Interoperability Standards Rationale for PAPI

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Pan African Parliamentary Interoperability Framework Initiative

Why Pan-African Parliamentary Interoperability?

- All Parliaments face very similar IT problems
  - Drafting legislation
  - Debating/voting/tracking changes to documents
  - Recording chamber debate/committees etc.
  - Producing working documents such as committee briefs, amendment lists etc.

Why Pan-African Parliamentary Interoperability?

- Significant scope for sharing information artifacts such as legislation
- Significant scope for avoiding “reinventing the wheel” in creating electronic representations of bills, debate record, order papers etc.
- Significant scope for improving inter-Parliament information retrieval and citation through use of common metadata and common document naming conventions.

Why Pan-African Parliamentary Interoperability?

- But…
  - Individual Parliaments/jurisdictions require local features, local customisations
  - Many, many similarities in the workings of Parliaments but also many differences that need to be respected…

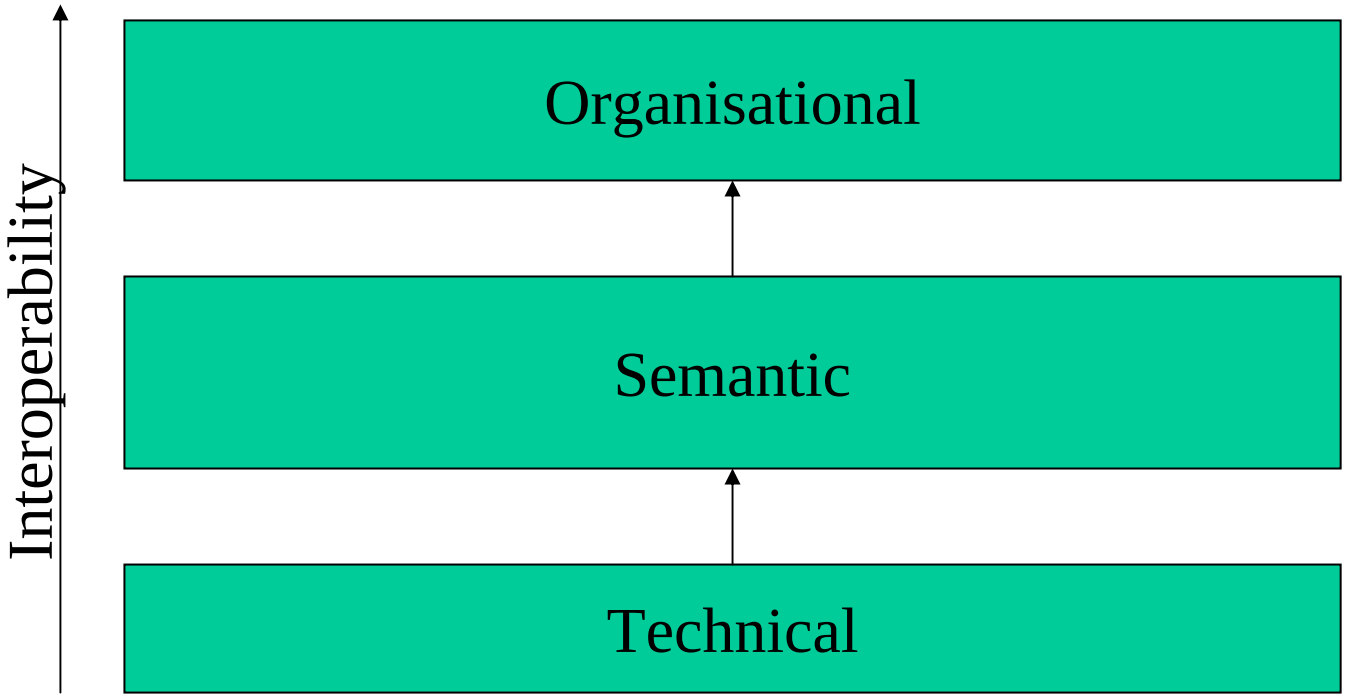
Why Pan-African Parliamentary Interoperability?

- Question: How to allow seamless sharing of documents between Parliaments while retaining local extensibility?
- **Answer**:
  - Create an Interoperability Framework

What is Interoperability?

- The ability to share electronic data and electronic processing between cooperating entities such that differences in underlying IT systems are irrelevant.

