Title: US Comments on the Development of the ISO/IEC 15897 Cultural Registry. Part 2:
Critique of the register at http://std.dkuug.sk/cultreg/
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There are many problems with the database at http://std.dkuug.sk/cultreg/, which bodes poorly for the future ISO/IEC 15897 cultural registry.

This database consists of a mixture of documents:
- Narrative submissions from national standards bodies of European countries (7);
- Locale specifications (3), all dated 1997, which may or may not duplicate information in the narrative submissions;
- Character mapping tables for ISO and national sets;
- Character mapping tables for proprietary sets (Microsoft code pages, EBCDIC character sets, HP's Roman 8, a couple of Mac sets, even NeXTStep!).

All of the entries, except for the last three, are dated 1997.

Although the database is entitled "ISO/IEC 15897 and CEN ENV 12005 Cultural registry", many of the entries predate 1999, the date of publication of ISO/IEC 15897. Since CEN ENV 12005 was published in 1995, entries may have conformed to it at the time of their entry. (They do not conform to the recent procedures disseminated by TC 304.) The database appears to be an early collection that has been renamed, leading the user to believe that all entries conform to the provisions of ISO/IEC 15897 and CEN ENV 12005 when this is not the case.

Although a mapping table could be part of a cultural registry, the ones which predate the establishment of the cultural registry do not belong there because there is no indication how they relate to any particular culture.

There is no indication whether the permission of the various sources was sought for the inclusion of their information in the cultural registry.

Links for items 166-168 do not retrieve the associated document. A registration authority has the fiduciary duty not only to store information, but to make it available promptly. (The International Register of Coded Character Sets, maintained by the IPSJ/ITSCJ, is a sterling example of how a registry should be operated.) It is true that items 166-168 are character mapping tables, not cultural registrations, but the issue is one of maintenance, not type of document.

The database contains entries that are patently obsolete, *and were out of date at the time of their posting*. Entries for the Microsoft code pages (except CP 1257) give "UNICODE 1.0" as the source, as does the "Macintosh Mac" entry. Version 1.0 of the Unicode Standard predates the 1992 alignment with ISO/IEC 10646, which resulted in changes to both character sets. The registration date for all of these tables is 1997. Version 2.0 of the

Unicode Standard was published in 1996. Why weren't these tables reviewed against Version 2.0 before being posted?

The provision of information from a superseded version of a source document is totally unacceptable. How can developers and procurement officers have any faith in the content of the ISO/IEC 15897 cultural registry when the data registry is obsolete and fails to accurately represent the information it is supposed to contain?

Deleted: registrar is culpable of such slip-shod work