Developments in the standardization process

John Reid

What happened at the SC22 meeting in Geneva, 10-11 September 2012.

BCS Fortran Specialist Group
London, 27 September 2012.

Remote participation

Experiment at SC22 meeting in Geneva.

All remote participants in the US so did not bring in any additional countries.

The ISO system worked well. Telephone conference call and a web browser to echo the screen of the host PC to participants.

Host can be changed at any time.

I was not convinced that I want to participate in SC22 meetings remotely - the people interactions at this meeting were very helpful.

Might be useful for WG5.

Fast-track procedure

Fast-track is meant for new standards, not revisions.

 IST/5 disapproves of its use for revisions.

Sentiment from SC22 in favour of both ways.

About 250 standards have been fast tracked - very few of these revised the ISO way - difficulties over getting the same experts to participate in different committees.

It seems to me that the rules should allow both procedures - it is unsatisfactory that the official way is rarely used.

Ruby language

Ruby master version is in Japanese.

International community comment on the English translation.

Undecided on whether to keep it this way and revise the standard with a new fast track or go the ISO way, which would make the English version be the master.

Eliminating the CD stage

Proposal from ISO to eliminate CD stage.

OK for simple standards.

OK for a revision that is just incorporating corrigenda and making editorial improvements.

Not OK for language revision – CD stage is when public comments.

It looks as if it will become optional.

SC22 felt that it should be able to set its own policy on optionality and decide on a project-by-project basis, probably at the time of New Work Item approval.

Restricting corrigenda

JTC 1 proposes that corrigenda be allowed for only three years after the publication of a standard.

SC22 objects to this, given that language standards have a longer life and defects may be found after more than three years.

eCommittee (LiveLink)

ISO has mandated that all subcommittees and working groups are hosted on eCommittee (LiveLink).

This is a significant problem for working groups because open access will be lost.

SC22 is very concerned about this and passed two resolutions on it - one explaining the problem and objecting - the other asking why this is being done.

Linux standard

SC22 is concerned that the Linux standard is out of date and has asked Denmark (Keld Simonsen) to develop a plan.

Keld asked me over coffee what the UK wants and I was not able to help. Any views?

Special Working Group (SWG) on Management

JTC 1 has set up a Special Working Group (SWG) on Management with the aim of improving its efficiency.

Plenary meetings are currently too long (6 days) with too much time taken by reports from SCs. Some are short, but some take 2 hours.

There needs to be a way for SC chairs to have a voice. SC22 supports this.

UK C panel

SC22 formally asked the UK to reactivate its C panel.

John Benito would like to raise a New Work Item proposal but wants to be sure of active people in 5 countries and is sure of only 4.