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Report of ISO/IEC JTC1/SGFS Secretariat
February 16th, 1993

Title

Information Technology - Special Group on Functional Standardization (SGFS).

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PART I: MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

(by Mr. Louis Visser, Chairman ISO/IEC JTC1/SGFS)

The ISO/IEC Special Group on Functional Standardization held a successful Authorized Subgroup meeting from 8-11 December in London. 22 delegates from 9 National Bodies attended the meeting. In addition there was good participation of liaison representatives. The meeting endorsed 9 resolutions.

Management items addressed by the meeting:

1.1 Revision of SGFS procedures

The SGFS procedures as contained in JTC1/SGFS N601, were modified. The following changes have been incorporated with immediate effect:

- clarification of the procedure for handling modifications to ISPs, and alignment with JTC1 terminology;
- extension of procedures to cover the situation where ISPs are used for registration.

The new SGFS procedures are issued as SGFS N757.

In addition, procedure changes are proposed to facilitate:

- approval of "Inter-TC ISPs".

These draft SGFS procedures, which are not yet effective, are issued as SGFS N758. They will be submitted to National Bodies and liaison organizations for comment prior to the July 1993 meeting of the SGFS, from which meeting these changes are expected to be sent out for ballot.

1.2 Liaison on Inter-TC ISPs

While the definition of procedures to handle inter-TC ISPs is still in progress, there is good liaison with other TCs on this topic; in particular with TC46 (libraries) and TC 184 (Manufacturing Messaging). Profiles which can apply these procedures are already identified in the taxonomy, Submission of corresponding PDISPs for approval is currently expected late 1993.

1.3 PTS development and approval

SGFS has developed a view on its role in the definition and approval of Profile Test Specifications (PTSs). SGFS liaises with SC21/WG1 and S-liaisons to harmonize the appropriate processes. One of the items for consideration is the existence of PTSs based on partial Abstract Test Suites.

SGFS considers PTSs an area where JTCl SCs and WGs can fruitfully cooperate with S-liaison organizations and recommends, where appropriate, its S-liaisons to extend their liaison to include 'profile testing'.

1.4 ISP approval process

* The approval of the first set of ISPs has taken longer than expected. The second set of nearly approved ISPs has a much better record, although still longer than the target period. The major difference between the real approval periods and the target approval period is the time necessary to establish re-harmonization on changes resulting from Review and Ballot comments from NBLOs.

* Based on information received from S-liaisons it has to be expected that the number of submitted (OSI) profiles will rise considerably in the coming year.

1.5 Progression of TR 10000

* The meeting approved the forwarding to ITTF for publication of TR 10000-2:1992 with the title "Information Technology - Framework and Taxonomy of International Standardized Profiles - Part 2: Taxonomy of OSI Profiles".

This publication consolidates the changes agreed in the June 1992 and December 1992 Ballot Resolution meetings. It reflects already the dedication of this part to OSI, which is part of the extension of the scope of TR 10000 to include the Open Systems Environment (OSE).

* The meeting progressed the work on TR 10000 Part 1 (General Principles and Framework) and TR 10000 Part 3 (Principles and taxonomy for Open System Environment Profiles), based on numerous input documents.

A number of concepts were discussed, and some definitions were refined. It was established that the set of OSE Profiles can be subdivided into two classes: Application Environment Profiles and Functional OSE Profiles. These classes can further be subdivided into

Generic Profiles and what is called Industry Specific Profiles thus yielding 4 classes of OSE Profiles. In this scheme, the OSI Profiles (as defined in TR 10000 Part 2) can be considered to fall into the class of Generic Functional Profiles.

The editors of TR 10000 Parts 1 and 3 are requested to incorporate the above outlined ideas in their documents; by the same token MBs and liaison organizations are requested to further work on these concepts and to come with proposals for progression of the work at the next SGFS meeting.

