

Owen Ambur - Brief Biography

On January 3, 2007, with 34 years of Federal service, Owen Ambur retired from his position as Chief XML Strategist for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). In support of DOI's award-winning enterprise architecture (EA) program, he was also responsible for managing the DOI Enterprise Architecture Repository ([DEAR](#)). He co-founded and for the first six years of its existence he co-chaired the U.S. federal CIO Council's (CIOC) XML Community of Practice (xmlCoP), whose activities are documented at <http://xml.gov>. In that capacity, he managed development of the CIOC's emerging technology life-cycle management process, hosted at [ET.gov](#). He retains the title of Co-Chair Emeritus of the xmlCoP and continues to assist with management of the ET.gov site and process as a volunteer.

During 2004 Owen co-chaired the enterprise architecture working group of the Financial Management Line of Business (FM LOB) under the President's Management Agenda (PMA). He also participated actively in the Grants Management Line of Business (GM LOB) and pressed the case for focusing on components that cut across and should be shared by all lines of business. In 2005 he participated in the working group drafting version 2.0 of the Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA) Data Reference Model (DRM), which he suggested agencies should implement in valid XML instance documents in fulfillment of the requirement of [subsection 207\(d\)](#) of the eGov Act to organize and categorize government information.

The first 14 years of Owen's career in Federal service were spent on Capitol Hill, culminating as legislative director and chief of staff to Senator James Abdnor (R-SD). Subsequently, for more than 7 years he served as Congressional liaison for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In that capacity, he oversaw the legislative program of the agency, directed compilation of a comprehensive [digest](#) of laws of interest to the agency and its stakeholders, and implemented an electronic document management system in support of the program. The success and usefulness of that system led to a career transition, when the Director of the agency asked Owen to transfer to the Division of Information Resources Management (IRM) to expand its benefits agency-wide.

Owen is a former vice chair and currently serves as membership coordinator and webmaster for the Federal Information and Records Managers Council ([FIRM](#)), a voluntary association of Federal information and records managers. He majored in psychology and sociology at [Augustana College](#) in Sioux Falls, SD. He has done graduate work in psychology and holds a masters degree in computer systems management from the University of Maryland University College. He is a widely recognized expert in Extensible Markup Language (XML) and electronic records management. Many of his academic pursuits are documented on his personal home page at <http://ambur.net>. He has been awarded recognition for technology leadership by the CIO Council.

Owen's research interest focuses on why we as human beings, particularly those in positions of power, may prefer not to have good records and record-keeping systems. His ongoing series of papers on that topic is available on his [Web site](#). When he runs out of better things to do, one of his retirement projects involves turning those papers into a book. In the meantime he remains active in the xmlCoP on a voluntary basis and to continue to press government agencies to do a better job of managing, sharing, and using "We the People's" records. Toward that end, he is co-chairing AIIM's Strategy Markup Language (StratML) standard [committee](#), which is specifying an XML vocabulary and schema for strategic plans, including those U.S. federal agencies are required to compile and maintain under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Part 1 of the StratML standard has been approved and [published](#) as an American national standard ([ANSI/AIIM 21:2009](#)). He is also participating in the W3C's Electronic Government Interest Group

([eGov IG](#)) as an invited expert.

Owen participated actively in AIIM's [C30 committee](#), which produced ANSI/AIIM/ARMA TR48-2006, *Revised Framework for Integration of Electronic Document Management Systems and Electronic Records Management Systems*. Under the auspices of AIIM's Interoperable Enterprise Content Management ([iECM](#)) committee, he has agreed to lead a task to identify existing standards and, as necessary, specify additional XML tags for all of the elements of metadata conceptually listed TR48.

Former Professional Titles:

- Co-Chair, [XML Community of Practice](#), U.S. Federal CIO Council
- Project Manager, [ET.gov](#), U.S. Federal CIO Council
- [Chief XML Strategist & DEAR Program Manager](#), Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Legislative Director and Chief of Staff, Office of [Senator James Abdnor](#) (R-SD)
- Professional Staff Member, Congressional Joint Economic Committee ([JEC](#))
- Chief, [Office of Legislative Services](#) (Congressional Liaison), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Vice Chair, Federal Information and Records Managers ([FIRM](#)) Council

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