AUGUST 1991

TITLE:	Report from the Convenor of WG11 – Binding Techniques to the Fourth Plenary meeting of SC22
SOURCE:	Secretariat ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22
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ACTION:	For information to SC22 Member Bodies.

1. Convenor

Mr. Willem Wakker (ACE Associated Computer Experts bv, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) was after a letterballot appointed as Convenor of SC22/WG11 (see SC22/N965).

2. Meetings

In 1991 the following meetings have been held:

21-25 January   Monterey (U.S.A.)
27-28 May   Arles (France)

The first meeting had participants from 4 countries (U.S.A., U.K, France and The Netherlands), and was a combined meeting with X3T2.

The meeting in Arles was a combined meeting with the SC21/WG6 RPC group. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the common Interface Notation Definition IDN, used by both SC21/WG6 and SC22/WG11.
This meeting was attended by WG11 members from 5 countries (U.S.A., U.K, France, Germany and The Netherlands).

The following meetings are planned:

17-20 September 1991   Vienna (Austria)
20-24 April 1992   Washington DC (USA)

Note that the April 1992 meeting is not yet confirmed; it is the intention that this meeting is a combined meeting with X3T2.

3. Work Item JTC1.22.14 - Language Bindings Guidelines

During its January meeting, WG11 approved an updated version of PDTR 10182. A new version (which is in better accordance with the ITTF style requirements) is expected shortly.

4. Work Item JTC1.22.16 - Common Procedure Calling Mechanism

During the last meetings, issues related to the Interface Definition Notation (IDN), and the relation between CLID, CLIPCM and RPC were extensively discussed. All three standards use a syntax to define the representation of the datatypes and the procedure calling mechanism; the aim is to have one common syntax, or at least to avoid conflicting syntaxes.

It is the intention of WG11 to establish the text for the first CD during the September 1991 meeting. Hopefully the accompanying SC22 letter ballot can be held by the end of 1991.

5. Work Item JTC1.22.17 - Common Language-Independent Datatypes

The latest working draft has been registered as CD 11404. During the coming meetings, the issues from the Open Issues list should be resolved, after which a second CD will be produced.
The current DIS ballot closes on September 27th 1991.

An increasingly number of organizations are interested in the CD: apart from already existing liaisons, the ECMA PCTE working group (who used previous versions of WG11 documents in preparing the ECMA PCTE standard, see SC22/N945) expressed interest in an active liaison with WG11.

There has been some confusion in WG11 about the steps taken after the CD registration: the purpose was to give the document a more prominent status, specially in liaisons with other

groups, to indicate to those other groups that WG11 feels that technically the document shows the way to go (it is no longer a working draft), and that WG11 invites other groups (our Users!) to comment on the Open Issues list in order to resolve these issues with maximum consent from all groups.

It was explicitly NOT the intention of WG11 to progress the document to the DIS stage: the French member body had explicitly asked for it not to go for DIS ballot (see the WG11 minutes of the Monterey meeting, SC22/N922), and the JTC1 directives seem not require such a step. It proves however that DIS ballot is an automatic consequence of CD registration.

A document that indicates exactly the steps that will be followed at certain stages (a flow chart?) may help the WG convenors in avoiding these kind of problems and misunderstandings.

6. Work Item JTC1.22.28 - Language Compatible Arithmetic Standard

Document WG11/N229 (LCAS version 3.1) has been registered as CD 10967. This DIS ballot on this document (SC22/N935) closed on July 18, 1991.

Comments will be discussed at the next WG11 meeting, which will be held immediately before the SC22 plenary in Vienna. Therefore, further information will be available at the SC22 plenary.

During the Monterey meeting WG11 decided that SC22 will be asked to change the work item so that LCAS will be the first part of a multi-part standard, and that under the new (approved) work items on LCMPS (22.33) and LCCAPS (22.34) parts 2 and 3 of this multi-part standard will be produced. SC22 is requested to approve this by resolution during the September 1991 plenary meeting in Vienna.

7. Work Item JTC1.22.33 - Language Compatible Mathematical Procedure Standard

The new work item proposal (SC22/N819) has been approved (SC22/N951) and Ms. Mary Payne is nominated to be project editor (SC22/N953, ballot closes on July 31st, 1991).

The first draft is expected by March 1992.

WG11 will propose to SC22 that this work will produce part 2 of a multi-part standard on Language-Independent Arithmetic.

8. Work Item JTC1.22.34 - Language Compatible Complex Arithmetic and Procedure Standard

The new work item proposal (SC22/N818) has been approved (SC22/N952) and Ms. Mary Payne is nominated to be project editor (SC22/N953, ballot closes on July 31st, 1991).

The first draft is expected by end of 1992.

WG11 will propose to SC22 that this work will produce part 3 of a multi-part standard on Language-Independent Arithmetic.

9. Liaisons

The SC22 secretariat has sent all relevant WG11 documents with a cover letter from the WG11 convenor to all SC22 related SCs. The only response on this action has been from SC27 - Security (see SC22/N959): SC27 does not see a need for a liaison to WG11.

A WG11 liaison that causes some problems is the relation with SC21/WG6: both SC21/WG6 and WG11 recognize the need to harmonize their documents (RPC for SC21/WG6, CLID and CLIPCM for WG11). It is therefore mandatory that both WGs meet regularly, and that commenting documents from each group are fully recognized by the

other group.

The strict SC21 rules on CD editing sessions and WG meeting schedules make it very difficult to work effectively together.

The SC22 chair and secretariat are urgently requested to raise this problem on all relevant occasions when discussing inter-SC problems within JTC1, since it can be expected that this kind of problem will occur more frequently in the future with the development of more general (Functional) standards and bindings.

A (first step to the) solution of the above described problem might be an adjustment (or clarification) of membership rules of WGs; in particular so that a liaison representative from e.g. RPC to WG11 or vice versa can be at meetings in an official and formal capacity and not just as another national delegate. This might help some members to get approval (and funding) for attending meetings additional to those of the group they are primarily members of.

10. Name Space Issues

During the October 1990 SC22 Advisory Group meeting in London, the WG11 convenor was asked to investigate name space and related issues (SC22/N865, recommendation 8).

The only reaction from outside SC22 on the request for information was received from SC24/WG4, responsible for Language Bindings within SC24 - Computer Graphics. SC24/WG4 does not seem to have a problem in this area.

As no other reaction was received, it is suggested that SC22 decide that (at least at this moment) there is no general problem in this area.

11. SC22/WG11 Milestones

Work Item 22.14 - Language Bindings Guidelines
Milestones: 5.3   91-12   TR published

Work Item 22.16 - Common Procedure Calling Mechanism
Milestones: 2.8   91-09   WD approved for registration as CD

Work Item 22.17 - Language-Independent Data Types
Milestones: 2.8   91-01   WD approved for registration as CD
                3.0   91-03   CD registered
                3.1   91-03   CD study initiated
                3.8   92-05   CD approved for registration as DIS

Work Item 22.28 - Language Compatible Arithmetic Standard
Milestones: 3.8   91-09   CD approved for registration as DIS

Work Item 22.33 -- Language Compatible Mathematical Procedure Standard
Milestones: 2.1   91-06   WD study initiated
                           92-03   First draft circulated
                2.8   93-02   WD draft for CD registration

Work Item 22.34 -- Language Compatible Complex Arithmetic and Procedure Standard
Milestones: 2.1   91-06   WD study initiated
                           92-12   First draft circulated
                2.8   93-10   WD draft for CD registration