Digital Business Council Update
April 2017

The Digital Business Council (Council) in collaboration with the ATO are creating an eInvoicing system, that allows a business to send and receive an invoice without any printing, posting, emailing or re-keying. It is faster, less likely to result in errors and cheaper than traditional paper or email invoices.

The only way to make this broadly available to businesses is by facilitating an interoperable eInvoicing environment that will allow lots of different technology providers and systems to recognise each other's eInvoices, while using a common directory to manage digital addresses. The Digital Business Council is considered an exemplar for co-design and co-development with Government.

The ATO supports eInvoicing by providing secretariat services, progressing the Digital Capability Locator by collaborating on its design and implementing a procurement process which is currently in the market and implementing the accreditation process.

Key Updates

- **Adoption:** Department of Industry and its selected clients, Commonwealth Bank and Telstra are actively exchanging eInvoices in a test environment.

- **The Digital Capability Locator (DCL) procurement** is on AusTender, closing 11 April. Evaluation is targeting completion by the end of April 2017. The target for the DCL build to be available is June 2017.

- **Accreditation Deed Polls (declarations), which will replace the interim agreements, have been agreed by the Governance Working Group.** Consultation is open on the documents at digitalbusinesscouncil.com.au until 31 March 2017. Service providers would be able to apply for accreditation from the end of April 2017.

- **Formalising responsibilities between the Digital Business Council and ATO** via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- **Treasury have the scoping study announced in the 2016 budget, and are developing a response for Government.**

Industry led
internationally proven

Simple
connect once, trade with many

Open
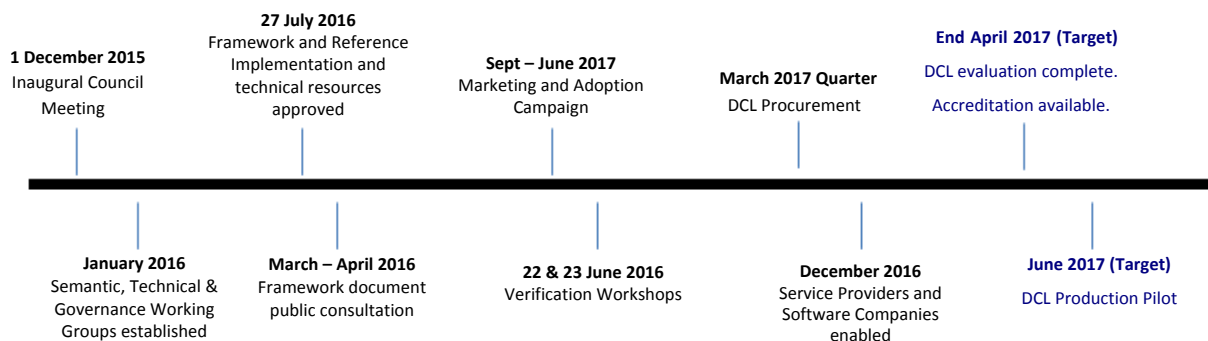to all types and sizes of business

Trusted
a reliable and secure environment for transactions

Proof of Concept Successes

Several business and government organisations have decided to take an early adoption approach as they had already been on a path to optimise their procurement related business operations. Although the eInvoicing Interoperability Framework (Framework) prescribes proven international standards, the organisations elected to conduct early proof-of-concept exercises in order to further inform their planning activities. The following is a summary of those exercises:

- 22 Service Providers are provisionally accredited (listed on digitalbusinesscouncil.com).
- CBA and Telstra completed an eInvoicing proof-of-concept (POC) in December 2016, MessageXchange provided Access Point services. A press release was published on 22/02/2017. It was a technical POC and considered a success by all parties involved.
- Department of Industry, Innovation and Science participated in a POC sending recipient created tax invoices (RCTI) to grant recipient via the Framework, using MessageXchange as their Access Point. Global Grain Handling Solutions was selected as the recipient. eRCTI successfully completed on 21/02/2017.
- SSSA and Australia Post are participating in a POC with Basware and MessageXchange as Access Points. Detailed scoping has been undertaken, technical interoperability testing has been completed and POC execution is expected to be complete by 30/04/2017.
- Department of Finance - Service Delivery Office is proposing to participate in a POC with OfficeMax, both parties will use B2BE as their Access Point. If Finance receives the funding they are seeking, they expect to complete a POC by the end of June.
- Australia Post and Telstra are commencing a POC project where both businesses will send and receive eInvoices with each other via the Framework, MessageXchange will provide Access Point services. Telstra expects to be able to go 'live' receiving eInvoices soon.
- DHS will complete three separate Pilots with SG Fleet, Telstra and Cabcharge. DHS will implement its own access point solution. First pilot with SG Fleet scoped and planned, the responsible team has submitted the project request to DHS costing and it is under review. Work on these Pilots is likely to commence next Financial Year.

Digital Business Council - Timeline

1 December 2015
Inaugural Council Meeting

27 July 2016
Framework and Reference Implementation and technical resources approved

Sept – June 2017
Marketing and Adoption Campaign

March 2017 Quarter
DCL Procurement

End April 2017 (Target)
DCL evaluation complete.
Accreditation available.

January 2016
Semantic, Technical & Governance Working Groups established

March – April 2016
Framework document public consultation

22 & 23 June 2016
Verification Workshops

December 2016
Service Providers and Software Companies enabled

June 2017 (Target)
DCL Production Pilot

Digital Business Council

- Is a multi-stakeholder consultative forum consisting of 16 representatives from various peak bodies, government agencies, software providers and industry. It is chaired by Peter Strong (COSBOA). Council has 5 working groups.
- Research and Secretariat support is provided by the ATO.
- Representatives of 60 organisations participate in the consultation process which has so far seen over 150 hours of meetings and 1800 individual hours of commitment.
- Is regarded as an exemplar of co-design between industry and government, having developed, agreed and published the eInvoicing Interoperability Framework as its first significant project.
- The Framework is available publicly at digitalbusinesscouncil.com.au.

eInvoicing is the digital exchange of invoices and related documents - no paper or email needs to be sent, received or processed.

Digital Capability Locator is a critical piece of centralised infrastructure which allows an access point to discover where a business's digital capabilities are located.

Digital Business Council
Transforming the ways Australians do business

The industry-led Digital Business Council advocates for a whole of economy approach to eCommerce transactions.

Please email us at **contact@digitalbusinesscouncil.com.au**

digitalbusinesscouncil.com.au