

Title: Report of discussion with Japanese TC 211.

Date: 1998-07-27

Source: Japanese national body (TKS)

Distribution: ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 WG2

Action: Information.

Remark: This is a response for Japanese action item from ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 WG2 Seattle meeting.

In ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 WG2 meeting in Seattle WA. USA (Mar. 1998), concerns on the position of Japanese delegation for TC-211 for ISO/IEC 10646 was expressed by Canadian national body. This is a report of the discussion between Japanese JTC1 SC2 (JSC2) and the Japanese TC-211 (TS-211J).

(JSC2 believes that this is assigned as an action item from the Seattle meeting for Japanese delegation).

1. Document name and text under discussion.

The document name, clause number and text under concern is as follow.

ISO WD 15046: Geographic information/Geometric -part 18: Encoding

Clause 7. Character coding.

The pyramid of coding standards adapted by this standard shall be

ISO/IEC 8859-1 (one octet/character)

ISO/IEC 10646-1, UCS-2 format (BMP, two octets/character)

ISO/IEC 10646-2, UCS-4 format (four octet/character)

Today only three standards are widely implemented in different computer systems in the world. I.e. ISO 646, ISO 8859-1 and ISO 10646 UCS-2 and UCS-4 (UCS - Universal Character Set). ISO 646 uses seven bits (also known as plain ASCII), ISO 8859-1 is uses eight bits (also known as Latin-1) and ISO 10646 uses 16 bits for UCS-2 (compatible with UNICODE) and 32 bits for UCS-4. UCS-2 covers every living language in the world, while UCS-4 also covers historical languages. ISO 646 is covered completely in ISO 8859-1 and ISO 8859-1 is covered completely in ISO 10646 UCS-2.

NOTE 1: Even though we have decided this pyramid of character coding we have not decided the coding rules for how to represent text strings in a data structure. This shall be specified for each of the encoding rules allowed in this family of standards.

NOTE 2: Within regions that use a similar character set ISO/IEC 8859 part 2 to 8 can be used instead of ISO/IEC 8859-1 even if those character sets are included in ISO 10646. However,, this should be specified as a profile of ISO I5046 according to the guide lines given in ISO 15046 part 6 Profiles.

2. TC 211-J position (on above)

Change the first line

from: The pyramid of coding standards adopted by this standard shall be

to: The pyramid of coding standards adapted by this standard should be with several rationales.

Most of the rationale said that ISO/IEC 10646 is not majority of real life practices yet in principle Thus, it is necessary to allow the room for other practical coding systems for now.

3. Comment of JSC2

JSC2 believes that there is no misunderstanding and/or promotional problem of character coding systems for TC 211J. and also JSC2 believes that the conclusion of TC-211J is reasonable and be in line with the position of JSC2.

4. Comment for Canadian national body

JSC2 recognizes that there is very significant misunderstanding of Canadian TC 211 delegation on the JTC1 SC2 standards. There is no such a thing like pyramid of coding standards (if there is, it should be pyramids. One each of pyramid for each different country/region). And the term UCS-2, UCS-4 are used differently from their definition. JSC2 recommends to Canadian JTC1 SC2 to resolve the confusion by very narrow and limited view on coding systems in the world of Canadian TC-211 delegation

5. Recommended text

JSC2 recommend to the WG2 to propose a replacement of the clause 7 of the ISO WD 15046-18 by following (two alternatives).

ALT-1

All published part of ISO/IEC 10646 should be adopted by this standard.

Coding rules for how to represent text strings in a data structure shall be specified for each of the encoding rules allowed in this family of standards.

ALT-2

This international standard does not specify any specific coded character set(s) to be used with in this family of standards.

However, this international standard strongly recommend to use ISO/IEC 10646 part-1 in a long range.

Coding rules for how to represent text strings in a data structure shall be specified for each of the encoding rules allowed in this family of standards.

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