Business Aspects of e-Invoicing:
The Austrian Experience

Gerti Orthofer

Institute of Informatics in Business and Government

Johannes Kepler University Linz

iWV

situation in Austria

- about 700 million invoices on paper
- about 180 million invoices between enterprises
- a paper invoice costs about 5€

→ You can save about 70% of the costs!

Definition of a standardized document type for invoices

situation in Austria

- high automation of the invoicing process in large companies
- invoicing process takes place local; for the data transfer an automized interface is used to the accounting system .
- workflow of incoming invoices is organized electronically in big companies.
- SMEs dominate a paper oriented auditing of accounts and manuel workflow of invoices.

- accountancy as a internal service sector is dependent on supporting documents and information from previous fields
- optimisation through a view on the whole process and inclusion of all organisational units.
- creation of a companywide standard.

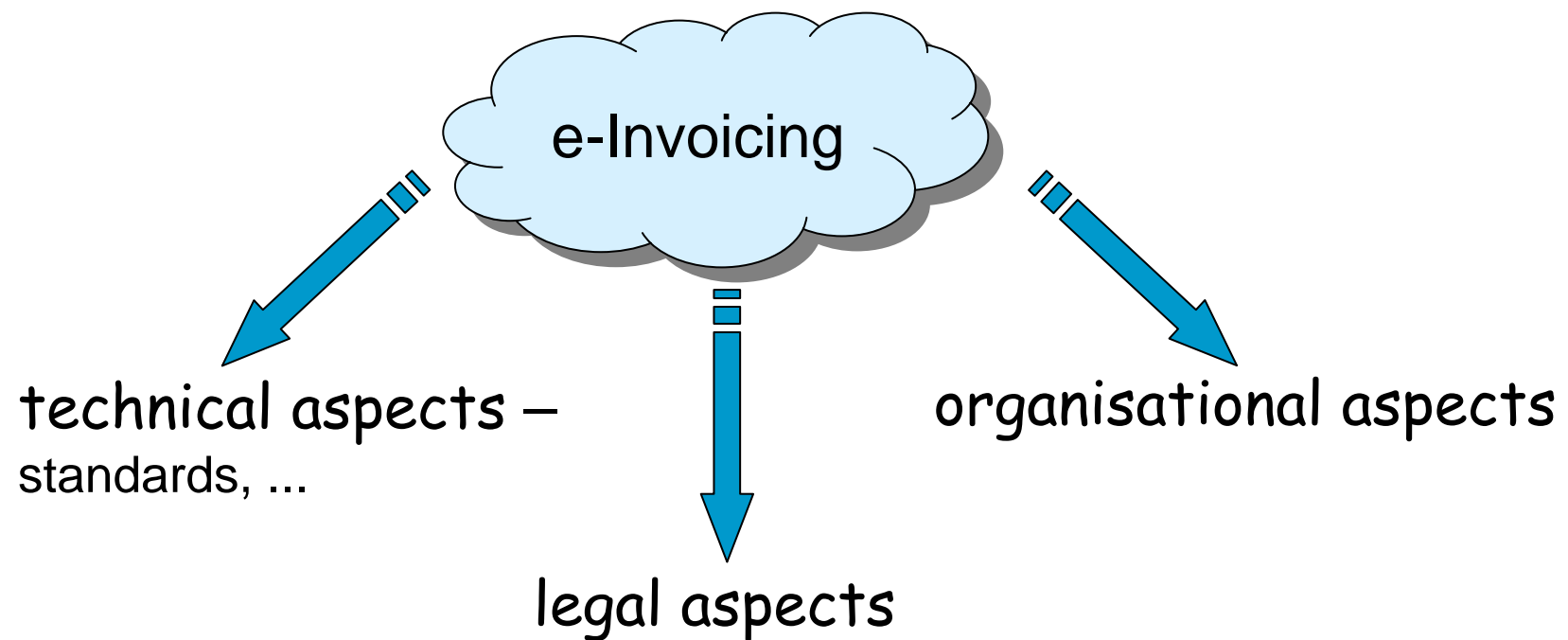# main goals

efficient (B2B) communication

- application-to-application approach
- open standards for everybody

Advantages for remittee and orginater of an invoice and financial instituions

- no media break
- low error rate
- good integration
- equal opportunieties
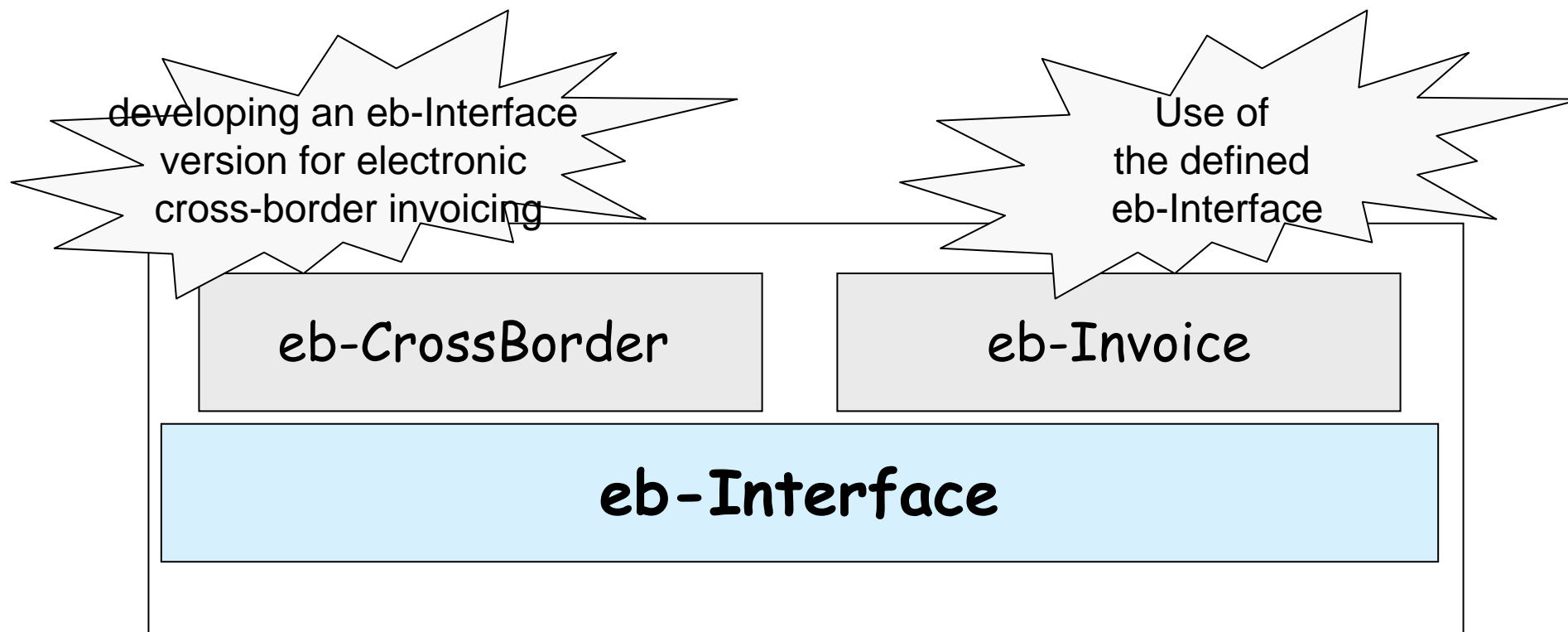
- audit and control is easier

important aspects / requirements

eInvoicing is the electronic transmission and processing from signed invoices.

e-Invoicing

technical aspects –
standards, ...

legal aspects

organisational aspects

eInvoicing project

- goal: development of an invoicing standard

developing an eb-Interface version for electronic cross-border invoicing

Use of the defined eb-Interface
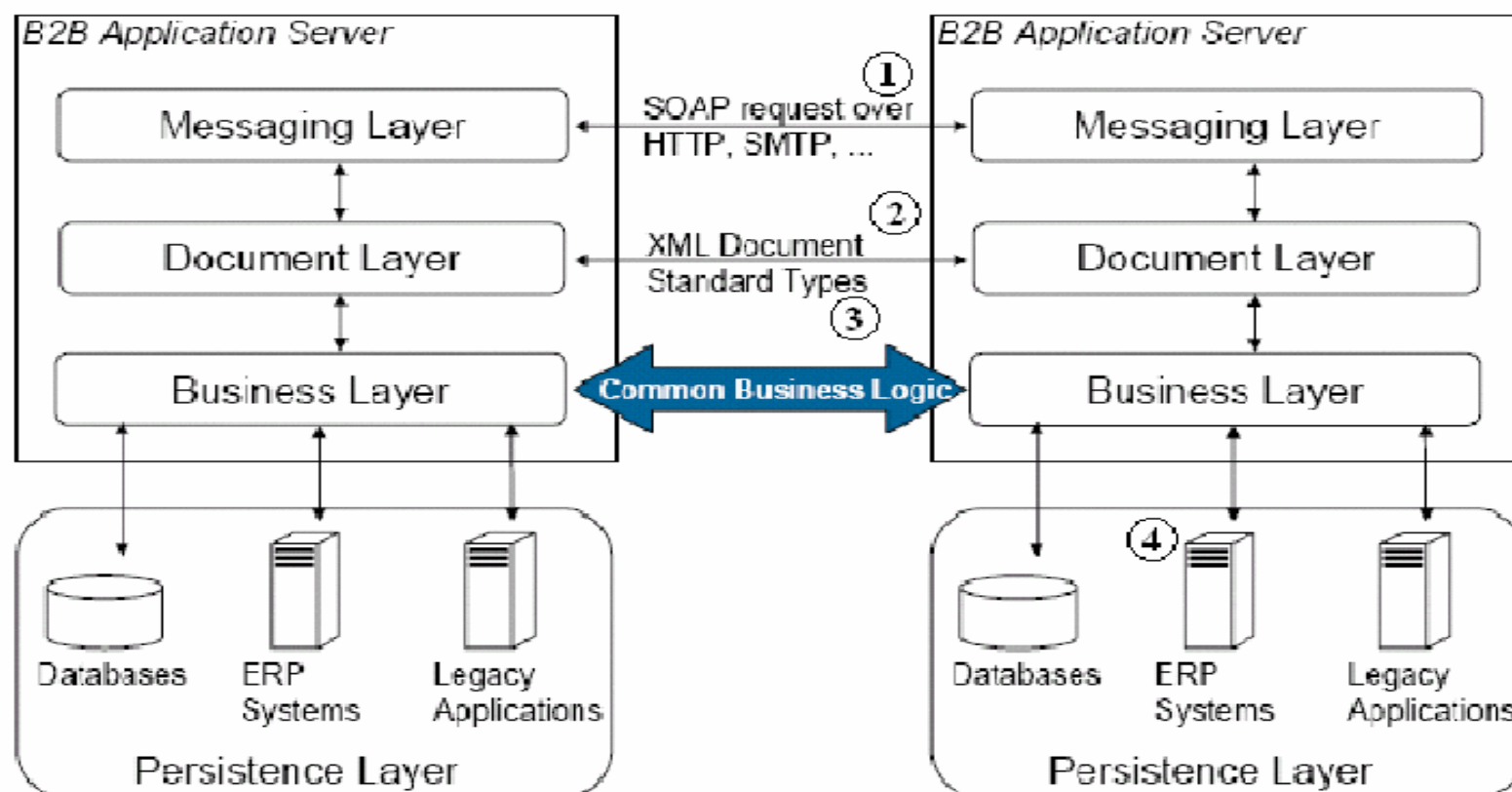
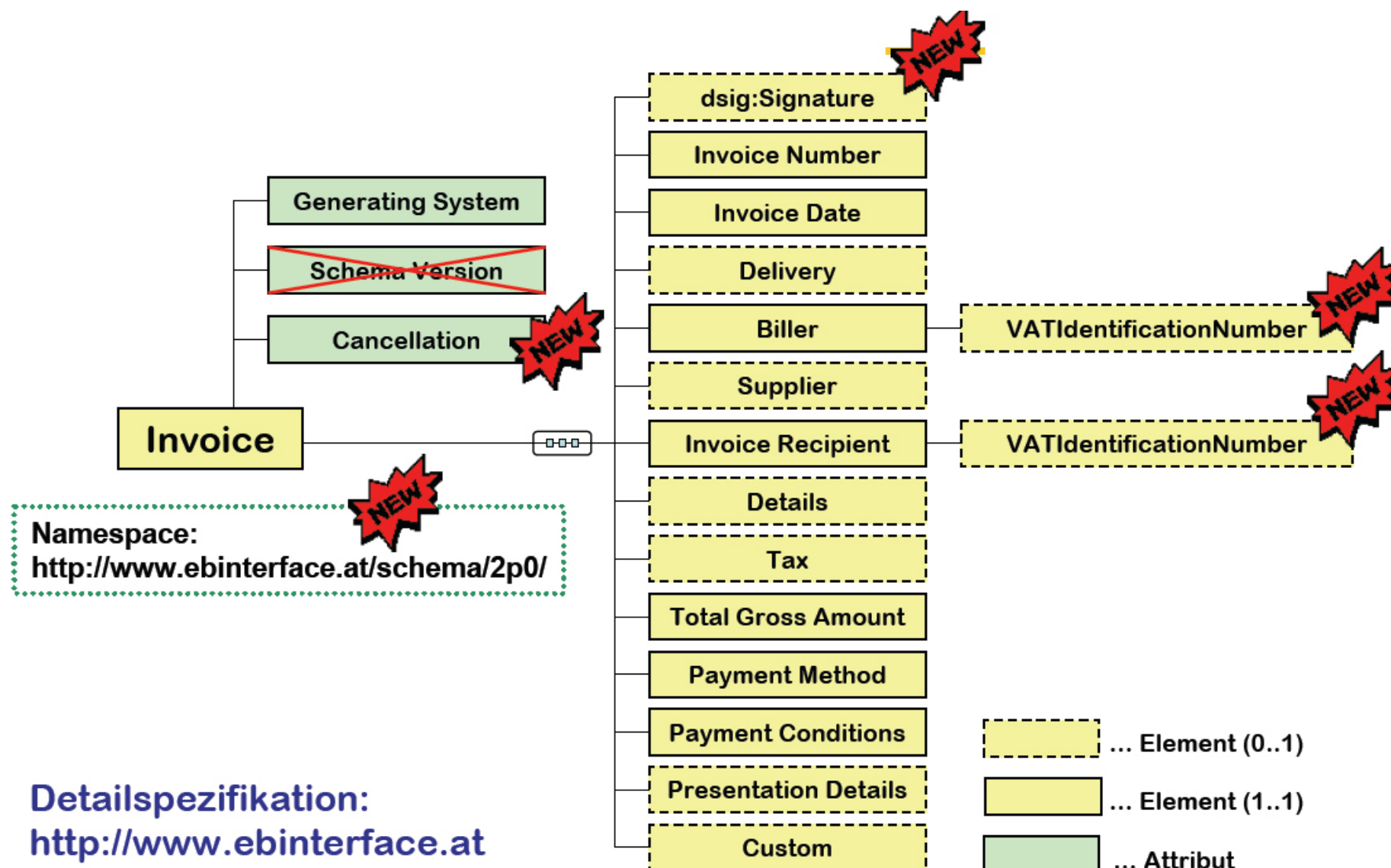eb-CrossBorder

