

From: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG11 - Language Bindings
To: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC21/WG6 - RPC Rapporteur Group
Subject: Liaison statement
Date: January 1992

SC22/WG11 and SC21/WG6/RPC are working in the same field of standardization (the development of standards for a language-independent procedure call specification).

It is SC22/WG11's belief that it is of utmost importance that the two groups work together as much as possible to produce fully aligned documents, based on the same technical concepts and using the same Interface Definition Notation and nomenclature.

On several occasions, RPC experts have attended WG11 meetings on an individual basis. More direct interaction was achieved during the January 1991 WG11 meeting in Monterey (back-to-back meeting with X3T2 and X3T5.5), and the May 1991 WG11 meeting in Arles, together with WG6/RPC. These combined meetings were very useful.

During the Arles meeting, the wish was expressed to meet again with WG6/RPC to provide input for the WG6/RPC editing session that follows the CD ballot. This wish was expressed by both WG11 and WG6/RPC members.

After initial problems within SC21 the combined meeting (scheduled for February 1992) was approved (through personal contacts between the chairmen of SC21 and SC22 at the JTC1 plenary).

WG11 is VERY disappointed and disturbed by the message that, after all the efforts done to arrange a combined meeting to achieve an important goal (alignment of the two standards), the RPC group of WG6 does not see a need for such a combined meeting. Though we recognize that both groups must agree to a joint meeting, WG11 believes that when the need for such a meeting has previously been agreed, then any decision that it is no longer needed must also be taken jointly.

WG11 has repeatedly expressed its willingness to modify its meeting schedule to facilitate joint meetings and cross-representation, and we reconfirm that willingness. We welcome the recognition by SC21 that its usual administrative procedures sometimes need to be waived in order to facilitate cross-SC collaboration, and urges WG6/RPC not lightly to cast aside the opportunity to take advantage of this concession.

WG11 proposes that complete combined meeting schedule of both groups, through to the anticipated completion of all relevant projects, be drawn up as soon as possible. This would contain all proposed meetings, whether joint, separate but with cross-representation essential, or separate with cross-representation unnecessary (though perhaps desirable). This schedule would also contain all synchronization points, and would be reviewed and updated regularly. To avoid any delay we propose that the first version of this schedule be drawn up by the convenors of the two groups, for subsequent approval by each group either at a meeting or by correspondence, whichever is the quicker. We suggest that a target date for completion by the convenors of this first version should be May 1992 (the SC21 plenary).