Free Standards Group

Liaison Report, JTC 1/SC 22/WG 14

The Free Standards Group has been a Category A Liaison organization with SC 22 for about one year.

The Linux Standard Base specification (release 2.0.1) has just been sent to ITTF for PAS transposition ballot, which is expected to commence on or about 10/25. This specification represents an Application Binary Interface to Linux platforms, and is based heavily on ISO 9945 (POSIX). Most APIs are expressed in C language terms.

This specification originally contained an ABI for the C++ language, derived principally from the GCC libstdc++ library. However, that has proven to be insufficiently stable for formal standardization at this point, and has consequently been withdrawn from the set of interfaces included in the version of the specification submitted for transposition.

The Free Standards Group is tracking the work being done for the Security TR, and notes with concern that this TR specifies interfaces that are specified in other standards (sometimes directly usurping an existing API, in other cases inventing a "new" API with identical functionality but a different name to an existing API). The FSG urges WG 14 to engage in a more active liaison with, in particular, the Austin Group to ensure that accidental incompatibilities are not included.