Layers Of Interoperability

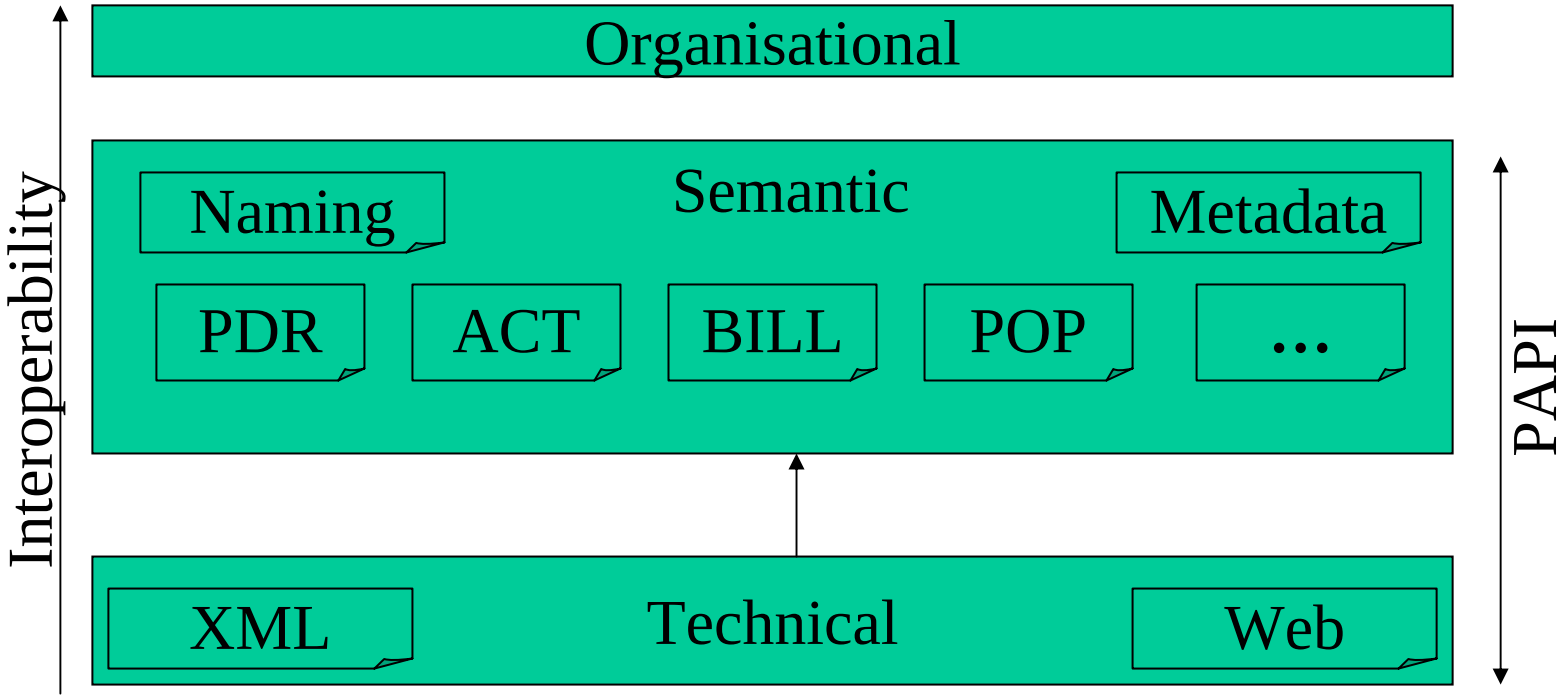


http://sdec.reach.ie

EPAN eGovernment Working Group

http://www.reach.ie/publications/downloads/PrinciplesofInteroperability.pdf

Layers of Interoperability



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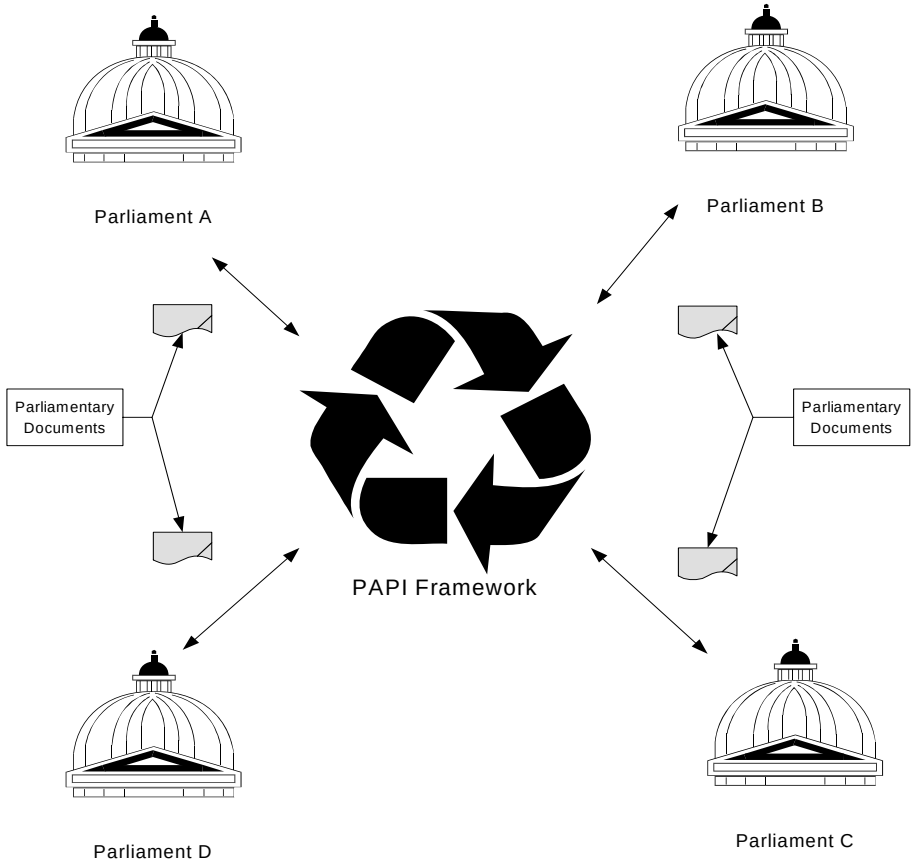
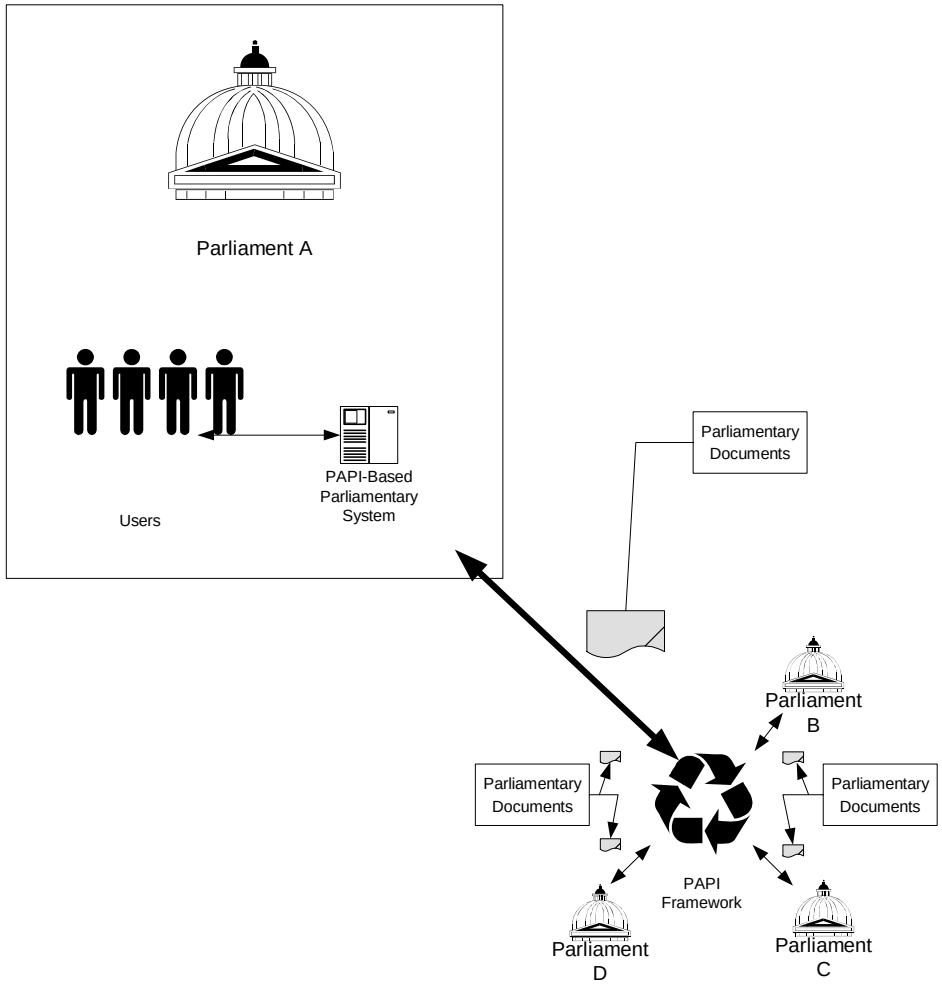
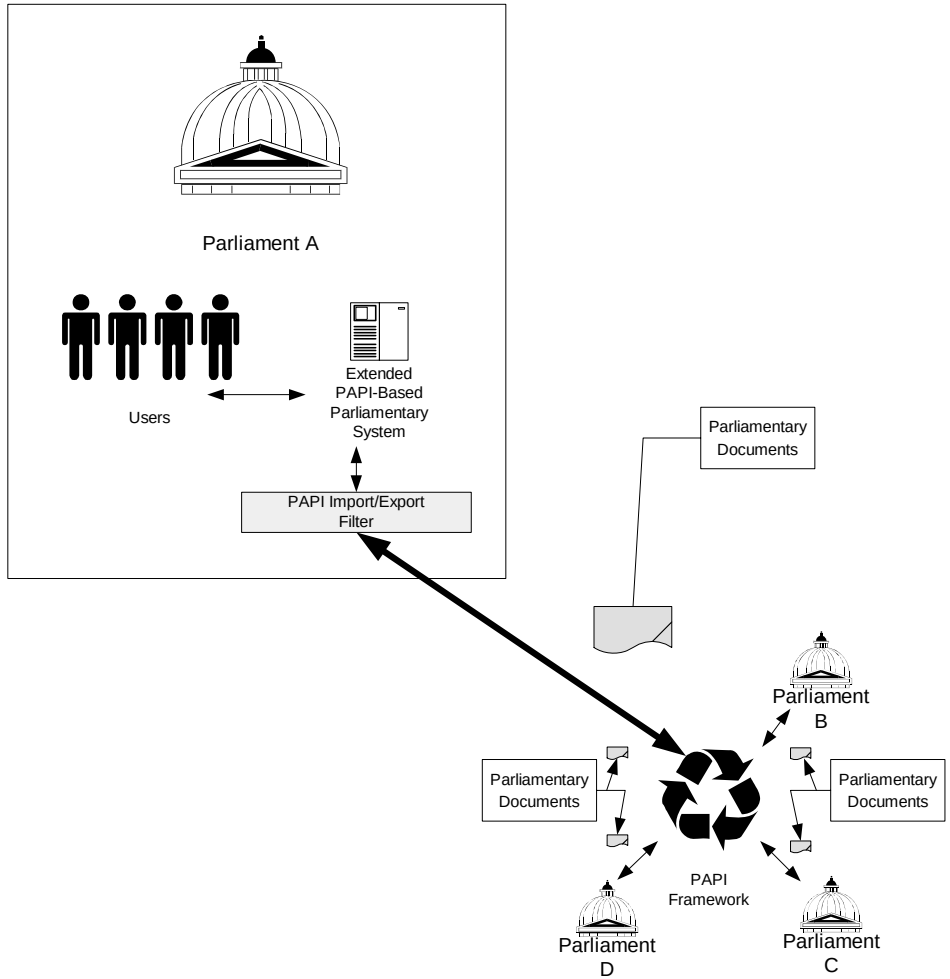
PAPI In Practice – “Hub notation”



