Title: UTC Liaison Report from SC2 #26

Date: 2021-07-01
Source: Peter Constable, Unicode Liaison to JTC 1/SC 2
Action: For review by UTC, Unicode officers

SC2 meeting #26 was held as a "virtual" meeting on June 18 and June30, 2021. This document reports on select topics arising from these meetings that will be of interest for the Unicode Consortium.

For full details of SC2 #26 resolutions, see L2/21-121 (= SC2/4766).

ISO/IEC 10646 Amendment 1 and synchronization with Unicode

The 6th edition of 10646 was published last year (ISO/IEC 10646:2020) and is synchronized with Unicode 13.0. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, work within SC2 was hindered during 2020, and Unicode 14.0 has progressed without any corresponding project in SC2 to progress 10646.

At SC2 #26, SC2 initiated work on Amendment 1 to the 6th Edition of 10646 with the following target dates:

- Circulation of CDAM ballot (previously this would have been referred to as "PDAM"): 2021-08-01
- Circulation of DAM ballot: 2022-07-01
- Circulation of FDAM ballot: 2023-02-01
- Publication: 2023-05-01

It's anticipated that Amendment 1 would synchronize with Unicode 15.0.

The target date for the DAM ballot should be noted: the period for the DAM ballot will likely begin during the Unicode 15.0 beta, and end after the beta is closed and the UTC has met and taken final technical decisions for Unicode 15.0. The potential exists for technical comments in the DAM ballot that could impinge on content for Unicode 15.0, which could be problematic. If any difficult technical issues can be resolved during CDAM balloting, however, then the timing for the DAM ballot should not be a concern. The timing may allow for a second CDAM ballot, if needed. UTC should anticipate CDAM ballot comments that might have bearing on character repertoire or other technical details for Unicode 15.0.

Related to this, SC2 was concerned with on-going synchronization of Unicode and 10646. In that regard, the resolution to initiate work on Amendment 1 also included the following:

> *SC 2 further instructs WG 2 convenor to coordinate the schedule that allows discussions among WG experts for successive development of ISO/IEC 10646 with the progression of the Unicode standard to keep both standards synchronized.*

Related to the general topic of SC2 concerns regarding synchronization, see also related discussion in the SC2 Liaison Report from WG2 #66, SC2 #22 (=L2/17-351).

ISO/IEC 14651 Amendment 1

SC2 has also initiated work on Amendment 1 to the 6th Edition of 14651, with the character repertoire supported default collation table being that of 10646 Amendment 1—hence synchronized with Unicode 15.0. The following are the target dates:

- CDAM ballot: 2022-07-01
- DAM ballot: 2023-02-01
- Publication: 2023-09-01

Note that it is anticipated that an FDAM ballot can be skipped.

Withdrawal of ISO/IEC TR 15285

Earlier this year, there was a systematic review for ISO/IEC TR 15285:1998, *Information technology — An operational model for characters and glyphs*. Based on responses to the systematic review, SC2 will conduct a ballot for withdrawal of 15285.

Withdrawal of ISO/IEC 7350

ISO/IEC 7350:1991, *Information technology — Registration of repertoires of graphic characters from ISO/IEC 10367*, established a procedure for registration of graphic character repertoires. Registered repertoires would draw on characters from ISO/IEC 10367:1991, which combines the repertoires from ISO/IEC 6937 and the ISO/IEC 8859 series. The IT Standards Commission of Japan (IPSJ/ITSCJ) has been the Registration Authority for 7350.

ISO/IEC 7350 was first published in 1984, but the RA has reported that no repertoires have ever been registered. Due to that and to changing requirements ISO is placing on RAs, Japan proposed that 7350 be withdrawn, SC2 adopted a resolution to that effect.

The withdrawal of 7350 raises a question as to whether ISO/IEC 10367 might no longer be relevant. Based on initial investigation, it appears that 10367 was intended to be used in conjunction with mechanisms provided in ISO/IEC 4873 or ISO/IEC 2022, but that the implementation model assumes the registration of character repertoires as allowed for in 7350. Further investigation may be needed to assess whether a proposal to withdraw 10367 might be considered within INCITS/L2.

Possible withdrawal of ISO/IEC 2375

ISO/IEC 2375:2003, *Information technology — Procedure for registration of escape sequences and coded character sets*, established a registration process for escape sequences used in conjunction with ISO/IEC 2022. IPSJ/ITSCJ has served as the Registration Authority.

The RA has reported that there have been no new registrations since 2004. Based on that and on changing requirements on RAs, Japan proposed that 2375 should be withdrawn.

It was pointed out, however, that there have been registrations using the 2375 process and that some existing implementations or data may depend on stability of the registered escape sequences and coded

character sets; and, hence, that potential need for stability of the *registry content* should be considered.[1]

Accordingly, SC2 has requested that Japan evaluate these matters and prepare a proposal for SC2 action to be taken at the next SC2 meeting.

[1] A somewhat similar situation was pointed out in relation to ISO/IEC 10036:1993, which was developed within SC34 and established a procedure for registration of glyphs and glyph collection identifiers. The glyph registration process had been moribund for many years, yet there were registrations that may be essential for some existing implementations or data. SC34 handled this by replacing ISO/IEC 10036:1993 with ISO/IEC TR 10036:2020, a technical report documenting the content of the registry "to ensure the availability for archival purposes of glyph identifiers that have already been registered."