TITLE: Status report by SGFS Convener

SOURCE: SGFS Convener
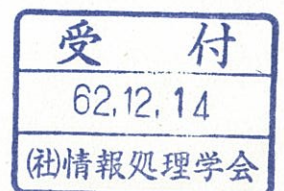
PROJECT: -

Information to be provided by the secretariat

STATUS: This document has been submitted by the Convener for
                     distribution to members of the TC 97 AG, to TC 97, to
                     TC 184 and to OSI User Groups

SPECIAL INFORMATION: -

REQUESTED ACTION: For your information

DISTRIBUTION: Membership of TC 97, JTC 1 and TC 184
                     TC 97 Advisory Group Members
                     OSI User Groups

1. Short historical review

ISO/TC 97 Plenary Meeting of May 14-16, 1986 in Washington D.C. decided to establish a Special Working Group (SWG) on Functional Standardization to survey available documentation and make recommendations to TC 97 for whatever action, if any, is appropriate. This SWG held its first and only meeting on October 15-17, 1986 in Berlin and was attended by 29 representatives. The recommendations made by the SWG were laid down in document ISO/TC 97 N 1758 and offered for letter ballot. The summary of the voting (document ISO/TC 97 N 1844) indicated a principal agreement to establish a Special Group on Functional Standardization (SGFS). The TC 97 Advisory Group meeting in January 20-22, 1987 in London was requested to produce the final text of the charter for the SGFS. Resolution 15 of this meeting (document ISO/TC 97 N 1865) adopted as charter for the Special Group the following items:

1. definition of functional standardization and functional standard;
2. development of a catalogue of functional standards with appropriate classification;
3. definition of a methodology for achieving functional standardization;
4. development of a set of operating procedures and assessment of resources;
5. execution of the review of proposed draft functional standards;
6. consideration of requirements to functional standards on conformance and maintenance;
7. development of expeditious publication procedure.

The AG recognized that not only ISO/TC 97 representatives participate in the SGFS but also representatives from other organizations with a special interest in functional standardization. These organizations had no formal relationship with ISO at that time. Therefore, the group was given the - non defined - status of "Special Group" whilst the AG also accepted that the procedures could not be fully defined until the ISO Executive Board and Council would have decided how the cooperation with the interested organizations was to be established and maintained.

Meanwhile, the ISO/TC 97 Special Group on Functional Standardization has held two meetings:
1. March 9-12, 197 in Eindhoven, 29 representatives
2. September 16-18, 1987 in London, 22 representatives.

The Special Group has established one task group called Functional Standards' Taxonomy Group (FSTG). The Taxonomy Group has held 2 meetings:
1. June 22-25, 1987 in Washinton D.C., 20 representatives
2. September 14-15, 1987 in London, 20 representatives.

The ISO Council has decided in its meeting on September 16-18, 1987 in Geneva (Resolutions 16 and 17/1987 attached to this report):
1. to approve publication of functional standards as a new type of ISO document called International Standardized Profile, ISP, with the status of an International Standard;
2. to establish a special liaison between ISO and so called OSI User Groups; the first recognized OSI User Groups are COS, EMUG, MAP/TOP, OSITOP, POSI and SPAG Services; the special liaison with the OSI User Groups is for the planning and coordination of ISPs;
3. to establish a joint ISO/IEC Information Technology (IT) Resources Support Group; this Group will provide the primary forum for executive level dialogue with the major OSI User Groups; for membership of the joint Group the reader is referred to Annex 3 to ISO/Council 1987 - 9.1/1 attached to this report.

2. Results of the Special Group on Functional Standardization

Document ISO/TC 97 N 1911 contains the first resolutions of the SGFS. According to document JTC1 N 14, 22 of the 24 P-members of ISO/TC 97 have approved these resolutions and 5 out of the 22 P-members have approved with comments. SGFS has accommodated these comments in its second meeting resulting in a slightly modified set of first resolutions. A mock-up version of N 1911 has been attached to this report to show the modified resolutions.

