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Title : Use of 2-character notation in IPRLs

Source : Joint Meeting of Regional Workshops on ISDN (AOW/WAN SIG, EWOS/EG LL and OIW LL SIG)

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To: JTC-1/SGFS and JTC-1/SC21

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SGFS N435 (SC21 N6191) requests comments on the need for 2-character notation. This contribution explains the situation with regard to lower layer profiles.

TR 10000-1, clauses 6.5 (c) and 6.7, state that profiles may restrict dynamic behaviour with respect to the transmission of protocol elements. The lower layer profiles specified in ISPs 10608 and 10609 do this in some cases, and a 2-character notation is used in the IPRL to represent the constraints.

For example, it is a requirement of the profile TC1111 that the parameter "alternative protocol class" is always transmitted in a transport protocol CR TPDU. This leads to an IPRL entry of the following form:

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Profile Status</u>
Alternative protocol class	mm

The first "m" indicates a static conformance requirement to support transmission of the parameter. But this alone does not express the complete profile requirement, because the base standard dynamic conformance requirements would allow an implementation that supports transmission of the parameter to sometimes send CR TPDU's without it.

The second "m" represents the profile's dynamic conformance requirement that the parameter must be transmitted in every CR TPDU.

By contrast, although the profile also mandates support of the called TSAP-ID parameter in the CR TPDU, it does not require that every CR TPDU contains this parameter. Instead, the provisions of the base standard for use of this parameter by an implementation that supports it are not constrained by the profile. So for this feature the IPRL entry does not have a second "m".

Thus the 2-character notation is used to distinguish cases where the profiles constrain dynamic behaviour. The second character indicates the nature of the constraint (for example, if a profile required a protocol element to be never transmitted, the second character would be "x").

This convention is used throughout ISPs 10608 and 10609. In fact, in the pdISP review of these ISPs, SC21 expert comment strongly recommended use of 2-character notation.

Clearly it is possible to devise other means by which profiles could deal with the type of distinction described above. So if SC21 wish to propose an alternative means of dealing with it, the workshops would be happy to evaluate the appropriateness of such a proposal for use in future profile development. But until such a proposal has been agreed to meet the requirements of profile developers, testers and users, the workshop groups concerned with the lower layers have agreed to use the convention described above for situations where it provides useful clarification of lower layer profile requirements.

