THE CASSANDRA BUSINESS DASHBOARDS - A TECHNICAL PERSPECTIVE

Interview with Eric Geerts from Descartes, member of the CASSANDRA project consortium.

Eric, what is the role of Descartes in this project?

The Descartes Systems Group ("Descartes") fulfills multiple roles within the CASSANDRA project. Descartes is one of the Cassandra hubs or 'Business Community Systems' that are part of the data pipeline with its Global Logistics Network ("GLN"). The GLN is one of the largest multi-modal logistics networks in the world used to exchange electronic information.

As a partner of the CASSANDRA project Descartes creates a business dashboard for the companies within the different Living Labs. Information is collected from various sources within the project's data pipeline and consolidated into one single view.

Descartes also contributes its expertise in worldwide Customs compliance and supply chain visibility solutions. We are currently involved in both Living Lab 1 and Living Lab 2 trade lanes. The goal is to create a multi-party collaborative solution for businesses that will allow for better risk analysis and allow opportunities for Customs Authorities to piggy back on quality information from the source, such as packing lists, house bill of ladings or even purchase orders. The security model is very important in ensuring that data access is efficiently and securely managed and controlled by the participating companies.

Descartes is the global leader in providing on-demand, software-as-a-service solutions focused on improving the productivity, performance and security of logistics-intensive businesses. We are proud to participate in this project to develop opportunities for innovation in supply chain visibility and Customs compliance. Previously we were also engaged in other EU projects like Smart CM on container tracking, one of the projects leading to CASSANDRA.

Screenshot of the business dashboard by Descartes for the companies within the different Living Labs

If you look at the heterogeneous systems in a supply chain - how can it be connected?

Connecting different systems in a supply chain is one of the major primary challenges for businesses. With Descartes' GLN we have extensive experience in exchanging electronic information with over 40,000 companies worldwide, directly or through other networks and community systems.

Every business community (e.g. retail, air transport, ocean transport, customs) has its own standards and often we see that the companies and regulatory authorities within these communities are not using the same standard. The GLN eliminates the problems caused by differing data formats, business logic and communications protocols because it supports all types of communication protocols by converting them to standardized data formats using either industry standards where available, or through several of Descartes' standard message formats developed for use between business partners and allow the re-use of mappings, speeding up on-boarding of new companies and savings costs.

What will be the benefits for your users?

The advantages for users of the system will include lower safety stocks, alert notifications on possible delays and better performance reporting. With the consent of the traders, Customs Authorities will benefit with the ability to piggy back on the trader's data.

We hope that the increased data quality for Customs will also lead to additional benefits and simplification of Customs formalities for the traders.

Eric, many thanks for the interview!

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