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Title : Liaison Statement to S-liaisons, and TC46/SC4: Comments and questions on ALD Taxonomy (N573)

Source : ISO/IEC JTC1/SGFS

Status : Output of SGFS Authorized Subgroup Meeting, December 1992, London

Note :

Date: December 11, 1992

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SOURCE: ISO/IEC JTC1/SGFS

STATUS: Output of SGFS Authorized Sub-group Meeting

In the course of the Authorized Sub-group meeting of SGFS held in London December 8-11 1992, SGFS considered the proposed taxonomy for ALD profiles which had been earlier submitted by EWOS in N573, and subsequently included in DTR 10000-2.3.

In response to a number of ballot comments received on DTR 10000-2.3, a resolution meeting decided to reduce the amount of the proposed taxonomy in the edition to be published at this time, and to request further consideration of the remaining entries for a subsequent edition.

The taxonomy being published at this time therefore includes only:

ALD1 Search and Retrieve

ALD2 Inter-library Loan

The issues which SGFS wishes to raise with the organizations currently working on this taxonomy and on the profiles it references are as follows:

1. Reference by one A-Profile to another

ALD12 shows ISO 10163 used "over" AMH21,22,23, or 24. The nature of the specification of this combination is something that needs working out. SGFS believes that it should be sufficient in this IPMS case for ALD12 to include only such elements of IPMS that are required to enable it to operate over any AMH2x profile. There is no need to include AMH2x within the definition of ALD12. Users of ALD12 will specify also which AMH2x profile is required in each instance of communication.

There is a further question which needs to be answered here - is there in fact a single ALD1x profile which can be used in conjunction with any suitable carrying A-profile? Or is there something unique for each of FTAM, IPMS, P1 direct?

It is assumed that suitable multi-part ISP structures will be used to define common usage of ISO 10163 in all cases in the ALD1 taxonomy.

2. Relay functions (ALDx9)

Though it is stated that this class is still for further study, SGFS feels that it is too early to include it in the taxonomy. The nature of "application relays" is a new concept, and the particular problems of handling mapping of names and addresses between different environments (e.g. MHS to AE Titles for FTAM) need considerable study.

3. Mixed environments (ALD25x)

We are not clear how the interaction of the two phases of the ILL protocol can be represented as one profile. Is it the case that the tracking phase needs separate profiles, which can then be invoked in combination when required? How does ISO 10161 specify the interactions between the phases? Have the implications of conformance testing this combination been considered?

4. Status and purpose of "Intermediary Systems" (ALD2x)

How do these relate to or differ from Relays (ALD29)? This distinction is not clear. Also, is the terminology of "End system" correctly used in these descriptions?

ALD21 has a note that there is an issue about keeping two associations open; does this apply in the case of other profiles as well?

5. Combined SR and ILL (ALD3)

SGFS does not understand why separate profiles for these combinations are needed. It is a well understood principle that any one system ("box") can simultaneously implement more than one profile for different types and instances of communication. To define separate profiles, there should be a need to profile some standard which defines the interaction between the two profiles concerned. Is this the case? Where is that interaction defined?

If it is the opinion of the ALD proposers that some such functionality needs to be standardised, and its not in a standard, a profile is not the place to fix that omission - TR 10000-1 is quite clear on this. Is there some solution which can be agreed with TC46 to fix this?

6. Need for introductory text describing Taxonomy principles

SGFS wishes to remind the submitters of sections of the Taxonomy that text is also required to provide an introductory description of the principles on which the taxonomy is constructed. This would help readers of TR

10000-2 in understanding the significance of the actual  
choices made in structuring the taxonomy

December 11, 1992

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