

Report to the ISO/IEC JCT1/SC22 Advisory Group from WG11

Summary

WG11 has had three meetings since the last Advisory Group meeting. The first meeting (April 87) was attended by six members, two from the US, three from the UK, and one from the Netherlands. The second meeting (October 87) was a joint meeting with ANSI and was attended by two non-X3T2 members, one from the UK and one from the US, as well as the members. The last meeting (in April 88) was held in the UK and was attended by 10 members, two from the US, one from the Netherlands, and seven from the UK. Our next meeting is scheduled for the first week of October in the Netherlands.

We have accomplished a great deal so far, and we should have some draft standards on calling sequences and data types ready for review next year. Our work on Guidelines for Language Bindings is essentially complete.

Note that the participation has been by the UK, US, and The Netherlands. France has submitted several comments to us, but no one from France has attended any of our meetings. We had hoped that other countries would participate as well. The SC22 Secretariat sent a letter to the member bodies asking for more participation, but none was forthcoming.

Scope of Work

The following tasks are assigned to us:

WG-11 project 97.22.14 Binding Techniques for Programming Languages.

Guidelines for Language Bindings has been submitted as a dtr, and is being revised based on the comments received (this will be done at the next meeting). It will be re-submitted in October or November.

WG-11 project 97.22.16 Spec. for a model for Common Lang. independent procedure calling mechanism.

A generic description of the calling mechanism as well as sample bindings for COBOL, Pascal, and FORTRAN have been produced. These have been circulated to the SC22 language committees. We hope to have a draft standard by next year. Mr. David Joslin of the UK is the project editor.

WG-11 project 97.22.17 Spec. for a set of Common Lang. independent data types.

Several papers have been discussed at length and circulated to WG11 members. One general description of our approach has been circulated to the SC22 language committees. We hope to have a draft standard late next year. The project editor is Mr. Edward Barkmeyer of the US.

As a result of discussions of this project, WG11 voted to create a sub item (22.17.01) to address real (or floating-point) data types. The NWI proposal is currently being examined by WG11 members, and will be submitted to SC22 in a few weeks.

Liaison

The WG11 convenor receives graphics binding documents from SC24. WG11 doesn't have the personnel or the expertise to review them, so they are not distributed to the members and are not reviewed by the members. No comments have been submitted to WG11 by any of the SC22 language committees.

Various documents are submitted to the convenor from SC14. Any that are applicable to WG11's work items are submitted to the the WG11 members.

Unfortunately, the liaison is not as good as it should be (as per SC22 document N243). The WG11 convenor has not had the time to devote to this activity and will attempt to improve matters in this area shortly.

Schedule/milestones

The general schedules are given above.

Our next meeting will be on October 4-6 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The following one will be on April 18-20 in San Francisco, California, USA. We will continue to have two meetings per year, one in the April and one in October. The majority of them will be in Europe.