Akoma Ntoso Update: Legislative Drafting at the United Kingdom & Scottish Parliaments

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What is Akoma Ntoso?
What is Akoma Ntoso?
Akoma Ntoso Standardization

• Essentially done

• Public comment stage
  • Object raised by European Parliament and European Legislative Identifier (ELI) workgroup
  • Solution has been a compromise – support for multiple URI schemes

• One last round of comments
LEX Summer School 2016
+ Akoma Ntoso Developer Workshop

• University of Bologna
  • Ravenna, Italy campus
  • September 5-13, 2016

Growing value statement
Developing a browser-based drafting, amending, and publishing tools for primary and secondary legislation
Scotland and the United Kingdom

United Kingdom “Asymmetrical Devolution”

Scottish Parliament

UK Parliament
- House of Lords
- House of Commons

Scotland
- England
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
U.K. Guiding Principles

- Browser-based but application-like experience
- User focused: objects that the user understands
- A shared system for all
- Uses open standards
- Inspired by Government Service Design Manual
- Follows Agile development methodology
Suppliers

• Xcential Legislative Technologies
  • Architecture
  • Editing Component
  • Akoma Ntoso implementation

• Azeus (U.K.)
  • Bespoke workflow implementation
  • Application integration
  • Agile scrum master

• The Stationery Office (TSO)
  • Project administration
  • Database & Security support

*Project management by the (customer) partners*
Worldwide Project

The sun never sets on this British project
# Managing a Worldwide Agile Project

## Communicate
- **Slack**: Between project team, developers, and product owners (users)
- **Email and phone**: Still not dead yet

## Collaborate
- **Google Docs**: Test documentation, instruction manuals
- **Google Slides**: Presentations
- **Google sheets**: Trackers

## Manage
- **Jira**: Issue tracking and agile project management tool
- **Microsoft Project**: Still not dead yet

## Meet up
- **Vscene**: Multi-platform video-conferencing and desktop sharing (provided by suppliers)
- **Intercall**: Teleconferencing and desktop sharing (Scot Gov contract)
- **Doodle**: Scheduling meetings and user sessions
- **Face to face**: In any partner location in UK

## Develop
- **Github**: Code repository
- **AWS**: Amazon Web Services - cloud hosting for test environment

## Document
- **Kahootz**: Secure document storage. Board papers, financial reports and forecasts etc. (G-cloud procured service)
Project Timeline

Current
- UK Bill Frame Maker system
- Scottish Bill Word Macros
- Statutory Instrument template

Discovery and Alpha
- Wireframes
- Prototypes
- Requirements

Beta
- Beta development

Live transition
- Continuous development
- Integration
- Gradual rollout

Discovery and Alpha and Beta are connected by an arrow, indicating a transition from one phase to the other.
Balancing the Tensions

What does the customer need?

What does the standard say?

What can be built?

Sweet Spot
Borrowing Experience

California Legislative Counsel
• “Redlining” (track changes)
• Page & line number back-annotation
• Inline amending (amendments in context)
• PDF publishing

U.S. House of Representatives
• Editor core
• Resolver architecture
• Hierarchy management

Hong Kong Dept. of Justice
• UK legislative traditions
• Schema modeling

And of course, Akoma Ntoso experience
Integrated Editing Environment
Akoma Ntoso is very flexible

Akoma Ntoso does not have to perfectly match local jurisdiction document traditions

Full Akoma Ntoso Tag set

Perfect Match

Customer Need

Missing

U.K. & Scottish Requirements

Use generic named elements to fill in the gaps or refine the semantics
Document Types Implemented

- **Bill**
  - UK Bills
  - Scottish Bills

- **Act**
  - UK Statutes
  - Scottish Statutes
  - UK Statutory Instruments (SI)
    - Rules, Orders, Regulations, Warrants, Insistances, non-Insistances, byelaws, etc.
  - Scottish Statutory Instruments
  - Church Measures (Future)

- **Amend. List**
- **Draft Amendments**
- **Daily Lists**
- **Marshalled Lists**

- **Amendment**
- **Amendments**
Basic Drafting

• Word processor editing experience
• Extensive use of keyboard
  • Keyboard navigation
  • Promote / Demote
• Introduction of redlining
Traditional Amending

Apologies (Scotland) Bill

Marshalled List of Amendments for Stage 2

The Bill will be considered in the following order—

Sections 1 to 6 Long Title

Amendments marked * are new (including manuscript amendments) or have been altered.

Section 2

Paul Wheelhouse

2 In section 2, page 1, line 11, leave out from <(including) to <tribunals)> in line 12

Paul Wheelhouse

3 In section 2, page 1, line 12, at end insert—

<( ) inquiries (including joint inquiries) which the Scottish Ministers cause to be held under section 1 of the Inquiries Act 2005 or which they convert under section 15 of that Act into inquiries under that Act,>

Paul Wheelhouse

4 In section 2, page 1, line 12, at end insert—

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• Manual Drafting
• Drag & Drop
• Automated Parsing of language
Grant certain duties, or alter other duties, and the National Debt and the Public Revenue, and for connection with finance.

Marginal notes:

1. In the long title, after Grant leave out certain duties.
2. In the long title, after words leave out words.
3. In section 45, page 1, line 1, after Schedule insert something.

Name of Proposer: John Smith
Name of Supporters: Bob Jones, Jane Johnson

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Apologies (Scotland) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision for the effect of an apology in certain legal proceedings.

1 Effect of apology in legal proceedings

In any legal proceedings to which this Act applies, an apology made (outside the proceedings) in connection with any matter—

(a) is not admissible as evidence of anything relevant to the determination of liability in connection with that matter, and

(b) cannot be used in any other way to the prejudice of the person by or on behalf of whom the apology was made.

10 2 Legal proceedings covered

(1) This Act applies to all civil proceedings (including inquiries, arbitrations and proceedings before tribunals) except—

(a) inquiries under the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976, and

(2) defamation proceedings.

(2) This Act does not apply to criminal proceedings.

(3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify the list of exceptions in subsection (1).

(4) Regulations under subsection (3) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

20 3 Definition of apology
In Summary

- Early adoption of Akoma Ntoso
- Ambitious scope
  - Nation wide drafting tool for both primary and secondary legislation
  - Innovative drafting and amending approaches
  - Aggressive timeline
- First Beta Version complete
  - User evaluation stage
  - Development hiatus
  - Refining the edges
- Next phase – Complete development
- Phased deployment – starting with Scotland