The main elements of N 1911 are:

1. functional standards will be published by ISO as International Standardized Profiles (ISP) where an ISP is "an internationally agreed to, harmonized document which identifies a group of standards, together with options and parameters, necessary to accomplish a function or set of functions". An ISP has a prescribed format;

2. the outline of a procedure for submission, review and approval of an ISP. This procedure is set up in such a way that the approval (i.e. review and balloting) and publication process as performed by ISO is complementary to the drafting of the technical contents and to the international harmonization of proposed draft ISPs. This drafting and harmonization activity is done outside the Special Group on Functional Standardization and will mainly be performed by the OSI User Groups. The procedure is a "turbo" procedure to satisfy speed requirements from OSI User Groups;

3. some conditions to the "non-ISO" process to have an open-to-all-parties-concerned process for the creation of ISPs. The "genesis" of an ISP has to be communicated to ISO to enable a "non-surprise" situation where execution of the turbo procedure in ISO is feasible;

4. the establishment of a task group called Taxonomy Group to function as the technical information exchange platform between ISO and OSI User Groups. The Taxonomy Group shall comprise members from both environments. The task of the Taxonomy Group is to prepare and maintain a catalogue of proposals for ISPs and a classification of ISPs. It is expected that this work will result in the establishment of a schedule for future ISPs, that it will enable SGFS to prepare a plan for its future work and that it will facilitate the guidance of draft ISPs through the ISO part of the process of functional standardization.

Based on the resolutions in N 1911 the Taxonomy Group in its first two meetings and the Special Group in its second meeting have reached two resulting documents:

1. ISO/TC 97/FSTG N 11 "Framework for the Taxonomy of ISPs", dealing with:
   a. purpose of profiles
   b. concept of an ISP
   c. framework for the taxonomy of ISPs
   d. structure of documentation for ISPs
   e. procedure for approving draft ISPs
   f. ISO/IEC drafting rules adapted for ISPs
2. ISO/TC 97/FSTG N 12 "Directory of ISPs", dealing with:
   a. the taxonomy: ISP identifiers and ISP classes:
      1. transport ISPs (T-profiles)
      2. application ISPs (A-profiles)
      3. interchange format ISPs (F-profiles)
   b. index of ISPs
   c. ISP summary descriptions

The documents N 11 and N 12 are two parts of the first version in edited form of the catalogue and classification asked for by the ISO/TC 97 Advisory Group in January 1987. The documents N 11 and N 12 are based upon the technical conclusions reached at the first meeting of the Taxonomy Group. The conclusions have been distributed as document ISO/TC 97 N 1954 (attached) to the members of ISO/TC 97, ISO/TC 184, the OSI User Groups and ITSTC, for consideration. Documents N 11 and N 12 have been distributed in the same way.
Additionally the Special Group is working on ISP Taxonomy update and proposed draft ISP review procedures.

3. Future work

Many topics in the Framework and Directory of ISPs are under discussion like binding of (A- and F-)profiles, grouping of T-profiles with equal binding capabilities (the cell concept), F-profiles, the limitation - for the time being - to OSI subjects only. Other matters for consideration are: detailing of procedures, the status of the Special Group in ISO/TC 97, the potential broader interest in ISO in functional standardization e.g. in ISO/TC 184 and the need to ensure the maximum degree of coordination within ISO by means of some centralized approach, the establishment of suitable liaisons internal and external to ISO, the need for "public relation" work to achieve proliferation of interest in functional standardization, the timing and synchronization of interests of the Special Group and the OSI User Groups.
The first proposed draft ISP - probably on FTAM - is expected to be submitted in Spring 1988.

4. Meeting schedule

4.1 Taxonomy Group

Meeting nr. 3: November 9-13, 1987 - Ottawa (Canada)
Meeting nr. 4: May 9-13, 1988 - Tokyo (to be confirmed)

4.2 Special Group on Functional Standardization

Meeting nr. 3: May 15-17, 1988 - Tokyo (to be confirmed)
Meeting nr. 4: January/February, 1989 - Copenhagen (to be confirmed)
Meeting nr. 5: October November, 1989 - Munich (to be confirmed)

J.W. van den Beld

Council resolution 16/1987

Council,

noting that executive-level communication between ISO/IEC and the various OSI user groups needs to be continued in order to promote and support the most efficient organizational arrangement for the development of IT standardization work (both generic and application),

further noting that, with the establishment of JTC 1, there will be an increased need for organizational responsiveness to the demands on ISO and IEC to produce rapid results in both generic and application areas, which will require closer monitoring and more flexible application of available ISO/IEC resources,

approves the establishment of a joint ISO/IEC Information Technology (IT) Resources Support Group, and

adopts the joint recommendations of the ISO Secretary-General and IEC General Secretary on the terms of reference and membership of that group as set out in annex 3 to ISO/Council 1987 - 9.1/1.

