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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SGFS
Title: ISO/IEC JTC 1 Special Group on Functional
Standardization

Secretariat: NNI (Netherlands)

Title : UK contributions to resolutions of the 8th JTC1/SGFS
meeting held 15-19 June 1992 (SGFS N625)

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meeting in London

Note :



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Mr P J Bessems
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Dear Mr Bessems

UK CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESOLUTIONS OF THE 8TH JTC 1/SGFS MEETING HELD 15-19 JUNE 1992 -
[SGFS N 625]

Please find attached the UK National Body Contributions to the following SGFS 8th Meeting Resolutions and SGFS documents:

Resolution 5 - Development of the SGFS procedures to cover other TCs and the Open System Environment (No comments)

Resolution 15 - Taxonomy Issues (DTR 10000-2.3, UK comments to follow with formal ballot)

Resolution 18 - Conformance Testing (Comments attached)

Resolution 22 - Profile Testing (Comments attached)

SGFS Document N 613: Liaison statement to TC 184 and TC 185/SC 5 - Mixed ISPs and OSI Taxonomy for Manufacturing Messaging Applications (No comments)

SGFS Document N 615: Request for comments on Profile Attributes (Comments attached)

Additionally, for your information and records, the UK approved SGFS N 606 (JTC 1 N 2027) - Proposed Statement of Scope of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SGFS "without comments"

Yours sincerely

T N NGOSI
For the UK P-Member of ISO/IEC JTC 1

TNN/JMP



TITLE: RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION 18 OF THE 8TH SGFS MEETING (15-19 JUNE 1992)
"Comments on Conformance Testing"

STATUS: UK NATIONAL BODY CONTRIBUTION

1. Relevance of ISO/IEC 9646, Conformance Testing Methodology and Framework

Draft Amendments now exist to ISO/IEC 9646 parts 1, 2, 4 and 5, plus a DIS for ISO/IEC 9646-6, extending the OSI conformance testing methodology and framework to cover the Protocol Profile Testing Methodology. This is applicable to any profile that includes one or more OSI protocols, whether or not they include information objects. It therefore also explicitly covers conformance testing of information objects in the context of an OSI profile. This means that it covers testing objects in conjunction with protocols, but not on their own.

Now that the Protocol Profile Testing Methodology and Multi-Party Testing Methodology have been added to ISO/IEC 9646, it is not anticipated that there will be any further extension of that standard's scope. Nevertheless, many of the general concepts of conformance testing and many of the terms defined in ISO/IEC 9646 are widely applicable in the whole field of Information Technology and Telecommunications, but they need adaptation if use outside the scope of OSI protocols, profiles and information objects.

2. Relevance of ODP (Open Distributed Processing) conformance testing

As a part of its work on ODP, work is just beginning in SC 21 on a new question, Q1/066, on ODP conformance testing. It is anticipated that this work will build upon both ISO/IEC 9646 and the ODP conformance concepts related to reference points. It is likely that the resulting methodology will be directly applicable to OSE profiles and it is unlikely that OSE profile testing will need any technical solutions that are not needed in an ODP conformance testing methodology. Thus, it is very important that any work done by SGFS on OSE conformance testing is fully aligned with SC 21 work on ODP conformance testing. There is a real danger of duplication of effort here and that should be avoided. It is likely that SC 21 will have more effort to devote to such work than SGFS, but it is also likely that significant progress will be made by the conformance groups in the regional workshops. Therefore, the regional workshops should be encouraged to input their ideas directly to SC 21 through the S-liaison channel and SC 21 should be asked to widen the S-liaison channel to explicitly cover this topic (in addition to S-liaison for Protocol Profile Testing Methodology which already exists).

3. Relevant of IEEE 1003.3, Conformance Testing

IEEE 1003.3 concentrates on providing guidelines on the derivation of test assertions from base standards and how test suites can be conformant. It is thus primarily aimed at test suite developers and users of test suites (suppliers of implementations). It doesn't adequately address the issues which affect mutual recognition of test results and test reports. These are the issues which are of importance to test laboratories and procurement agencies. The need for standardization has become more pressing because of the potentially large number of test laboratories that will become involved in this area. Additionally there may be more than one test suite per base standard/profile.

IEEE 1003.3 is not in itself sufficient to define Conformance Testing for Posix because;

- a) It contains no formal testing model. This leads to confusion.
- b) There is no provision for standardised documentation. This will also lead to confusion and undesirable differences between testing laboratory practice.
- c) IEEE 1003.3 contains no procedures for the validation of test tools or for the testing of OSE profiles derived from more than one standard.



TITLE: RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION 22 OF 18TH SGFS MEETING (JUNE 1992)
"Profile Testing"

STATUS: UK NATIONAL BODY CONTRIBUTION

In the Washington Resolution 22 (SGFS N 626), National Body Comment was requested on N 623 - The Report of the test group on Conformance Testing.

The UK supports the principle identified in N 623 that Profile Test Specifications (PTSs) should be submitted to SGFS in a harmonized state, with an appropriate Explanatory Report identifying the degree of harmonization achieved. Subsequent processing of the PTS should be as an ISP or ISP - part, using the current procedures in N 601; the timing and nature of the ballot processes will require further consideration when the methodology of creating PTSs, being developed in the context of ISO/IEC 9646, has been stabilised.

TNN/JMP
92-10-06



TITLE: RESPONSE TO SGFS N 615
"Request for comments on Profile Attributes"

STATUS: UK NATIONAL BODY CONTRIBUTION

The UK considers that before proceeding to the development of specific mechanisms for the identification of new identifiers, profiles or ISP parts covering the type of attributes described in SGFS N 615, that the SGFS should attempt to develop some evaluation criteria which would assist in the determination as to whether such new profiles or ISP parts are eventually required or whether alternative means of publication (e.g guides) would be more appropriate.

TNN/JMP
92-10-06