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BUSINESS PLAN FOR JTC 1/SC 34

PERIOD COVERED: from October 2013 to September 2014

SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Sam Gyun OH, Chair of SC 34

1.0   MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

SC34 continues to develop and maintain widely-used core standards in the field of document description and processing languages.

1. 1   JTC1/SC34 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

A Joint Working Group of SC 34, ISO TC 46 and IEC TC 100/TA 100 has been established, with the approval of JTC 1, to carry out maintenance work on further ISO/IEC specifications based upon EPUB, developed by the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF).

Other major activities that took place at SC34 during this period were the continued maintenance of ISO/IEC 29500 and work on project 21320 Document Container File, profiling the widely-used ZIP data compression and packaging format for use in document applications.

The technical work of SC34 is carried out in six active Working Groups and one Joint Working Group. At the recent Plenary in Delft, NL, members of SC 34 agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Group to review the current organization and terms of reference of SC 34's Working Groups and submit recommendations of any changes in time for decision at the 2014 Plenary in Kyoto, JP..

1.2   JTC 1 SC34 STATEMENT OF SCOPE

Standardization in the field of document structures, languages and related facilities for the description and processing of compound and hypermedia documents, including:

- languages for describing document logical structures and their support facilities
- languages for describing document-like objects in web environments
- document processing architecture and formatting for logical documents
- languages for describing interactive documents
- multilingual font information interchange and related services
- final-form document architecture and page information interchange
- hypermedia document structuring language and application resources
- API's for document processing

1.3   PROJECT REPORT

SC 34 has a total of 93 projects. Among them, 25 are in development.

1.4   CO-OPERATION AND COMPETITION

The key players in the areas of standardisation with which SC 34 is concerned are:

- W3C (that maintains the XML family of standards),

- OASIS a Class A Liaison member of SC 34 that leads the maintenance of ISO/IEC 26300 under agreement with JTC 1, and with whom SC 34 is collaborating on maintenance of ISO/IEC 26300,

- Ecma International

- International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF)

Although ISO/IEC 19757-2 RELAX NG competes with W3C XML Schema, most Parts of DSDL are complementary with W3C Recommendations, and SC34 has collaborated with W3C on the development of ISO/IEC 19757-11. We have good liaison with W3C and continue to discuss areas of common interest and possible future collaboration.

While acknowledging and respecting differences in approach to the maintenance of standards, SC34 continues to collaborate effectively with OASIS on the maintenance of ISO/IEC 26300. SC34 looks forward to the anticipated PAS submission of ODF 1.2 during the next period.

Ecma International experts make an extremely effective contribution to the maintenance of ISO/IEC 29500. Parts 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 29500 have wider application than just in OOXML, and SC34 is seeking to establish liaison with groups in Ecma International and elsewhere that wish to make use of these technologies in other developing standards.

SC34, IDPF, ISO TC46 and IEC TC100/TA10, and the Korean National Body have worked together to agree a way forward for standardization of EPUB. A Joint Working Group of SC 34, ISO TC 46 and IEC TC 100/TA 100 has been established with the approval of JTC 1, and will be administered by SC34.   This JWG is charted to carry out maintenance work on further ISO/IEC specifications based upon EPUB, developed by the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF). IDPF is expected to become a liaison member of this JWG soon.   Korea has submitted EPUB3 as draft technical specifications using the fast-track procedure to JTC1.

2.0   PERIOD REVIEW

2.1   MARKET REQUIREMENTS

XML continues to be a core technology that is pervasive across a wide range of business applications. The need for new and improved standards to support the creation and processing of high-quality XML, especially in document-based applications, remains strong.

International standardization of IDPF EPUB would strongly encourage the wider adoption of EPUB, especially in public sector applications.

Many document formats, including ODF, OOXML and EPUB, not only have XML at their core but also use "ZIP" as a basis for compression and packaging. There is a growing realisation that the establishment of a single Standard specification for a document container format will

promote interoperability between such document format standards and enable this technology to be normatively referenced by International Standards.

2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

As agreed in the Ad-Hoc Group for EPUB, Korea has submitted IDPF EPUB as Draft Technical Specifications using the fast-track procedure. The voting result met the criteria for approval as Technical Specifications. Unless member bodies change their vote from No to Yes after the Ballot Resolution Meeting, EPUB will be approved as Technical Specifications.

