC identifiers (when buying an object at the supermarket) : cf. previous presentation
- Adapted Discovery Services (ONS should not be used in that case) that possibly make the link between former and newer IDs
- Separated and isolated governances but 1 single naming scheme (uniqueness)
- Deactivation or rewriting of the ID (tag, etc.) to « secure privacy » with use of a similar numbering (different meaning but same infrastructures and network standards)

- « Open » EPC numbering (coherence with former phases and data alignment capabilities)
- Adapted Discovery Services (ONS should not be used in that case) that possibly make the link between former and newer IDs
- Separated and isolated governances but 1 single naming scheme
- Reuse or replacement of the existing ID data carrier (tag, etc.) with use of a similar numbering (different meaning but same infrastructures and network standards)

After sales  
services, others

reduces complexity in the design of discovery services, traceability improvement (if ever wanted by the new owner of the object), uniqueness of the IDs

# Conclusions

- Current EPCGlobal scheme is immature and only addresses B2B issues such as the existing supply chains (does not facilitates quick adoption based on merchandising, marketing, consumer apps.)
- Alternative 1 is acceptable but will slow down adoption of EPCGlobal standards since B2B supply chains (EPCGlobal based) and downstream part of the value chains will not be based on 100% similar schemes (Discovery services)
- Alternative 2 has open questions to be solved but will help EPCGlobal standards adoption if EPCGlobal's scope is widened from B2B to a B2Any perspective
- Maintaining a distinction between B2B (GS1/EPCGlobal) and « rest of world » could lead Industries to use different « name issuing entities » (different from EPCGlobal). Consumer is generally the end user of those manufactured products : he is also a citizen and....
- .... the ultimate arbiter will be THE « Citizen », not the industry.....