ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22

N 1461

SEPTEMBER 1993

TITLE: Minutes of meeting of WG11 - Binding Techniques
held in Amsterdam Netherlands, 1993-07-19/23

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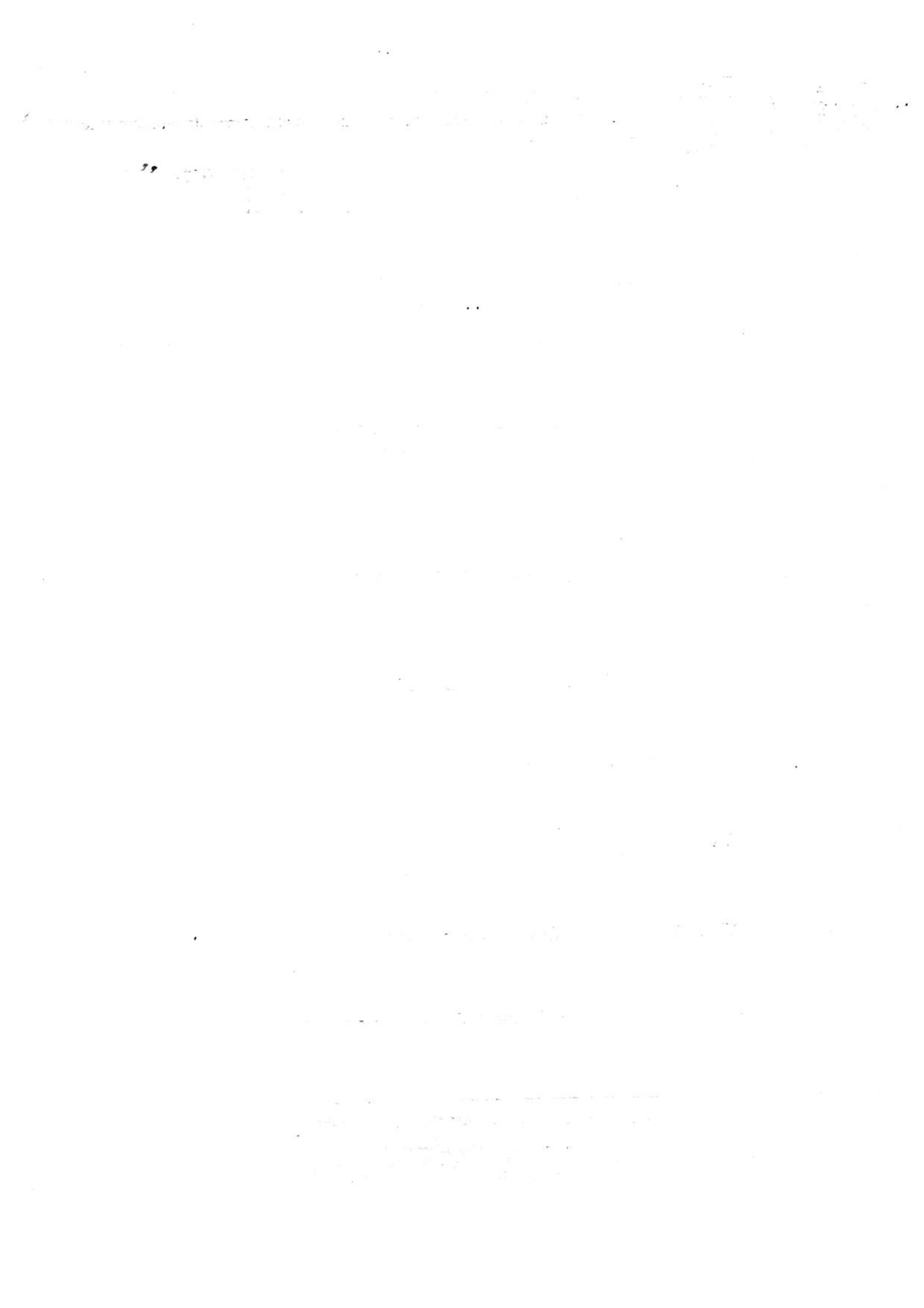
WORK ITEM: JTC1.22.14, .16, .17, .28, .33, .34

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ACTION: For information to SC22 Member Bodies.

Committee: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG11

Place: ACE Associated Computer Experts bv
               Amsterdam, Netherlands

Date: July 19 - 23, 1993

Attendees: Mr. Ed Barkmeyer   NIST, USA
               Mr. Peter Farkas   Sun, USA
               Mr. Brian Meek   King's College London, UK
               Mr. Craig Schaffert   DEC, USA
               Mr. Keld Simonsen   Denmark
               Mr. Willem Wakker   ACE, Netherlands
               Mr. Johan van Wingen Netherlands

1. Agenda (WG11/N349)

The agenda was adopted.

It was agreed that the order of business in the draft agenda would not be followed, but each item would be discussed at the most suitable time, considering the fact that Mr. Van Wingen could only attend on Tuesday, and Mr. Simonsen only on Thursday.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (WG11/N363)

The name of Mr. Farkas was added to the list of attendees; the minutes were approved as amended.

3. Convenor Report

The main point of concern to report was the continuing small participation in WG11. This will be mentioned in the Convenors report to SC22.