* Another topic that was discussed is the concept of National Profiles, as identified by JTC1/SC22/WG15 - POSIX (see SGFS/N733). Although the issue is raised with respect to OSE Profiles, it is recognized that the problem of National or regional variants of profiles also applies to OSI profiles (FTAM and ODA).

SGFS does not envisage creating a profile class called "National Profile". There does not seem to be the need for emphasizing cultural issues as being any different from other aspects which have an impact across technology areas.

This conclusion, together with responses to other specific questions, are reported to WG15 in a liaison statement (SGFS/N755).

PART II: ADMINISTRATIVE

2.1 ISP approvals

The current status of profiles for which ISP-processing has been started:

- 21 profiles are under Review
(ATP11, ATP12, ATP21, ATP22, ATP31, ATP32, FVT211, FVT212, FVT213, FVT214, FVT215, FVT216, FVT217, FVT218, FVT219, FVT2110, FVT221, FVT222, FVT231, FVT232, RA51.54)
- 0 profiles are awaiting for incorporation of Review Comments
- 15 profiles are under Ballot
(AOM211, AOM212, AOM213, AOM221, AOM231, RA51.1111, RA51.1121, RA51.51, RC51.1111, RC51.1121, RD51.51, TA53, TA54, TC51, TC53)
- 0 profiles are approved by Ballot and are awaiting for incorporation of Ballot Resolution Meeting results.
- 3 profiles are submitted to ISO/IEC ITTF for publication, so the camera-ready text is available
(FOD11, FOD26, FOD36)
- 17 profiles have been published by ISO/IEC ITTF
(AFT11, AFT12, AFT22, AFT3, AOM11, AOM12, TA1111, TA1121, TA51, TB1111, TB1121, TC1111, TC1121, TD1111, TD1121, TE1111, TE1121)

2.2 Membership

P-members

Austria	France	The Netherlands
Belgium	Germany	Sweden
Brazil	Japan	United Kingdom
Canada	Korea, Rep. of	USA
Denmark		

O-members

Australia

L-members

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6, SC 18, SC 21, SC 24

ISO/TC 37/Infoterm, ISO/TC 68, ISO/TC 184

IEC/TC 65

CCITT, SWIFT

S-liaisons

Asia-Oceania OSI Workshop (AOW), COS, EWOS, OSI Implementors Workshop (OIW), OSITOP, POSI, SPAG, World Federation of MAP/TOP Users.

PART III: MEETINGS

3.1 SGFS Plenary Meetings

No.	Date	Location	Agenda SGFS doc.	Resolu- tions SGFS doc.	Minutes SGFS doc.
1	March 9-13, 1987	Eindhoven	TC 97 N1866	N 04	N01/05/06
2	September 14-15, 1987	London	N 09	N 16	N 19
3	May 9-13, 1988	Tokyo	N 31	N 58	N -
4	February 2-3, 1989	Copenhagen	N 61	N 124	N 92
5	November 2 - December 1, 1989	Mc Lean	N 134	N 193	N -

SGFS Plenary Meetings (continued)

No.	Date	Location	Agenda SGFS doc.	Resolu- tions SGFS doc.	Minutes SGFS doc.
6	June 11-15, 1990	Tokyo	N 199	N 241	N -
7	June 18-21, 1991	Berlin	N 294	N 411	N 413
8	June 15-19, 1992	Washington	N 454	N 626	N 627
9	July 5-9, 1993	Seoul	N	N	N

3.2 Special meetings

No.	Date	Location	Agenda SGFS doc.	Resolu- tions SGFS doc.	Minutes SGFS doc.
1	November 26-27, 1990	Brussels	N 271	n.a.	N 296
2	October 30 - November 1, 1991	Brussels	N 398	N 440	N 441
3	December 8-11, 1993	London	N 701	N 765	N 769
4	November 30 - December 3, 1993	tentative	N	N	N

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PART V: PROGRAMME OF WORK

Issues List: SGFS Standing Document SD-7

Schedule of deliverables: SGFS Standing Document SD-4