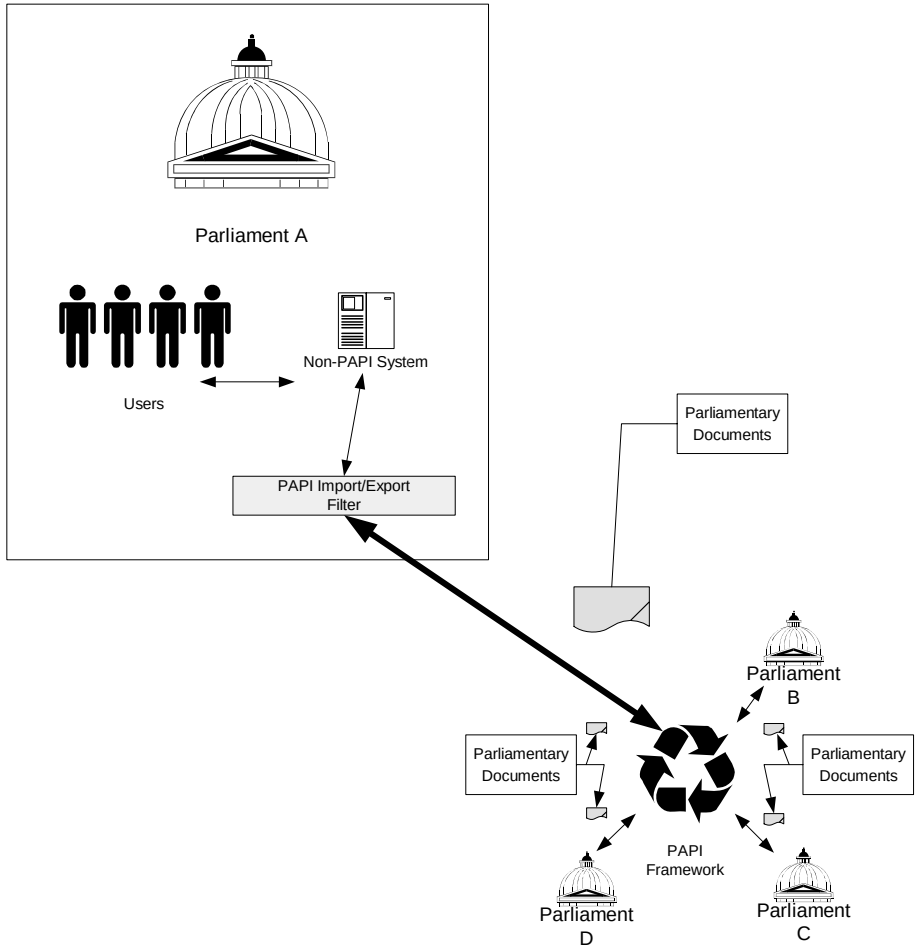
PAPI Deployment Options – Direct



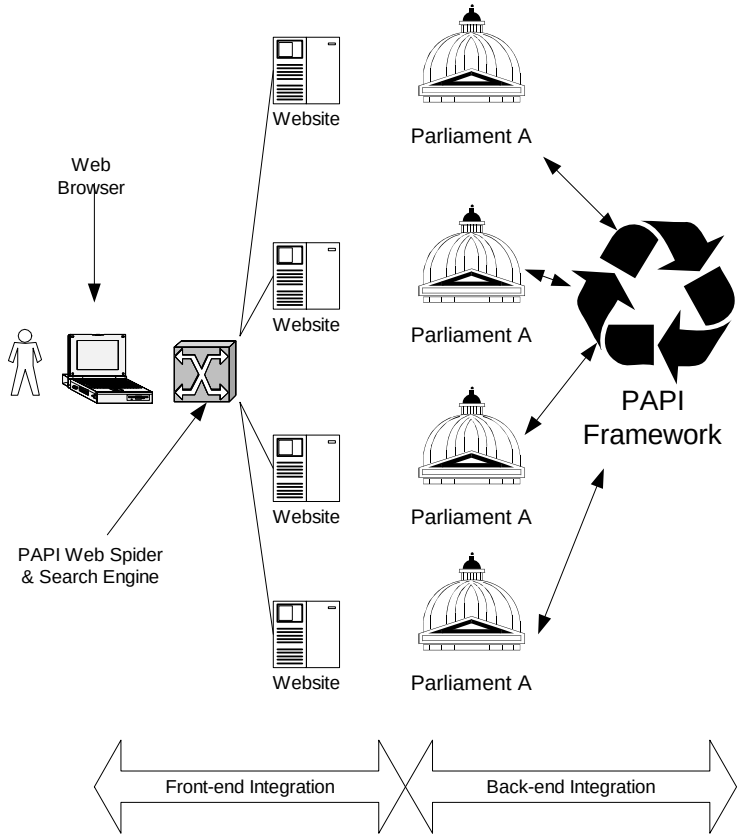
PAPI Deployment Options – Extended



PAPI Deployment Options – Compatibility



PAPI Citation and Search Model



PAPI Metadata

- Critical for inter-Parliamentary information retrieval/search
- Extensible Metadata Model based on naming conventions
  - Eurovoc Africa
  - Dublin Core

Eurovoc Africa

- Eurovoc
  - Multilingual thesaurus developed by EU
  - 15 Languages (including English, French & Portuguese)
  - Over 6,000 descriptors
- Eurovoc Africa
  - A planned extension to Eurovoc to incorporate required African descriptors

PAPI Hypertext

- Naming convention for information assets – critical for inter-Parliamentary hyperlinking
- Meaningful identifiers – no need for lookup registries
- Can know what the resource will be called in PAPI before the resource even exists
- Variety of hypertext resolution mechanisms supported

Main components

- XML Document models for legislation, debate record etc. (in a variety of schema languages)
- Sample documents
- Extensible naming convention for documents and metadata
- Extensible naming convention for hypertext management
- Extensible framework for expressing business rules to validate the structure of documents

Main components

- Profiles of XML and related standards for use in PAPI (Unicode, W3C XML schema etc.)
- Extensible framework for schema management and evolution

Status and Roadmap

- Framework has been baselined
- Sample documents, schemas, validators etc. available
- Full documentation available
- Governance structure under discussion
- Comments and contributions welcome