eb-Invoice

eb-Interface

eb-Interface:
Austrian XML standard for invoices

- **standard interface for**
  - enterprise resource planning (ERP)
  - financial accouting systems

- **eb-Interface is ...**
  - an austrian solution
  - an organisational innovation
  - standardized document type
  - standard which based on the use of wide spread and well-known internet technologies.
  - a solution for invoicing party and invoice recipient

eb-Interface

eInvoicing as initiator

initiator for
the opimation of business processes

■ eInvoicing

– is a chance for process optimization

– should not be an electrification of old habits

– allows to work more efficient and to increase the quality

eInvoicing is not only an IT-project,
but also an organisational project.

legal requirements for eInvoicing

- invoice recipient has to accept electronic Invoices.
- it exists more than one original invoice
  - Invoice recipient and invoice orginater have to store them.
- originality of origion and integrity of data must be assured.
  - use of digital signature
  - certificate from a certain certificate provider is necessary
- rules and regulation from the law for turnover tax must be observed regarding the elements of an invoice
- credit notes can also transfered electronically.
- deducation of input tax
  - Changes in law was necessary: law for turnover tax (from 1.1.2003), an order (from 23.12.2003) and an acceptilation
  - only if a digital signature is used
  - NEW: 1.1.2007 faxed invoices are not allowed for the deducation of input tax.

lessons learnt

- planning of the project
  - use best practices from other countries.
  - BizDex (Australian system)
- integration of different stakeholders
  - software experts
  - consulting firm
- marketing
  - Informative meeting
  - working party
  - payments from government

- More information
  - http://www.ebinterface.at/en/

Innovation:
Central eBilling / eCommerce Register

- Prüfung elektronischer Rechnungsdaten beim Empfänger ist derzeit aufwändig und im Rechnungsarchiv nicht vollständig nachvollziehbar.

- Ein zentrales nationales und EU-weites öffentliches Register, mit E-Commerce Daten als Vorraussetzung für E-Commerce im Allgemeinen und E-Billing im Speziellen fehlt.

- Vorteile
  – BMF kann durch eine verbesserte Vorprüfung der Rechnungsdaten Steuerbetrug vermindern und Betriebsprüfungen werden erleichtert.
  – Das Problem der >Nachvollzieharbeit im Archiv wird gleöst.

Rechtssicherheit bei eBilling mit der sicheren digitalen Signatur

- http://www.electronic-business.at/news/1594.html