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1. Introduction

Currently several scenarios for introducing new projects and organizational structures within JTC1 are under development. JTC1 is exploring and specifying different plans and options for a new kind of approach to tackle new technologies and potential business areas. Within the scope of the discussions on JTC1's re-engineering, SGFS would like to highlight some specific possible approaches with which SGFS has positive experiences through the past years and which might be useful for a more global implementation within JTC1.

2. Current activities

2.1 Integration of standards

The scope and objectives of SGFS enable SGFS to deliver specifications that combine (base-) standards with the purpose of defining a combined (or 'higher') functionality. For this activity the method of "profiling" has been used and meanwhile this concept is well known as a an effective way to integrate existing specifications. Making cross-sections through different standards, filling in possible gaps, and combining individual parts of specifications has been experienced as a key activity to achieve interoperability. Especially these activities gave SGFS-experts a large experience with the integration of standards to implement a specific functionality.

2.2 Procedures for ratifying integrated specifications

In a complex environment where various specifications with different qualities and from different origins exist, the integration of standards and the building of consensus appear to need a specific approach. This is the environment in which SGFS operates. From the beginning SGFS experienced that the traditional ISO, IEC and JTC1 Directives and Procedures need specific extensions to guide the standardization process in such an environment. Therefore a detailed and effective set of procedures were developed to support SGFS in its activities to integrate specifications from heterogeneous origins.

2.3 Monitoring an infrastructure of "submitting organizations"

SGFS does not produce standards itself. The profiles approved by SGFS mainly have their origin in organizations outside SGFS and, in most cases, even outside ISO, IEC or JTC1. These organizations can have the special status of "S-Liaison" within JTC1, which allow them to operate as "submitting organization" for draft profiles within JTC1. One of the main tasks of SGFS is to monitor this infrastructure of submitting organizations to assure a smooth input from different origins outside JTC1. Especially in the case of the integration of existing specifications from different groups inside or outside JTC1, the experience with monitoring the infrastructure of possible submitting organisations can be of value for JTC1.

2.4 Coordinating Multi-TC activities

Since several years a close cooperation between SGFS and TCs outside JTC1 exists. Special “Cooperative Agreements” have been signed between JTC1 and ISO/TCs to define the mutual responsibilities of SGFS and the TC in the document approval process. These “Multi-TC”-activities have been a direct result from the need to closely relate and integrate views and inputs from experts from different environments in ISO and JTC1. A cross-relation between several groups within ISO and JTC1 based on the concept of Cooperative Agreements has proven to be a efficient mechanism to coordinate and combine several inputs form different standardization groups.

3. Perspectives on JTC1 Re-engineering

The developments within JTC1 on the Re-engineering have reach a stage that a wide range of respectable viewpoints from many members have been received. A large number of inputs have been reviewed and some specific scenarios on a new approach to tackle new technologies and potential business areas have been discussed. Without having the intention to comment on all current viewpoints, SGFS would like to highlight some current perspectives as a contribution to the forming of opinions within JTC1.

Especially the input from the JTC1/SWG-GII (JTC1 N4332) proves that there is an apparent need to consider new key activities within JTC1 and to develop a new organizational structure to follow the rapid movements within the marketplace. Other contributions e.g. from the US (JTC1 N4285) and from Germany (JTC1 N4264) recognized the need for defining key business areas for which cross-sectorial approaches have been proposed. Additionally the concept of “Business Teams” (JTC1 N4299) shows that a clear infrastructure within JTC1 is needed to progress inputs from multiple sources from a heterogeneous environment.

There exists a need to initiate and monitor the developments of standards within a range of organizations, especially with the aim to identify missing specifications or to promote already existing specifications. Furthermore, there is the need to integrate existing specifications to achieve specific functionality. It appeared that achieving interoperability among systems, based on the integration of existing work and without any additional specifications, should be the main goal.

The concepts of “Operational Roundtables”, “Multi-organizational project teams” and “New categories of Organizational Relationships” (e.g. JTC1 N4464) express the need for monitoring and maintaining an infrastructure of cooperative organizations to guarantee a smooth exchange of documents between groups inside and outside JTC1. Within these circumstances special experiences with maintaining such an infrastructure and with extended procedures to guide this, might be welcomed.

4. Summary

With this contribution SGFS would like to emphasize specific issues in the discussions on Re-engineering, especially related to some current activities within SGFS.

SGFS would like to offer its experiences and knowledge to JTC1 on:

1. Integration of standards
2. Procedures for ratifying integrated specifications
3. Monitoring an infrastructure of “submitting organizations”, and
4. Coordinating Multi-TC-activities

Therefore, SGFS could be in a position to help JTC1 in its collaborative activity with other ISO/IEC TCs. Re-engineering in JTC1 shows that there is a need to promote JTC1 standards in the other TCs, and to help the Applications TCs to make best use of generic standards developed in JTC1. SGFS has indeed done this in the last years, as it can be seen in the area of Libraries (ISO/TC46) or Industrial Automation (ISO/TC184), with the definition of combined profiles that encourage specific application standards to be based on generic JTC1 standards. SGFS is willing to continue in this area and to serve JTC1 and the other TCs.