List of Tables

Table 2-1: The Comparison of Various XML-Based B2B Standards (Liang, 2001) 8
Table 2-2: The Comparison Between Different Works in B2B and Ontology (This Research)..... 32
Table 2-3: The Discussion Between Different B2B Research (This Research)..... 34
Table 3-1: A Use Case Example (This Research) 39
Table 3-2: An Example of Business Document Information Provided by Standard 57
Table 3-3: The Correspondence Rules Of Merging Ontology (This Research)..... 60
Table 4-1: The Prototype Platform Specification 65
Table 4-2: The Components Of Business Document (This Research) 91

List of Figures

Figure 1-1: Reseach Flow 5
Figure 2-1: A Simple B2B Integration Platform (This Research)..... 7
Figure 2-2: A High Level Overview of The Interaction of Two Companies Conducting eBusiness Using ebXML 10
Figure 2-3: The Semantic Web Layer Cake (Tim Berners-Lee, 2000)..... 16
Figure 2-4: The RDF Graph (W3C, 2004)..... 17
Figure 2-5: The Multi-Layered Model for Content Integration..... 22
Figure 2-6: The Model for Data Transformation (Omelayenko and Fensel, 2001)..... 23
Figure 2-7: RDFT Class Diagram (Omelayenko, Fensel, and Bussler, 2002) 24
Figure 2-8: B2B Integration Architecture (Bussler, 2001)..... 25
Figure 2-9: SWWS Conceptual Architecture (Bussler, Fensel and Maesche, 2002)..26
Figure 2-10: The DOME Architecture (Cui, Jones and O'Brien 2002) 28
Figure 2-11: Levels of Interoperability in B2B (Hofreiter and Hurmer, 2002) 29
Figure 2-12: Language Binding Between Ontology and E-Business Vocabulary 30
Figure 2-13: Deploying a PIP In a Given Context (Trastour, Preist, and Coleman, 2003) 31
Figure 3-1: The Structure of Ontology-Based B2B Integration Method..... 36
(This Research) 36
Figure 3-2: A Use Case Diagram Example (This Research)..... 39
Figure 3-3: A Sequence Diagram Example of Purchase Order (This Research) 40
Figure 3-4: An Activity Diagram Example of Purchase Order (This Research) 41
Figure 3-5: A Class Diagram Example of Purchase Order (This Research)..... 42
Figure 3-6: A Use Case Diagram Example 43
Figure 3-7: A Sequence Diagram to Describe The Purchase Process From Standard..44
Figure 3-8: An Activity Diagram to Describe The Purchase Process from Standard..45
Figure 3-9: The B2B Interaction (This Research) 46
Figure 3-10: The B2B Basic Classes (This Research)..... 48
Figure 3-11: The Properties Of B2B Process (This Research) 48
Figure 3-12: The Properties Of B2B Partner (This Research)..... 49
Figure 3-13: The Properties Of B2B Document (This Research)..... 49
Figure 3-14: The Properties Of B2B Activity (This Research) 49
Figure 3-15: The Properties Of B2B Action (This Research)..... 50
Figure 3-16: An Example of Basic Data Entities (This Research) 52

Figure 3-17: An Example of Descriptive and Composite Entities (This Research) 53
Figure 3-18: To Build The Business Document Ontology (This Research) 55
Figure 3-19: An Example of The Sequence of Processes (This Research)....58
Figure 3-20: Ontology Evolution Process (Stojanovic et al., 2002) 63
Figure 3-21: A B2B Integration Ontology Evolvement Cycle (This Research) 64
Figure 4-1: Prototype Architecture (This Research)....66
Figure 4-2: Prototype Function (This Research) 67
Figure 4-3: The B2B DTD Plug-in 68
Figure 4-4: The B2B DTD Importer....68
Figure 4-5: The Format Of Information File 69
Figure 4-6: The Basic Classes Of Process Ontology Template 70
Figure 4-7: The Basic Properties Of Process Ontology Template 70
Figure 4-8: Create Restriction for Ontology. 71
Figure 4-9 Merge The Ontologies....72
Figure 4-10 The Ontology Test....72
Figure 4-11 Browse The Ontology Class....73
Figure 4-12: The Use Case Diagram, Sequence Diagram and Activity Diagram of Current Order Process....76
Figure 4-13: The Use Case Diagram, Sequence Diagram and Activity Diagram of RosettaNet PIP3A4 78
Figure 4-14: Create The Instances Of Ontology....79
Figure 4-15: Another Example To Create An Instance Of Ontology....80
Figure 4-16: The Current Process Ontology....81
Figure 4-17: The Generated Classes And Properties (Partial) 82
Figure 4-18: The Instance Of PIP3A4 83
Figure 4-19: The Basic Data Entities From PIP 3A4....84
Figure 4-20: The Composite Data Entities From PIP 3A4 84
Figure 4-21: The Business Entities From PIP 3A4....85
Figure 4-22: The Mapping Between Two Ontologies (Partial) 86
Figure 4-23: Example Of Equivalent Class 86
Figure 4-24: Example Of Equivalent Properties....87
Figure 4-25: View The Ontology Through Internet Browser 88

Table of Contents

List of Tables III

List of Figures IV

Chapter 1 Introduction 1

1.1 Research Motivation 1
1.2 Research Issue 2
1.3 Research Objective 3
1.4 Research Flow 3
1.5 Organization of the Thesis 4

Chapter 2 Literature Review 6

2.1 B2B Integration 6
2.1.1 Introduction 6
2.1.2 ebXML 8
2.1.3 RosettaNet 12
2.1.4 Open Issues 14
2.2 Semantic Web and Ontology 15
2.2.1 Introduction 15
2.2.2 Ontology Languages 17
2.3 Ontology Application in e-Commerce 20
2.3.1 Ontology and e-Commerce 20
2.3.2 Semantic B2B Integration 25
2.3.3 Semantic Web enabled Web Service (SWWS) 26
2.3.4 Domain Ontology Management Environment (DOME) 27
2.3.5 Ontology with ebXML and RosettaNet 28
2.3.6 Discussion 32

Chapter 3 Research Method 36

3.1 A Ontology-Based Method 36
3.2 Business Process Modeling – UML-based 37
3.2.1 UML 37
3.3 Ontology Modeling Heuristics 45
3.5 The Merge, Representation and Testing of Ontologies 59
3.6 Discussion 62

Chapter 4 Research Prototype and Implementation 65

4.1 Prototype Platform and Architecture 65

4.2 Prototype Design and Functions 66
4.2.1 DTD Importer 67
4.2.2 Ontology Editor 69
4.2.3 Ontology Display 73
4.3 Research Implementation: Case Study – RosettaNet 73
4.4 Research Implementation: Case Study – ebXML 88
4.5 Discussion 91
Chapter 5 Research Discussions and Limitations 92
5.1 Research Implications 92
5.2 Research Limitations 94
Chapter 6 Conclusions and Future Research 95
6.1 Summary 95
6.2 Future Research Directions 95
References 97
Appendix A: XML DTD Example 100
Appendix B: Business Process Specification Schema Example 105
Appendix C: Process Ontology Template 107