SC22 Chair Nomination

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1 Introduction

My name is Rex Jaeschke, and I hereby announce my candidacy for chair of SC22. I am an independent consultant based in Northern Virginia, trading under my own name. As such, I represent a U.S.-domiciled organization. I am currently chair of NCITS/J22 (Java^{TM}), the TAG to SC22/Java Study Group (JSG); I am also a member of NCITS/J11 (C), the TAG to SC22/WG14.

2 My Ideas for SC22

Why do I want to be chair of SC22? As well as continuing along the course the out-going chair Bob Follett has charted, I have a number of ideas I'd like to explore:

1. A major factor in the success of SC22 lies in the wealth of experts participating in its Working (and other) Groups (WGs), and in the very important role those groups' conveners play.

   I have worked closely with several conveners for some years, and I fully appreciate the job they must do to make progress in a timely fashion. I believe that conveners should be encouraged to provide more input in helping determine SC22's policies and direction. The conveners' ad-hoc held at the recent plenary in Berlin was a good start, but more is needed and, in future, such get-togethers need to be more informal and be run by the conveners themselves, possibly outside the agenda of the plenary itself. I also think that the conveners should have their own email reflector, so they can communicate issues of common interest at any time.

2. SC22 has a number of what are often referred to as "cross-language" WGs; WG11 (Binding Techniques), WG15 (POSIX), and WG20 (Internationalization), come to mind. From my observations within WG meetings and on their email reflectors, language WGs are so focused on getting their specific language standardized that they view cross-language issues to be unwelcome distractions at best, and necessary evils at worst.

   Right now, cross-language WGs have no real direct way to influence the language WGs whose very support they need to do their job. This is not to suggest that cross-language WGs should have some elevated status to force their will upon language WGs; however, it must be acknowledged that without SC22 intervention, it is left to the WGs to work out a relationship among themselves. I believe that there needs to be a frank discussion regarding the success or failure of cross-language WGs and the level of respect they command within language WGs.

3. We have two language WGs that while not quite fitting the traditional model of cross-language WGs, none-the-less are affected by some of the same issues. These WGs are WG14 (C) and WG21 (C++); I am intimately familiar with the former and somewhat familiar with the latter. Although C and C++ are derived from a common ancestor, they have diverged, especially as WG14 moved toward a revised version of its standard. While I have no complaint about that, I am concerned about how the two

committees will effectively handle Defect Reports (DRs) for the common language subset, and with other issues currently being considered, that might be appropriate for both.

4. I will be participating in ECMA TC41, the committee chartered to produce standards for Java-related technology. It is the intent of ECMA that any standard coming out of TC41 be placed on a fast-track to JTC 1 for its consideration as an ISO/IEC standard. The logical place for handling such a submission is SC22. Since I am active on both sides of this situation, I am already promoting SC22 participation within TC41 in order to reduce, if not eliminate, the need for changes or enhancements when such specifications are brought forward. I believe that active and on-going coordination between TC41 and SC22 is most important.

5. There are some 40+ P and O members in SC22 with 10 P and one O member being represented at the recent plenary in Berlin. Considering the budgetary constraints of many organizations, this is not a bad turnout; however, considering the membership as a whole, it would be better to have more participation especially from the emerging nations who, no doubt, are already being affected by the technology we are standardizing.

   We have a large amount of expertise within SC22 and it is within the best interests of all national bodies to produce comprehensive international standards. Experienced members can help do that by acting as mentors to new or potential members, as much as their own corporate or national body interests will allow.

3   My Credentials

I am, or have been, involved in the following activities that relate to this nomination:

1. NCITS/J11 (C) – I have been a member of what is now called NCITS/J11 since Dec '84, some 18 months after it was founded. I served a term as International Representation (IR), and then two terms as chair, stepping down in Jun '99. I have missed only two meetings during that time and I will retire from this committee at year's end, after some 15 years service.

   In 1997, I received an NCITS Committee Management Award: "In his effectiveness and diligence as the current J11 chair and former J11 International Representative, he has been instrumental in the development of the C Programming Language standard and its latest revision."

2. SC22/WG14 (C) – I have attended most of the meetings of this working group since its inception, serving as U.S. Head-of-delegation (HoD) during my tenure as NCITS/J11 IR. Once this committee began co-located meetings with NCITS/J11, I served as meeting chair on a rotating basis with other National Body (NB) delegates. As the committees got serious about working on a new revision, informally known as C9x, I proposed that we develop a charter document, so we could tell the outside world our game plan and time-to-delivery. Most importantly this would serve to keep committee members focussed. I then drafted the charter and, with relatively minor enhancements, it was adopted.

   Soon after, it became apparent to me that it was impractical to continue having a rotating meeting chair; quite often non-U.S. delegations consisted of an HoD only, and serious planning was needed with respect to organizing meeting agendas in advance if we were to keep to our announced schedule. As a result, I consulted with the then convener and other NB HoDs and offered to serve as permanent meeting chair. My offer was accepted and I proceeded to guide meetings in an impartial manner with respect to NB interests, ably assisted by the convener.

3. NCEG – As the first (ANSI) C standard was coming to completion, it was apparent that quite a few good proposals were not going to make it, yet a number of vendors were talking about adding them as common extensions. In order to harmonize these efforts I started leading ad-hoc meetings on such extensions, after hours during official meeting weeks for NCITS/J11. Meetings were well attended and debate was lively.

