MINUTES OF MEETING OF
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG11

Place: Lowell Hilton Hotel
              50 Warren Street at the Lower Locks
              Lowell, MA 01852
              USA

Date: April 25-27, 1989

Attendees: Mr. Edward Barkmeyer (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Jessie Burns (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Fred Billingsley (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Ken Edwards (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Richard Foote (US - Chair - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Murray Freeman (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Ed Greengrass (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Darrell High (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Brian Meek (UK)
              Ms. Joan Milloy (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Don Nelson, Convenor (US)
              Ms. Mary Payne (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Craig Schaffert (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Maurice Smith (US - ANSI X3T2)
              Mr. Willem Wakker (NL)

1. Approval of agenda

Original item 7 (Common Data Types) was split into 7a (Language-Independent Arithmetic Standard) and 7b (Language-Independent Data Types), additional items that were made available at the X3T2 meeting were added, and other slight modifications were made. The agenda was approved as modified.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The following changes were made:

Page 3, Items 6f and 7e, change the 88 dates to 89.

Page 4, Item 9, change the dates for this meeting to April 25-27.

The minutes were approved as changed.

3. Convenor report

The convenor apologizes for the delay in mailing the documents for this meeting. The fault lies directly with the convenor and is not the fault of Tandem Computers. The UK delegation voiced a strong protest over this delay, and the convenor will take the following steps to rectify the situation:

a. All documents will be mailed to WG11 members within a few days of their receipt. No attempt will be made to accumulate documents before mailing them. In order to further expedite business, WG11 members should mail a copy of their documents to each of the other members of WG11. If this is done, please notify the convenor in order to avoid duplicate mailings.

b. The minutes of the April meeting and all future meetings will be mailed to WG11 members within three weeks of the meeting.

c. The agenda and meeting notice of the October meeting and all future meetings will be mailed to WG11 members about three months in advance of the meeting. This requires that the host must send complete details on accommodations to the convenor three months early. For example, the details for the October meeting must be received by July 8. Because most documents are not received until a few weeks before the meeting, an updated agenda will be mailed two months before the meeting, one month before the meeting, and two weeks before the meeting.

The Working Group is concerned that there are only three countries actively participating in WG11 activity (the US, the UK, and the Netherlands). More participation is needed by more countries and by more language groups. The Convenor will try once again to interest other parties in participating.

4. National Activity Report

    a. BSI IST/5/11

        The group had one meeting one week prior to the WG11 meeting. Because all documents for the April WG11 meeting were not in the members hands in time for study, no significant progress was made. The group protests the lateness of arrival and requests that the convenor of WG11 take steps to prevent this in the future.

        The chairman of BSI IST/5/11 (Mr. Joslin) resigned his position and a temporary chairman presided. A permanent chairman will be selected shortly.

        The project editor of the Common Language-Independent Procedure Calling Mechanism (Mr. Allan) was reassigned to the US and had to resign as project editor. BSI will investigate the possibility of finding another editor.

    b. ANSI X3T2

        A joint meeting with ANSI X3T2 was held on Thursday, April 27. The actions taken at this joint meeting are reflected in the following items.

    c. AFNOR/CG 97/CN 22/GE 11

        No report.

5.   Work Item 22.14 - Language Bindings Guidelines

   a.   SC22/N466 Guidelines for Language Bindings (proposed DTR).

   The revised version was reviewed and slight revisions were made. The changes will be communicated to the document editor, Ms. Sparks, and the "final" version will be submitted to SC22 as a Draft Technical Report.

   Replies were drafted to all of the comments on the DTR (see WG11 N133). After WG11 reviwe, they will be circulated to SC22.

   b.   Milestones

06.00	88-02-17	88-02-17	Proposed DTR ballot initiated within SC
06.01	88-05-31	88-05-31	Proposed DTR ballot within SC closes
06.02	89-06-15		DTR registered at ISO
06.03	89-06-15		DTR ballot initiated within TC
06.04	89-09-15		DTR ballot within TC closes
06.05	89-10-01		DTR text submitted to ISO/CS
06.06	89-11-01		DTR text submitted to ISO Council for accep.