4. National Activity Reports

4.1 BSI IST/5/11, Report by Brian Meek

The UK panel has met once since the Boston WG11 meeting, principally to consider comments on LID that need to be resolved at this WG11 meeting. The only one that is foreseen to be difficult to resolve satisfactorily for the UK is the US major comment 1a. The revised US draft has arrived just in time to be briefly reviewed. It seems that this does not quite meet the UK requirements as far as "goals" are concerned but it was felt that this could be readily fixed, and Jon Diamond (convenor) had provided a contribution subsequently.

At SC22 level the parent committee had agreed that it was not necessary to change the LIA definition to be based on significant in order to meet the UK request to match LIA with IEEE 754, if this causes serious problems in other directions, such as language bindings.

Regrettably we shall be without John Dawes' assistance for six months for health reasons. We look forward to him resuming his participation in the next year.

4.2 ANSI X3T2, Report by Craig Schaffert

X3T2 did not meet between this WG11 meeting and the previous one, so no report.

5. Work Item 22.14 - Language Bindings Guidelines

The document has been forwarded to the SC22 secretariat for publication by ITTF.

Milestones for the Language Bindings Guidelines project:

5.3   93-06   TR published

6. Work Item 22.16 - Language Independent Procedure Calling

Based on the resolution of ballot comments, agreed at the last WG11 meeting, the project editor had produced a new version: LIPC WD#6.1 (WG11/N366). However, the edits were not yet complete. A first draft of the response document (WG11/N367) was also available; this document identifies the places were additional editors instructions are necessary.

During the meeting, the additional editors instructions were drafted. It was decided that N366 and N367, together with these additional instructions will be circulated to WG11 for review and comment. Comments should be received by the convenor by October 15th, 1993 at the latest. After that date the editor will produce the document to be registered as CD.

Milestones for the LIPC project:

2.8   93-10   WD approved for registration as CD

7. Work Item 22.17 - Language-Independent Data Types

The ballot comments on the second CD (SC22/N1354, WG11/N361) showed 8 countries supporting the document without comments (Brazil, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands and Romania), 2 countries supporting the document with comments (New Zealand and UK), 2 countries abstaining (Bulgaria and Germany) and 2 countries disapproving the document (Sweden and the USA).

All comments were discussed, and after a long (and sometimes heated) discussion, agreement was reached on text, based on which the US was willing to reverse its NO vote.

The NO vote from Sweden could be changed to a YES vote when the SC2 standards were followed in the definition of character names. Text too this effect was agreed, so it is the firm believe of WG11 that everything has been done to overcome the NO votes.

The editor will produce a new version of the document (at the latest by October 15th) which will then be registered as DIS.

Milestones for the LID project:

2.8   91-01   WD approved for registration as CD
3.0   91-05   CD registered
3.1   91-05   CD study initiated
3.8   93-10   CD approved for registration as DIS

8. Work Item 22.28 - Language-Independent Arithmetic, Part 1: Integer and Floating Point Arithmetic

A temporary version of the updated document was available during the meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that only the Foreword needed some additional editorial changes.

The editor will produce the final DIS text before mid August 1993.

Milestones for the LIA Part 1 project:

3.8   93-04   CD approved for registration as DIS

9. Work Item 22.33 - Language-Independent Arithmetic, Part 2: Language Independent Mathematical Procedure Standard

No progress made. The milestones remain unchanged.

Milestones for the LIA Part 2 project:

2.1   91-09   WD study initiated
        93-10   First draft circulated
2.8   94-08   WD draft for CD registration

10. Work Item 22.34 - Language-Independent Arithmetic, Part 3: Language Independent Complex Arithmetic and Procedure Standard

No progress made. The milestones remain unchanged.

Milestones for the LIA Part 3 project:

2.1   91-09   WD study initiated
        94-11   First draft circulated
2.8   95-04   WD draft for CD registration

11. Cross language issues

11.1 POSIX

The NWI proposal, titled 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Language Independent Service Specifications', is in ballot in SC22 (SC22/N1376, closing date 1993/08/31).

Some issues around the documentation structure of LI Specifications and language bindings were discussed. It was recognized that when a LI Service Specification is based on LID and LIPC, and when 'generic' language bindings from a language to LID and LIPC exist, there possibly a need exist for 'very thin' language bindings to that service (example: the very thin POSIX bindings, WG11/N368). However, at this moment neither the POSIX LIS specification, nor the corresponding C binding are written in this fashion.

11.2 PCTE

There was nothing to report on PCTE.

11.3 IRDS

There was nothing to report on IRDS.

12. Planning and Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled to be in London on March 21-25 1994, hosted by BSI. It is hoped that by then most of the WG11 documents have finished their ballots.

13. Close of Meeting

The host, ACE, and especially Mrs. Gisela Plat from ACE, were thanked for organizing the meeting and offering dinner to WG11.

Mr. Ed Barkmeyer was thanked for his contribution to the work of WG11, and especially for his effort in the difficult task of producing the first drafts of the LID document. It is hoped that he can continue to contribute in an 'off-line' fashion (i.e. through email).

Documents identified since last mailing

WG11 Nbr	Other Nbrs	Date	Author	Title
364		9306xx		CD 10967-1.2
365		9306xx		Responses to comments on CD 10967-1 (WG11/N355)
366		9307xx	Edwards	LIPC WD#7
367		9307xx	Edwards	Responses to comments on LIPC (WG11/N357)
368	WG15/N376	930511	Simonsen	Thin C binding for POSIX 9945-1
369		93xxxx		A Proposal for Accurate Floating-Point Arithmetic
370			Barkmeyer	LID WD#8
371			Barkmeyer	Responses to comments on LID (N361)
372		9308xx	Convener	Minutes WG11 Meeting July 1993