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WG11 held its fourteenth meeting in Curitiba, Brazil, at the end of May 1999, with five participants from three NBs. This report summarizes the outcome of that meeting.

Study Period on Mapping Modelling Language

This study period concluded during the year with the production of the report. This report will provide valuable input to the task of better organizing the Metadata and Modelling Language aspects of SC7.

CDIF Editing Meetings

Disposition reports were completed for five FCD ballots (Overview 15474-1, Framework 15474-2, General Rules 15475-1, Syntax.1 15475-2, Encoding.1 15475-3)

These editing meetings can be considered closed, and the reports will be distributed to the NB that have produced comments for verification (June-September 99). The documents will then be edited and sent for the FDIS ballot.

As for the 5 other FCD ballots (Foundation 15476-1, Common 15476-2, Data Definition 15476-3, Data Models 15476-4, Data Flow Models 15476-5), detailed disposition was completed for the comments that involve restructuring and reformatting the documents.

It is expected that the resigning document editors will transmit to the project editor their disposition notes and minutes taken at previous editing meetings, so that the remaining work can be properly assessed.

These editing meetings will hopefully be concluded by e-mail in the latter part of this year, with the corresponding 5 documents sent for FDIS ballot early next year. This will conclude project 07.28.

WG11 Organization

There was consensus amongst WG11 members that the Group should be disbanded next year, after successful completion of the CDIF programme of work, this whether or not the participation at that time is above or below the 5 NBs level. Members interested in existing or new projects will participate in whatever organizational structure is deemed proper by SC7.

The interim convenor (Jean Bérubé, Canada) will assume permanent convenorship for one year, to maintain a stable organizational structure for the conclusion of on-going work.

Prof. Jonathan Billington (Australia) continues as Petri Net editor.

Japan has offered to share some of the load of the remaining editing work, and Jean Bérubé has transferred to a Japanese editor the three transfer format documents.

Jean Bérubé will assume editorship of the two documents left orphan by the resignation of previous editors. These are part of the CDIF core, and have passed FCD ballot. The rate of progression will be somewhat slower than expected, but the work completed.

The Japanese NB, and a CDIF expert from Austria have offered to act as technical reviewers of the editor's work on these documents.

SC7 Organization

Clarifying the mandate of SC7 in the area of Metadata Definition, Modelling Languages and Formalisms, Transfer Formats and Repository Interface is a task that requires some thinking and discussion. It would be premature to reorganize anything in this area this year, and it could unnecessarily hamper the progression of existing work. Such a change should be done after complete written proposals have been submitted and reviewed. This may require a task force of some kind, and the members and convenor of WG11 are willing to participate in such an effort. WG11 has documents to contribute that are relevant to this question. WG11 itself was constituted after a study period produced a set of constituting documents.

Conclusion

In the area of database standards, there were, in the early 80s, three ways of organizing and accessing data (SQL and the relational model, NDL and the network model, IMS and the hierarchical model. The combination of market selection and standardization effort has made SQL the basis for data management.

We currently have three fairly complete ways of organizing metadata. Fairly complete means having a formal definition mechanism, a formal definition, a human readable notation (diagrammatic and/or language), and interfaces for interchange and storage. SC32 has the relational version, OMG has the UML version, and SC7 has the CDIF version.

We are probably close to a turning point, where both the market and the standardization groups have reached enough maturity to design and implement products and standards that will facilitate the life of metadata producers and users.

Completion of the CDIF project gives SC7 a foothold in this arena, and enables SC7 National Bodies to decide to what level they want to be involved in this area in the future.

Acknowledgements

WG11 wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Pidcock (USA), Mr. Williamson (USA) and Mr. Davis (UK) to the progression of the CDIF projects, and the operation of WG11.