6.   Work Item 22.16 - Common Procedure Calling Mechanism

   a.   WG11 N57 - Common Language-Independent Procedure Call - General Description.

   This is on the agenda as the base document. No action was taken on it

   b.   WG11 N114 - Letter from ANSI X3J4 on Common Language-Independent Procedure Calls and Datatypes.

   The comments were discussed and a reply was drafted. The reply (WG11 N135) will be mailed to the commenter. There were no controversial issues, only general comments. Note that this was the only response from any of the language committees on this topic, even though copies of the relevant documents were sent to all of the language committees along with a request for comment.

   c.   Project Editor.

   There is currently no project editor for this project. The previous editor from the UK changed positions (and countries) and can no longer do the editing. ANSI X3T2 formerly had a candidate, but he no longer has support from his company. Both ANSI X3T2 and the UK delegation are looking for a candidate.

   d.   Milestones.

01.04	89-10-15	WD ballot initiated within SC
01.05	90-01-15	WD ballot within SC closes
02.00	90-02-15	DP registered at ISO/CS

7. Work Item 22.17 - Common Data Types

    a. Language-Independent Arithmetic Standard.

       (1) WG11 N106 - Rationale for the Language Compatible Arithmetic Standard.

       This was overridden by N129.

       (2) WG11 N119 - Comments on X3T2/88-179 - Proposed Language-Compatible Arithmetic Standards (High)

       These comments were discussed with the three editors of the proposed standard, and the comments were taken into account in the revision.

       (3) WG11 N120 - NWI Proposal for Language-Independent Arithmetic Standard.

       This was sent to SC22 for ballot in November 1988.

       (4) SC22 N610 - Summary of Voting and comments received on above.

       There was a negative vote from AFNOR indicating that the IEEE 754 hardware standard suffices and that the proposed item is not a matter for SC22 but is a matter for some other group (it was not named). Mr. Wichmann rewrote his rationale document (see WG11 N129) and sent it to AFNOR. He also communicated with them via letter. No resolution has been obtained as of this date.

       (5) WG11 N126 - Comments on the current LCAS draft.

       These comments were discussed with the three editors of the proposed standard, and the comments were taken into account in the revision.

       (6) WG11 N128 - Proposal for a Language Compatible Arithmetic Standard -- Version 2.1 (Payne, Schaffert and Wichmann - T2/89-51)

       This was discussed at the joint meeting (two of the three editors were in attendance). No major changes were made as a result of these discussions. As a result of discussions with others who were given early copies of this revision, some major changes will be made. The rationale will be added as an appendix or annex. Some other changes are: move language section after definition of arithmetic data type; move conformity to front; need some more classes of operations such as "pack" and "unpack"; and resolve a conflict between a portable standard and one conforming to the IEEE standard.

       (7) WG11 N129 - Rationale for the Language Compatible Arithmetic Standard (Wichmann - T2/89-97R).

       This was discussed and no major changes were suggested. It should help people understand why the project is necessary.

(8) WG11 N130 - Coordinating Liaison with X3T2 for Standard Arithmetic Project (Schricker - T2/89-88).

No action is needed. Information only.

(9) WG11 N132 - Revised Comments on Lang Compat Arith Std, draft 2.1 dated Mar 10 (Weaver - T2/89-92).

WG11 agrees with these comments. The editors are taking them into consideration in the next revision.

(1 0) Milestones.

00.03	88-10-05	88-10-05	NWI ballot initiated within SC
00.04	88-01-20	88-01-20	NWI ballot within SC closes
01.02	89-07-01		WD comment period initiated within SC
01.03	89-10-01		WD comment period within SC closes
01.04	89-11-01		WD ballot initiated within SC
01.05	90-02-15		WD ballot within SC closes
02.00			DP registered at ISO/CS

b. Language-Independent Data Types

(1) WG11 N109 - Notes on Common Language-Independent Datatypes.

