National Activity Report for 1999-2000
United States of America, National Member Body
Prepared for JTC1/SC22 Plenary in
Nara, Japan, September 2000

The national committee corresponding to SC22 in the United States is called CT22. This year a new Chairman (Bob Mathis) and new Vice Chairman (John Benito) were elected. (Previous chairmen and vice chairmen of this committee are well known to SC22 and have included most recently Bob Follett, John Hill, and Scott Jameson.)

The US has continued to be active in many of SC22's Working Groups. US activities and contributions are also reported their reports. In particular, the following groups wanted to report their activities through this report.

For Ada, the US:

- hosted a meeting of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG9 on October 22, 1999 in Redondo Beach, CA.
- attended a meeting of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG9 on June 30, 2000 in Potsdam, Germany.
- accepted the responsibility for drafting the text of the Technical Corrigendum to ISO/IEC 8652 and recently contributed that draft to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG9.

For COBOL, the US:

- technical committee J4 is responsible for the development of the US and international standards for COBOL (ANSI X3.23-1985, ISO 1989), the development of related amendments and technical corrigenda, and the processing of related defect reports.
- J4 continues development of a revision to ANSI X3.23-1985, ISO/IEC 1989:1985, which completed the second U.S. public review and the ISO/IEC combined CD registration and CD ballot in January 1997.
- J4 completed the technical changes in response to comments on CD 1. Because of general comments from 3 national bodies regarding quality, an internal quality review was completed by J4 and WG4 in late 1998. The changes resulting from the comments received during the internal quality review were completed in 1999.
- An internal mini-quality review was held during the early part of 2000. Following the completion of the rework due to mini-quality review comments, the draft will be submitted to SC22 for Final CD ballot. WG4 requested this at the May 2000 meeting.
- Features included in the COBOL revision are cultural adaptability, object orientation, enhanced inter-operability with other programming languages, new data types (bit, floating point, native binary, pointers), strong typing, enhanced portability of arithmetic, support for multiple-octet coded character sets, a screen handling facility, data validation support, conditional compilation, exception handling, storage allocation support, and file sharing with record locking.
- J4 is interested in developing the TR for a finalizer feature, if requested by SC22.

For FORTRAN, the US:

- continued its role of primary development body for Fortran, and as maintenance body for the previously released versions of the Standard.
- work on interpretations of Fortran 95 was progressed and letter balloted, but no corrigendum was forwarded to WG5 for publication. Work on the "2000" revision was seen as higher priority and the bulk of the National body's work was focused on that work.
- J3 continues to meet 4 times a year, almost always in Las Vegas. No change is contemplated at this time.
- The detailed status of the work is documented in the Primary Development body's report. In summary, the work continues despite a certain amount of "churning" of personnel.

For Java, the US:

- established J22 to serve as the US TAG to SC22's Java Study Group (JSG).
- J22 has not held a meeting since the last SC22 Plenary.
- The only activity has been several letter ballots, regarding the SC22 chair vacancy, the U.S. position on the Fast Track submission of DIS 16262 (ECMA-262 ECMAScript), and the future of JSG.

For Prolog, the US:

- J17 is responsible for coordinating the US position on the ISO Prolog standard.
- The project is a joint US/ISO standard.
- Part 2, modules, was approved in March 2000 and published in May 2000.

For SC22/WG20, the US TAG is NCITS/L2:

- Completed Amendment #1 to ISO/IEC TR 10176 – Guide for the development of programming language standards. This effort was successful; the amendment was approved and is now in publication.
- Completed ISO/IEC 14651 – International string ordering. L2 contributed substantially to the development of the FDIS of this standard, after having provided extensive comments to the FCD ballots. The success is that the result of the Unicode collation algorithm and from 14651 are the same, based on the common template table. L2 plans to provide input to the future amendments which are needed to deal with the repertoire extensions of ISO/IEC 10646, aka Unicode.
- Comment on ISO/IEC 14652 – Specification method for cultural conventions. L2 provided extensive comments on the CD ballot and more technical advise during the meetings.
- All WG20 efforts are directed to the support of ISO/IEC 10646 parts 1 and 2 in programming languages.