

Business plan and convener's report

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG19 (Formal Definition Languages)

Period covered: September 2002 - August 2003

SUBMITTED BY:

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1. Management Summary

1.1 JTC1/SC22/WG19 Statement of scope

Development of ISO/IEC standards related to formal development notations and methods.

1.2 Project report

1.2.1 COMPLETED PROJECTS

JTC1.22.29.01 -- ISO/IEC 13817-1 Vienna Development Method/Specification Language - Part 1: Base Language

ISO/IEC 13817-1 was published in 1996. So far, no major problems have been reported.

JTC1.22.14977 -- ISO/IEC 14997 Syntactic metalanguage - Extended BNF

ISO/IEC 14977 was published in 1996. So far, no major problems have been reported.

JTC1.22.45 -- ISO/IEC 13568 Z Notation ISO/IEC 13568 was published in 2002. So far, no major problems have been reported. A few minor problems have been noted; their cure is known, and a Technical Corrigendum will be published when appropriate.

1.2.2 PROJECTS UNDERWAY

It was proposed to revise ISO/IEC 14977:1996 in order to correct a few known minor errors, and also to improve its applicability. However there has been little interest shown, and no work has been done in the past year.

1.2.3 NEW PROJECTS

None.

1.3 Cooperation and competition

WG19 has always tried to cooperate with the whole formal development methods community. Where appropriate, WG19 has established contact with other SC22 working groups. There is no direct competition with any other efforts.

2.0 Period review

2.1 Market requirements

Formal development methods have often been developed in academia. Standardization has given credibility to their work, encouraged the teaching of formal methods, and enabled future developments to be built on sound and common foundations.

2.2 Achievements

ISO/IEC 13817-1 (VDM, Base language) was published in 1996.

ISO/IEC 13568 (Z notation) was published in June 2002.

ISO/IEC 14977 (Syntactic metalanguage - Extended BNF) was published in 1996.

The Z standardization web site is at:

<http://www-users.cs.york.ac.uk/~ian/zstan/>

2.3 Resources

Although resources in general are declining, the future of the current WG19 projects seems to be secured. The WG19 mailing list includes experts from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, & USA.

3.0 Focus next work period

WG19 will either start the revision of ISO/IEC 14977, or after due consideration, recommend that the revision be postponed indefinitely.

3.1 Deliverables

ISO/IEC 14977 Extended BNF

Version for CD registration and ballot 2002-06-01

3.2 Strategies

WG19 has two principal strategies: (1) technical excellence, and (2) liaison with all interested parties

3.2.1 RISKS

Consensus may be difficult to achieve in Extended BNF.

3.2.2 OPPORTUNITIES

The standards would undoubtedly be more widely adopted if freely available electronically over the web.

3.3 Work program priorities

The revision of ISO/IEC 14977 has priority.

4. Other items

This section lists other items that are not part of the "Business Plan" but are appropriate for the "Convener's Report".

4.1 Action request at forthcoming plenary

None.

4.2 Convener and project editors

Roger Scowen is the convener of WG19, and Steve King is deputy convener.

The following individuals have been appointed project editors:

JTC1.22.29.01 -- Vienna Development Method -- Derek Andrews

JTC1.22.45 -- Z notation -- Ian Toyn (deputy: Susan Stepney)

JTC1.22.14977 -- Extended BNF -- Roger Scowen.

4.3 Electronic document distribution

As far as possible, discussions and decisions within the working group are taken using e-mail.

4.4 No recent meeting

The last meeting of WG19 took place in York, England on 15 May 2001.

4.5 Future meetings

No future meetings are currently planned.

5 Draft resolutions for SC22

None.