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WG3 Convenor's Report to the SC 32 April 2005 Plenary, Berlin, Germany

The activities of WG3 and Editing Meetings on WG3 progression documents since the last SC 32 Plenary are described below.

Project 1.32.03.05

SQL Parts at IS

The ISO/IEC 9075-1 SQL/Framework, ISO/IEC 9075-2 SQL/Foundation, ISO/IEC 9075-3 SQL/CLI, ISO/IEC 9075-4 SQL/Persistent Stored Modules, ISO/IEC 9075-9 SQL/MED, ISO/IEC 9075-10 SQL/OLB, ISO/IEC 9075-11 SQL/Schemata, ISO/IEC 9075-13 SQL/JRT, ISO/IEC 9075-14 SQL/XML are all standards with a 2003 date (2003-12-15).

The Technical Corrigendum for ISO/IEC 9075:2003 (DCOR) was balloted and the ballot resolution meeting held at the same time as the interim working group meeting held in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands in November 2004. This ballot resolution meeting was successful and the final COR text (for all parts) submitted for publication on 12th December 2004.

Since then it has languished in Geneva. The ISO editors' only unprovoked response was to demand a) the Word version of the files (which have never existed) and b) the PDF files in version 1.3 format instead of version 1.5 format. Since the files left the defect editor in 1.3 format the only place they could have become 1.5 was in Geneva! These facts having being communicated to them, there followed a 4 month period of no information despite regular queries from the secretariat. Finally they are now demanding changes in formatting which were not required in previous TCs and a change in the dates due to their own delays. More seriously, they are also still claiming that 9075-5 is a valid standard despite it having been implicitly cancelled at the last Santa Fe meeting and explicitly cancelled by resolution at the Xi'an meeting. Our resolutions therefore contain another resolution cancelling this part, but we have no high hopes of success.

Project 1.32.03.06

SQL Parts at CD

We progressed all of the parts other than SQL/XML (see later) to CD out of the interim meeting in St Croix, US Virgin Islands, held November 2004. The editing meeting was held here in Berlin and, whilst some progress was made, we believe the editing meeting should be continued to the interim meeting to be held in Wellington, New Zealand in November 2005. Due to the number of comments, 427 at the last count, and the requests of several National Bodies for additional functionality, not all of which is currently well specified, we believe that it is possible, if not probable, that the continuation editing meeting will conclude that a second CD ballot is desirable and we have drafted our resolutions to cater for this possibility. Our meeting schedule also allows for both possible outcomes. A second major advantage of a second CD round is that it would allow the new SQL/XML edition (see below) to progress at the same time and this will allow better textual integration of all parts. The current FCD ballot has already identified a small number of places where this would be desirable.

SQL Parts at FCD

We progressed part 14, SQL/XML, to FCD out of the interim meeting with the aim of keeping the SQL/XML functionality bang up-to-date with other developments in the XML arena. The editing meeting was held here in Berlin and we satisfactorily resolved all comments. We hope to progress to FDIS at the end of August but due to a dependency on the XQuery specification itself this might be slightly delayed. To cater for the unlikely situation that the final version of XQuery requires technical changes we have arranged with our Canadian delegate the ability for the editor to call a continuation editing meeting using the Standards Council of Canada's forum facilities.

Project 1.32.03.07

SQL Parts at WD

With the conclusion of the current round for part 14, SQL/XML, we are requesting a sub-project split to continue developing this part. The need for further work to integrate XML Full-Text and XQuery Update has already been identified.

New Projects

Discussions on the future work program of WG3 raised the idea of producing a series of Technical Reports on various aspects related to the SQL standards and their use in specific situations. In order to be able to act on this suggestion, we are requesting a NWI ballot for a series of Technical Reports and requesting National Body input on additional topics which might be the subject of one or more such reports.

Summary

Excellent progress continues to be made on all fronts. Attendance at meetings is good — at least 9 National Bodies are regularly contributors. The implementers, including some open-source ones, continue to be interested in the standard and its development.