To participants in TG3:

Yesterday, Hewlett-Packard (HP), Intel Corporation, and Microsoft submitted to ECMA a first draft for consideration for the Common Language Infrastructure. It is available on the ECMA Web site in the form of five (5) PDF files (also available in MSWord form) and one XML file. The XML file describes the factored class library and is really best viewed through an XSL transform.

Later this year we expect that ECMA will be able to host a Web site that performs this transform automatically, but until then HP, Intel Corporation, and Microsoft will provide sites that both mirror the submitted documents and run the library browsing service. The Microsoft site will be operational by midnight (Pacific Standard Time) on November 1, 2000. The other sites should be operational before we meet in Mountain View on November 7.

The Microsoft site is at http://msdn.microsoft.com/net/ECMA and I will send the other URLs as soon as they are operational. Please do NOT circulate the above URL widely -- it's not running in a fully operational mode. It is intended just for the task group's own use right now.

To help focus your attention, please scan the entire CLI submission to understand its structure (mostly just the table of contents), and read through Chapter 7 (Type System) of Part 1 prior to the meeting (about 50 pages). It is likely that we will spend the first meeting discussing the overall structure of the proposed standard and if time permits begin working on Part 1; it is unlikely that we will have time to do any detailed discussion of the other parts.

Today's submission contains an initial draft of all of this information, with Part 1 in a "ready for detailed review" form and the others "ready for overview". With an eye towards completing our work in 18 months, I'd like to propose an initial schedule of work as follows:

December: Review overall architecture of the CLI (Part 1)
January: Review Common Type System and Common Language Specification (Part 2)
February: Review Common Intermediate Language (Part 3)
March: Review Base Class Libraries, part 1 (Part 4, first 1/3)
April: Review Base Class Libraries, part 2 (Part 4, second 1/3)
May: Review Base Class Libraries, part 3 (Part 4, final 1/3)
June: Review ancillary and informative information (Part 5)
July: Finish reviews, decide subsequent schedule

Post-July, I hope work will be executed in parallel rather than through sequential review by all committee members. This may happen earlier, depending on how the work progresses.

If we adopt this schedule, I'll commit to submitting a "ready for detailed review" document for each meeting a minimum of two weeks prior to the actual meeting date. These documents would be simply the appropriate part of the current submission with editorial changes based on a careful reading of the parts to be considered, plus any input from previous meetings that might affect the document under consideration. In addition, I'll post an updated draft of the document reviewed in the previous meeting. Part of each meeting can thus be used to review previous work, while the bulk goes into reviewing a new document.

Jim Miller
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ECMA TC39 TG3