A reply to these comments (document WG11 N136) was drafted. Basically, WG11 does not agree with the objections. See N136 for details.

(2) WG11 N110 - Description of SANS data types.

This is a background document -- no action needed.

(3) WG11 N111 - Letter to Barkmeyer from Meek on Common Language-Independent Datatypes.

These were comments on the rough draft. Mr. Barkmeyer will take them into account in the rewrite.

(4) WG11 N112 - Common Language-Independent Datatypes - first draft of conformity section.

Mr. Barkmeyer will add this section to the draft.

(5) WG11 N115 - Draft of letter to Language Committees on datatypes.

For information only. The letter is not being sent to ISO groups, only X3 groups. WG11 feels that it should go to ISO as well.

(6)   WG11 N116 - Comments on Proper Scope of Common Language-Independent Datatypes.

WG11 feels that the proposed enhancements are not within the scope of WG11's work item.   Furthermore, attempts to extend the design might be appropriate for limited application areas, but would not be appropriate for a general purpose standard because the number of types would be unbounded.

This also seemed to be the sentiment expressed in the joint session.

Many points in the paper will be taken into consideration in the revision.

(7)   WG11 N117 - Critique of Datatypes Approach.

See item (6).

(8)   WG11 N118 - ODP Requirements for Defining Datatypes.

See item (6)

(9)   WG11 N122 - Some Reflections on Common Language-Independent Datatypes.

This was discussed at length.   Mr. Wakker favors a "bare minimum" approach. The UK favors a "richer" approach.   X3T2 seemed to favor the UK approach (as is currently in the document).   No explicit action was taken.

(1 0) WG11 N123 - A Language-based Design for Portable Data Files (Burch).

This was useful background material.   It deals with representation of data and WG11 cannot act on that.   Actual representation is not within the SC22 purview.

(1 1) WG11 N131 - Datatypes and Conceptual Schemas for Modelling Open Distributed Processing (Sud, Greengrass - T2/89-89).

This is background material for WG11's work item.   No action was taken.

(1 2) WG11 N134 - Common Language-Independent Datatypes (CLIDT) What is the standard for (Meek -T2/89-110).

This is a rationale document.   It was given to T2 and WG11 at the meeting, and was not discussed at length.   It will be on the agenda for the next WG11 meeting.

(1 1) Milestones.

01.02	89-08-01	WD comment period initiated within SC
01.03	89-11-01	WD comment period within SC closes
01.04	89-12-01	WD ballot initiated within SC
01.05	90-03-15	WD ballot within SC closes
02.00		DP registered at ISO/CS

8.   Other business

 a.   Liaison mechanism

 Information from SC21 is received and read. To date, none has been applicable to WG11's work items. Due to the needs of work items 16 and 17 and the shortage of active participation by member bodies, very little liaison work is done.

 b.   Registration of prefixes

 There are no volunteers for this task, so nothing has been done (see above).

 c.   SC22 Plenary

 The WG11 convenor plans to attend the plenary. A report will be prepared and will be submitted to WG11 members and observers for review around the first of July. It will be submitted to SC22 in August. The report will indicate that member body participation is a problem and that it may be reasonable to remove liaison and prefix registration activity from WG11's tasks.

9.   Meeting schedule

October 10-12 1989 - London, England - host Mr. Paul Barnetson (IBM UK)

The first day will start at 1100 and last until 1730 (to allow European members to commute to London that day). The second and third days will be from 1000 to 1730. Any preference about hotel arrangements (price, location, etc.) should be communicated to Mr. Barnetson as soon as possible.

April, 1990 (17-19?) - Location and host unknown. WG11 members in countries other than the US, the UK and the Netherlands will be asked if they would like to host the meeting. If there are no volunteers, it will possibly be held in Boulder, Colorado, USA, in conjunction with ANSI X3T2..