Council resolution 17/1987

Council,

noting the willingness of the OSI user groups to help ISO/IEC IT committees in planning and prioritizing their work programmes and to establish testing and validation systems, and being of the opinion that the most efficient communication possible should exist at the technical committee level between all interested parties,

decides to establish a new type of publication called "International Standardized Profile", with the status of an International Standard, under the following provisions:

- proposals for International Standardized Profiles may be put forward by any member body, or through a planning operation of JTC 1 acting cooperatively with OSI user groups and entrusted with the preparation of internationally harmonized proposals for draft international standardized profiles;

- the timing for the completion of ISO processing, member body approval, and publication is targeted at seven to ten months (shortening the six-month DIS letter ballot to three months, and including review by the planning group);

- a taxonomy group will maintain a classified catalogue of proposals for International Standardized Profiles, to be published as an ISO technical report. The taxonomy group will comprise experts from member bodies, originating organizations (OSI user groups) and liaison organizations (e.g. CCITT); and

invites the Secretary-General in consultation with relevant member bodies to establish a special type of liaison with the OSI user groups for the planning and coordination of International Standardized Profiles.

JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECRETARIES-GENERAL RELATING TO DISCUSSION OF THE IEC GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CONCERNING JTPC DECISIONS

Joint Information Technology (IT) resources support group

The principle of establishing such a group as proposed in documents ISO/Executive Board 33 and 34 was endorsed by the IEC General Policy Committee (GPC) on 7 April 1987, and by the ISO Executive Board on 12 May 1967.

If similar approval is obtained from both Councils, the two Secretaries-General recommend to establish such a joint group as follows:

Terms of reference

The group's main function shall be to seek to improve and facilitate the provision of administrative resources needed to service the rapidly expanding work in the information technology field. The group, made up of executives of ISO member bodies and IEC national committees having major resource support roles in the IT work, will also provide the primary forum for executive-level dialogue with the major new Open Systems Interconnection User Groups (OSI User Groups; e.g. COS, MAP/TOP, POSI, SPAG, etc.). The terms of reference of the group are:

    a) to maintain an overview of international information technology standardization work (including telecommunications) taking account of the expectations of vendors and users for both generic and applications standards;

    b) to provide an ongoing forum for executive-level discussions with the main external organizations (including ITU: CCITT and CCIR) concerned with information technology standardization at the international level;

    c) to advise ISO/IEC Councils, through the Executive Board and the General Policy Committee, on the provision and allocation of resources needed by ISO/IEC technical committees working on information technology standards.

Membership

The group's membership shall be subject to yearly review by the IEC General Policy Committee and the ISO Executive Board and shall initially be as follows:

Chairman: the Secretary-General of ISO or a representative appointed by him

Vice-Chairman: the General Secretary of IEC or a representative appointed by him

The chairmanship and vice-chairmanship to rotate on a two-yearly basis between ISO and IEC.

Members: the chief staff executives* of ISO member bodies and IEC national committees holding the secretariats of technical committees and sub-committees involved in the field of information technology.

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*The chief staff executive is understood to be that individual having ongoing responsibility for provision of national resources for administering international work.

Date: 1987-04-28

I S O
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

ISO/TC 97

INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Secretariat: USA (ANSI)

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SUBMITTER:

TITLE: Resolutions of the First Meeting of the ISO/TC 97 Special Group on
Functional Standardization, Eindhoven, 9-13 March 1987

SOURCE: TC 97 Special Group

PROJECT: ---

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT:

STATUS: Resolutions for letter ballot of ISO/TC 97
(to be balloted as a single unit)

REQUESTED ACTION: Please complete the enclosed letter ballot and return it to the
TC 97 Secretariat no later than 7 August 1987.

DISTRIBUTION: P and L Members
Mr. J. van den Beld, Convener, TC 97 Special Group