SC 34 has been actively maintaining ISO/IEC 29500. WG4 has started a project for revising ISO/IEC 29500-3 in reply to far-reaching defect reports, and will publish a working draft in the very near future.

WG 6 experts have assisted the OASIS ODF Technical Committee in work to consolidate the technical alignment of ISO/IEC 26300:2006 with Amendment 1 and ODF v1.1. Over the past year some further minor defects have been discovered in ODF v1.1, OASIS has published corrections to their own specification and work has now started on correcting ISO/IEC 26300 to align with these corrections.

Published Standards: None

Ballots Conducted:

- Fast-track DTS 30135-1 to 7, KS X 6070 series: Information technology -- Digital publishing

- ISO/IEC DIS 13250-3 (Ed 2) Information technology -- Topic Maps -- Part 3: XML syntax

- CD 21320-1.1 and 1.2, Information technology -- Document Container File -- Part 1: Core

- CD 13250-3, Information technology -- Topic Maps -- Part 3: XML syntax

- Proposal for a New Work Item on Typeface classifications and their mappings

2.3 RESOURCES

We need more active participation from member bodies, and their technical experts in particular, across the full range of our projects, to ensure that project work is progressed in a timely fashion and that there is a true international consensus on the technical results. At least one national body (e.g. Brazil) down-graded their membership of SC 34 from P- to O-member during the year due to a low level of participation in their mirror committee. We are keen to work with our members to help them encourage more expert participation at the national level and thereby boost resources available to SC 34 and its Working Groups. We hope that the new JWG activity relating to EPUB will encourage more interest in the work of SC 34.

3.0   FOCUS of NEXT WORK PERIOD

3.1   DELIVERABLES

CDs for revising ISO/IEC 29500- 2 and 3 are expected to be created for addressing remaining defect reports. ISO/IEC 30114, for extensions of Office Open XML is in progress, and another CD ballot for ISO/IEC CD 30114-2 (Character Repertoire Checking) is   expected to happen early 2014.While the current focus of WG 6 activity is on resolving minor issues in the technical alignment of ISO/IEC 26300, including Amd 1, and the equivalent OASIS specification (ODF v1.1), the long-awaited submission of ODF v1.2 for PAS Transposition is expected to proceed during the next period, and this is expected to lead to a shift of focus to maintenance (in collaboration with OASIS) of the transposed specification.

3.2   STRATEGIES

SC34 seeks to encourage the start of new projects, where there is an actual or expected market need, in the area of XML infrastructure technologies, such as validation, visual representations of XML models. As well as having direct utility to users of the (now-ubiquitous) XML technology, such infrastructure standards will help enhance the technical quality of SC34's own XML applications, and those of the wider stakeholder base. We will continue to collaborate with industry partners on this work, and, as far as possible, seek to avoid duplication of work already in progress, especially in W3C, OASIS , Ecma International, and IDPF.

3.2.1   RISKS

If we fail to create an open and fair process of working together, we will lose the opportunity to revolutionize what future documents can do for humans and society. Lack of adequate participation by national bodies and their technology experts makes it difficult both to start new work and to complete projects in a timely fashion.

3.2.2   OPPORTUNITIES

SC 34 has particular expertise in technologies for the description and processing of documents. The production and consumption of data in the form of documents remain highly important activities for businesses and for society as a whole. The technologies for document preparation and interchange have for some decades been and remain in a state of rapid change, making it vital that the technologies should be maintained and developed to meet new demands. New opportunities for standardization in this area will arise in both predictable and unpredictable ways, as technologies and societal needs change. We fully expect new work for SC 34 on document-related technologies to arise in areas such as internationalization, accessibility, cloud computing, the Internet of Things and Big Data.

3.3   WORK PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

SC34 will continue to act as a good steward for the two major Office document formats for which it has responsibility: ISO/IEC 26300 and ISO/IEC 29500. Such work is critical to the millions of

users of these formats throughout the World. Now that SC 34 has Working Groups established and functioning effectively, in fulfilment of SC 34's responsibilities for maintenance of these document formats, the priorities for the coming year will include the objective of making significant technical contributions to the maintenance of these formats.

Since EPUB standardization takes place in the new Joint Working Group administered by SC34 in collaboration with ISO TC46 and IEC TC100/TA10, we anticipate a high level of interest and participation in this activity. We also wish to encourage wider interest and participation in the project to develop a document container format profiling ZIP.