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ACTION: For information to SC22 Member Bodies. This document will be discussed at the forthcoming SC22 Plenary Meeting.

1.0   Summary

The WG has had five meetings since the last report to the plenary. The first meeting (in May 87) was held in the UK and was attended by six members: two from the US, three from the UK, and one from the Netherlands. The second meeting (in October 87) was held in the US, was a joint meeting with ANSI X3T2, and was attended by two members: one from the UK and one from the US, as well as the X3T2 members. The third 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. The fourth meeting (in October 88) was held in the Netherlands and was attended by seven members: four from the UK, two from the US, and one from the Netherlands. The fifth meeting (in April 89) was held in the US, was a joint meeting with ANSI X3T2, and was attended by three members: one from the UK, one from the US and one from the Netherlands, as well as the X3T2 members.

Despite low meeting attendance, we have accomplished a significant amount of work so far. The Binding Guidelines are ready for final distribution to SC22 as a Technical Report. The second working draft of the Language-Independent Data Types document is being reviewed by WG11 and other interested parties.

We have not done much work on the Language-Independent Procedure Calling mechanism. Our main problem has been the lack of a project editor. In August, Mr. Ken Edwards of IBM, an alternate on ANSI X3T2, volunteered to be project editor. He is currently getting the requisite approvals.

Note that the participation has been by the UK, US, and The Netherlands. France has submitted several comments to us. We had hoped that other countries would participate as well. We feel that it is necessary for wider participation in order to produce a standard that is acceptable to all. Because of the lack of participation, we would like to have the liaison responsibilities assigned to us removed.

2.0   Scope of Work

The following tasks are assigned to us:

WG11 project 97.22.14 Binding Techniques for Programming Languages.

Guidelines for Language Bindings was revised based on the comments received, and has been submitted as a final Technical Report, along with responses to the comments. We

do not expect to do any additional work on this document unless a need arises. The project editor is Ms. Madeleine R. Sparks of the US.

There is a potential problem in the OSI-RPC proposal that was circulated as a fast-track procedure. We had hoped that the WG11 calling mechanism would be suitable for remote procedure calls as well as local ones. That is, the user should be unaware of where the procedure being called exists. However, if the proposed RPC mechanism is passed, our ability to accomplish this will be limited or nonexistent.

WG11 project 97.22.16 Specification for a model for a Common Language-Independent Procedure Calling Mechanism (CLIPCM).

A generic description of the calling mechanism as well as sample bindings for COBOL, Pascal, and FORTRAN have been produced. These were circulated to the SC22 language committees, but only one reply was received. The project editor is Mr. Ken Edwards of the US.

WG11 project 97.22.17 Specification for a set of Common Language-Independent Data Types (CLIDT).

Several papers have been discussed at length and circulated to WG11 members and other interested parties. One general description of our approach has been circulated to the SC22 language committees (see CLIPCM). We now are reviewing working draft number 2 of a proposed standard. The project editor is Mr. Edward Barkmeyer of the US.

WG11 project 97.22.17.01 Common Language-independent Arithmetic Standard

As a result of discussions of the CLIDT project, WG11 voted to create a sub item (22.17.01) to address real (or floating-point) data types and the problems inherent to those types. The NWI proposal was submitted to SC22 and one negative vote from France was received. The work item was then sent on to JTC1 in March for a ballot. The results of that ballot are not complete at this time. In the interim, a working draft is being reviewed by WG11 and other interested parties. The project editor is Mr. Paul Barnetson of the UK.

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 reviewed by us. No comments have been submitted to us by any of the SC22 language committees to us as well.

Various documents are submitted to the convenor from SC14. Any that are applicable to WG11's work items are submitted to the WG11 members (to date, none have been applicable).

The liaison is not as good as it should be (as per SC22 document N243). WG11 does not have any volunteers to carry out the liaison work, and, from the lack of participation by the SC22 member bodies, it appears that it never will have. Therefore, we would like to have the liaison activity removed from our program of work.

3.0   Schedule/Milestones

The general schedules are given above.

Our next meeting will be on October 10-12 in London, England. The following one will be on April 17-19, with the location being unknown. We are hoping that a member body that is currently not participating will agree to host this meeting. If not, it will probably be held in Boulder, Colorado, USA, in conjunction with ANSI X3T2. 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.

4.0   Membership Needs

WG11 must have more active participation from more member bodies. As it now stands, we probably can accomplish our tasks except for the liaison activities, but we need more participation in order to speed up our activities and to prevent pre-emption by SC21 or other groups. Other standards by other groups may not meet the programming language community needs.