   In May '89 I founded the Numeric C Extensions Group (NCEG) to address a popular subset of these issues. The initial meeting was very well attended and the principle designer of C, Dr. Dennis Ritchie,

was present. I was elected chair. NCEG continued to meet for two days either immediately prior to or following C standards committee meetings. After some years members agreed to give it official status and it became X3J11.1. Eventually, it was subsumed into X3J11 (now NCITS/J11) where its work was published as a Technical Report (TR). This TR went on to serve as the bulk of the U.S. contribution to the new revision of the standard.

4. Other Working Groups – as a member (and later an officer of NCITS/J11) I had occasion to work with and provide assistance to a number of other domestic and international groups. I reviewed C bindings for various graphics (GKS) , tools (PCTE), and environment (POSIX) specifications. I helped coordinate reviews and liaison with WG11's work on LIA. I made contributions to and proofed specifications for WG20's work in internationalization.

5. SC22/JSG – When news reached me about a possible Java-related group within SC22, I signed on immediately. I then attended the first two meetings of this Java Study Group, acting as meeting secretary. I continue to be active in that arena.

6. NCITS/J22 (Java) – Once SC22/JSG was formed and NCITS decided to create a U.S. TAG to that group, I nominated for its chair, since Java was of increasing importance to my seminar business. I have served in that capacity now for more than two years and plan to continue my role in that committee for the foreseeable future.

7. ECMA TC41 (Java) – This committee was formed in Jun '99 to produce one or more standards relating to Java. It will meet for the first time in late Oct 99. I will be a voting member of that committee, I have already submitted contributions, I have volunteered to assist in an editorial capacity, and I plan to be as much of a conduit to my colleagues in NCITS/J22 and SC22/JSG as ECMA rules allow.

8. Programming – In my 23+ years in the software industry I've worked with numerous languages (including C, C++, Java, COBOL, Fortran, Basic, and various assemblers) and operating systems, on mainframes, minicomputers, and PCs; in batch, interactive, and real-time/process control modes; and in business, engineering, scientific, and graphics environments. I've also worked for an international DBMS vendor, and state and federal government agencies in various technical capacities.

9. Writing and Publishing – For more than 15 years I have been involved in editing and writing about issues related to program languages and their standardization:

   (a) In 1984 I co-founded *The C Journal*, a quarterly publication covering issues of interest to the C community. As editor, I joined X3J11 so I could provide coverage on the on-going standardization of C. I also encouraged committee members to submit articles, which they did.

   (b) In Mar '89, I started *The Journal of C Language Translation*, a quarterly publication aimed primarily at compiler implementers. I served as both publisher and editor. The major contributors were active in the U.S. and international standards arena, and considerable coverage was made of the C standard and the work being done by NCEG.

   (c) I reported on issues relating to C standardization in regular articles for *Programmer's Journal*, annual reports in *Dr. Dobbs Journal*, and in my monthly column in *DEC Professional*.

   (d) I wrote about internationalization in *C/C++ Users Journal*, *NT Developer*, *VC++ Professional*, and *Java Report*.

   (e) My book *The Dictionary of Standard C* was published to make available an extensive glossary of terms for the lay audience, and my *Standard C Quick Reference Guide* proved popular.

10. Seminars and Presentations – As a developer and leader of programming language seminars, one of my primary goals is to teach to the current language standard or de-facto standard specification. I have done this now for some ten years, first covering C, then adding C++, and, more recently, Java. Apart from my public and private commercial seminar series, I have actively promoted language and cross-language standards in presentations at Digital Equipment's User Society (DECUS) symposia, *C/C++ Users Journal* conferences, and various local user group meetings. In 1992, I was invited to

give a series of lectures in St. Petersburg, Russia, on anything and everything relevant to C and C++, and their standardization efforts. I spent two weeks there and as a result of this trip my C Dictionary was translated into Russian. Separately, a Japanese translation was also produced.

11. International Relations – My participation in an international capacity within the standards and business arena is complemented by my personal interests as well: I'm improving my knowledge of and proficiency in a number of foreign languages and customs; for 12 years I have been hosting teachers and librarians from Europe; I am a host, traveller, and interviewer for Servas, an international peace-based organization specializing in home stays; and I host Japanese business people who attend intensive English and American culture training classes in the U.S.

4 Financial Support

Some months ago I entered into a business arrangement with Microsoft in which I agreed to represent that company on the newly formed ECMA committee, TC41, that is to produce Java-related standards. I am proud of my association with Microsoft and I look forward to its being a long and fruitful one.

Regarding Microsoft's funding of the SC22 chair position, I do *not* consider that a work for hire; Microsoft is simply funding an autonomous position, and for that I thank them. There is no doubt in my mind that I and the people within Microsoft's standards organization expect me to be an impartial SC22 chair.

People who know me well know of my high degree of ethics and support for a level playing field for all participants. They also know I would not jeopardize my hard-fought and good reputation by adopting a secret and/or biased agenda in my quest to gain the chair of SC22.

5 Conclusion

I have a genuine interest in bringing together people of different backgrounds, since I believe that one cannot grow by associating with like-minded people only. I am sensitive to cultural differences and most often when I travel abroad I intentionally place myself in a position where I have to deal with the local language and culture directly.

I am a people person, I am full of ideas, I have demonstrated I can broker compromises, and I'm a big fan of win-win situations. I am always open to constructive criticism.

For the last 23+ years I have worked in management and "on the front lines" with programming languages, tools, and environments. They have been and are the cornerstones of my professional computing life.

Filling Bob Follett's shoes will be no small task, for *any* successor. However, I believe I am up to that task, and with the help of the Secretariat, the conveners, and the national body representatives, I believe that I can lead SC22 along a path in keeping with members' expectations. And I very much look forward to having the opportunity to do so.