

Standardizing Information and Communication Systems Excepts

Minutes of the meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee

held in Geneva on 3rd - 4th November 1998

Chair: Ms. V. Horsnell (Digital)

Secretary: Mr. J. van den Beld (SG ECMA)

Attending: Mr. Bermange (Xerox), Mr. Brockway (ECMA), Mr. Cargill (Sun), Mr. Hofmann (IBM), Mr. Höhn (IBM, Chairman TC38), Mr. Jansen (ECMA guest scientist), Mr. Laurent (HP), Mr. Lauri (ECMA), Mr. Lloyd (Fujitsu/ICL), Mr. Statt (Lucent Technologies & NCR), Mr. Theis (Bosch Telecom), Mr. Trudgett (BT)

Excused: Mr. Hartmann (Siemens)

The TC Chairmen's reports are attached to these minutes and were presented as follows:

TC12 Mr. Lauri
TC15 Mr. van den Beld
TC17 Mr. van den Beld
TC19 Mr. van den Beld
TC20 Mr. Brockway
TC26 Mr. van den Beld
TC31 Mr. van den Beld
TC32 Mr. Brockway
TC36 Mr. Lauri
TC38 Mr. Höhn
TC39 Mr. van den Beld
TC40 Mr. van den Beld

1 TC Chairmen's reports

1.11 TC39 - Scripting languages

See report: TC39/98/17.

Mr. Gary Robinson, Chairman of TC39, has left Sun. TC39 has a vacancy now for its Chairman. TC39 renders many thanks to **Mr. Robinson** for his excellent services to make a success out of the work of TC39.

The CC discussed three “risks” for possible discrepancies with ECMA-262 / ISO/IEC 16262, the international ECMAScript standards, which are the responsibility of ECMA TC39:

1. ETSI has asked for liaison, and possibly further involvement in the development of ECMAScript for their project on Intelligent Networks (IN). Of course, such liaison will be granted, and further cooperation will be sought. This is an example of the co-operative way one should try to come to and maintain one worldwide standard for ECMAScript. **Mr. van den Beld** will respond to this request and will investigate whether ETSI is interested to publish ECMA-262 as an ETSI Standard.
2. The WAP Forum (Wireless Application Protocol) has taken the existing standard and modified it considerably without even notifying ECMA. The unfortunate fact is that none of the common members of ECMA and the WAP Forum has alerted ECMA (TC39) about this development. For information about the WAP Forum see <http://www.wapforum.org>. The WAP Forum is strongly interested in pervasive computing.

The following WAP Forum companies are also members of ECMA: Alcatel, Bosch Telecom, Ericsson, Fujitsu/ICL, IBM, Intel, Matsushita/Panasonic, Mitsubishi, NEC, Nortel, Philips, Siemens, Sony.

The WAP Forum has also a possible interest in co-operating with W3C to prevent the development of diverging solutions.

Mr. van den Beld will address the WAP Forum with a copy of this letter to the GA representatives of the 13 ECMA members in the WAP Forum to try to establish a liaison and to seek ways to prevent the development of (further) diverging standards by a synergetic effort.

3. Microsoft has submitted ECMAScript Components to W3C under the name of HTML Components, also without notifying ECMA. This is another potential risk for diverging standards. A press release on this subject can be found at

http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/981103/wa_microso_3.html

Also here a liaison will be sought by **Mr. van den Beld** to try to prevent diverging standards and to seek synergy between ECMA and W3C. Next W3C GA meeting is scheduled for mid-November 1998.

TC39 has almost completed its study of the ECMAScript Components proposal made of the previous GA in Redmond by Netobjects/IBM. See GA/98/62 item 6.11, as well as GA/98/70 and GA/98/57.

The 2nd version of ECMAScript is under development. The goal is to publish this as the 3rd edition of ECMA-262 at the latest in December 1999.

An ECMAScript FAQ document becomes urgently needed (Action for TC39)

TC39 Chairman's Report to the Co-ordinating Committee
30th October 1998

There have been seven TC39 meetings, one since the last GA:

First;	Mountain View, CA, USA on 21 st - 22 nd November 1996
Second;	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 14 th - 15 th January 1997
Third:	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 18 th - 19 th March 1997
Forth:	Mountain View, CA, USA, on 15 th - 16 th July 1997
Fifth:	Nice, France, 16 th Sept, 1997
Sixth:	Mountain View CA Feb. 1998
Seventh:	Menlo Park, CA 15 th - 16 th June 1998

The schedule has been:

1 st draft:	January 1997
Stable draft:	early March 1997
Final draft:	April 1997
GA vote;	June 1997
Acceptance of name of standard by CC	Sept 1997
Fast-Track submission to ISO/IEC JTC 1:	Oct 1997
FT DIS Ballot complete	April 1998
Ballot Resolution	June 1998
Publication as ISO Standard:	Summer 1998

The Scope and Programme of Work of TC39 was accepted by June 1997 GA:

Scope

To standardise the syntax and semantics of a general purpose, cross platform, vendor-neutral scripting language.

Programme of Work

Develop a scripting language standard, based on initial submissions by Netscape, Microsoft and Borland
Contribute the ECMAScript Standard to ISO/IEC JTC1

Upon completion of 1, to investigate the further direction of the ECMAScript Standard, and to evaluate and consider proposals for complementary or additional technology

To maintain liaison with appropriate other ECMA TCs and TGs

Officers

Chairman: Gary S. Robinson (Sun) - retired
Vice-Chairman: Clayton Lewis (Netscape)
Vice-Chairman: Andrew Clinick (Microsoft)
Project editor: Mike Cowlshaw (IBM)

Latest Status:

Gary Robinson has retired his position at Sun Microsystems leaving TC-39 temporarily without a Chairman. For the interim, Vice-Chairmen Clayton Lewis and Andrew Clinick are sharing the responsibilities.

ECMA-262 was Fast Tracked in ISO/IEC JTC1 with an end of ballot date of 9 April 1998. A SC22 ballot resolution meeting was held 15 June 1998 in the US. With a number of changes requested during the ballot, the vote passed resulting in approval of ECMA-262 as ISO/IEC 16262. All changes approved during the ISO process were editorial in nature and did not result in the need for re-ballot. The final document was accepted as Edition 2 of ECMA-262 during the June ECMA GA in Washington State.

TC-39 approved the startup of a second study group to standardize ECMAScript Components. The study group has met 3 times and is nearing completion of its proposed scope and programme of work.

The ECMAScript Working Group met September 15th/16th with representatives from the Unicode Consortium, W3C and ISO 10646. It formed two subcommittees to examine I18N support and language features requested by W3C. The subcommittees are expected to report progress at the January working group session. The working group has been meeting approximately monthly and meets next on November 19. Under the able leadership of Dr. Cowlshaw, it is making steady progress in achieving agreement on the content of documents submitted for Version 2 of the standard.

Clayton Lewis/Andrew Clinick
Vice-Chairmen TC39