Title: SC2 Liaison Report from SC2 #27

Date: 2021-07-13
Source: Peter Constable, Unicode Liaison to JTC 1/SC 2
Action: For review by UTC, Unicode officers

SC2 meeting #27 was held as a "virtual" meeting on June 20 and June24, 2022. WG meeting #69 was also held during the same week. This document reports on select topics arising from these meetings that will be of interest for the Unicode Consortium.

For full details of SC2 #27 resolutions, see L2/22-144 (= SC2/4811).

ISO/IEC 10646 Amendment 1 and synchronization with Unicode

The 6th edition of 10646 was published in 2020 and is synchronized with Unicode 13.0. Due to COVID-19 SC2 did not advance any project that synchronized to Unicode 14.0. Amendment 1 has been in development to synchronize with Unicode 15.0.

A CDAM ballot was completed prior to SC2 #27 / WG2 #69. During these meetings, CDAM comments were resolved. A DAM ballot has since been circulated.

The DAM repertoire is exactly aligned with the Unicode 15.0 beta. Note that the DAM ballot will close after the end of the Unicode 15.0 beta review period and the UTC #172 meeting, but that national bodies can request technical changes during the DAM ballot. Hence, there is a potential risk that a technical change for Unicode 15.0 could be needed very late-in the development cycle. The CDAM ballot comments were, for the most part, not controversial, so the risk of technical changes in DAM ballot comments may be minimal.

> **Detail on CDAM comments not accepted:**
> The only somewhat controversial CDAM ballot comments were two comments from Japan pertaining to CJK Extension H, both of which were not accepted. These comments requested that U+31F68 and U+31F4C be removed on the grounds that they might be unifiable with existing characters. After discussion of the proposed disposition for these comments, Japan changed its ballot vote to approval.

Work on Amendment 1 is progressing per the originally proposed schedule, with the following remaining milestones:

- Circulation of DAM ballot: 2022-07-01

- Circulation of FDAM ballot: 2023-02-01

- Publication: 2023-05-01

In past SC2 meetings from recent years, some NBs have raised concerns regarding coordination between Unicode and SC2. No such concerns were raised during this SC2 meeting, however.

ISO/IEC 10646 Amendment 2

SC2 has initiated work on Amendment 2. The starting repertoire is detailed in [L2/22-134](#) (= WG2/N5181) and corresponds to characters already approved by UTC for future versions of Unicode, post 15.0.

ISO/IEC 14651 Amendment 1

In 2021, SC2 initiated work on Amendment 1 to the 6th Edition of 14651. The expectation then was that the repertoire would align with that of 10646 Amendment 1 (hence Unicode 15.0). A CDAM ballot has not yet been circulated. Target milestone dates have been updated:

- CDAM ballot: 2023-01-01

- DAM ballot: 2023-07-01

- Publication: 2024-05-01

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

Plan for replacement of ISO/IEC 2375 with a TR

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.

At the previous SC2 meeting, Japan proposed that 2375 should be withdrawn. It was pointed out, however, that some existing implementations or data may depend on stability of registered escape sequences and coded character sets; and, hence, that potential need for stability of the *registry content* should be considered.

At this SC2 meeting, Japan proposed and SC2 approved a plan for withdrawing 2375 as an international standard and replacing it with a technical report, TR 2375:

Title: Information technology — Registry of escape sequences and coded character sets

Scope: To provide the information of the existing escape sequences and related code charts which the 2375 Registration Authority had registered in the past, for the sake of future interoperability.

The registration authority for ISO/IEC 2375 will be terminated as soon as that standard is withdrawn. Also, SC2 had previously appointed an advisory committee for the RA, and that has now been disbanded.

Serbia request to update legacy standards

At the SC2 #25 meeting in 2020, Serbia proposed revision of ten legacy SC2 standards to include references to "Serbian" language, rather than "Serbo-Croatian", and to cite Serbian as a language written with Latin script.

- ISO 5426:1983 Extension of the Latin alphabet coded character set for bibliographic information interchange

- ISO 5427:1984 Extension of the Cyrillic alphabet coded character set for bibliographic information interchange

- ISO/IEC 10367:1991 Information technology –Standardized coded graphic character sets for use in 8-bit codes

- ISO 6861:1996 Information and documentation –Glagolitic alphabet coded character set for bibliographic information interchange

- ISO/IEC 6937:2001 Information technology – Coded graphic character set for text communication – Latin alphabet

- ISO/IEC 8859-1:1998 Information technology – 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets – Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1

- ISO/IEC 8859-2:1999 Information technology – 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets – Part 2: Latin alphabet No. 2

- ISO/IEC 8859-3:1999 Information technology – 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets – Part 3: Latin alphabet No. 3

- ISO/IEC 8859-4:1998 Information technology – 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets – Part 4: Latin alphabet No. 4

- ISO/IEC 8859-5:1999 Information technology – 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets – Part 5: Latin/Cyrillic alphabet

SC2 did not agree, however, and instead recommended that implementers reference Unicode CLDR data for details regarding Latin and Cyrillic orthographies for the Serbian language.

At this SC2 meeting, Serbia came back repeating a "strong request to at least edit Corrigenda for these 10 listed ISO/IEC standards to rectify and update those old standards". In discussion, L2 and UTC reps reiterated that these standards have been and should remain stabilized, and that touching them would be counterproductive. A further point raised in discussion was that any "correction" related to "Serbo-Croatian" should be done with input from other national bodies of that region.

The compromise proposed by the SC2 chair and resolved by SC2 was to instruct Serbia to submit defect reports for these standards, in accordance with JTC1 process, and that these should provide evidence "to show that proposed changes keep cultural and linguistic consistency among both relevant ISO/IEC National Bodies".

Script topics discussed by WG2

There was brief discussion of various script topics:

- **Seal:** Selena Wei presented on progress made by Taiwan and China experts. SC2 is encouraging these experts to work with experts from USA, Japan and elsewhere for continued progress.
- **Assamese/Bangla:** Prof. Sharma from India reported that there is on-going discussion within the India standards body regarding encoding of Assamese as a separate script from Bangla.

- **Latin:** Michael Everson re-iterated requests for three Latin characters, previously reviewed but not approved by UTC: COMBINING OVERCURL, LATIN CAPITAL LETTER DOUBLE THORN, LATIN CAPITAL LETTER DOUBLE WYNN. He mentioned having worked on updated proposal docs, but these have not yet been made available for review.

New SC2 chair

Dr. Suichi Tashiro's term as SC2 chair ends at the end of 2022. Mr. Masaru Takechi has been nominated as the next SC2 chair.

Note regarding SC2 liaisons

For many years, SC2 maintained a liaison relationship to JTC 1/SC 22, "Programming languages, their environments and system software interfaces". At this meeting, SC2 resolved to discontinue that liaison relationship.

SC2 has also had a liaison relationship with TC 46/SC 4, "Information and documentation / Technical interoperability". Michael Everson had served as the liaison rep but has not interacted with TC 46 for some time now, and so is stepping down from that role. Thus, the liaison rep role for TC 46/SC 4 is now vacant.

Note that TC 46/SC 4 participates with TC 37/SC 2 in maintenance of ISO 639 (language coding) standards. However, ISO 15924 (script coding) is maintained by the TC 46 parent committee. JTC 1/SC 2 does not have any liaison relationship with TC 46.

Future meetings

SC2 is planning its next plenary meeting, #28, for June 19 – 23, 2023, to be held in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. A WG2 meeting will be co-located with that meeting.

SC2 meeting #29 is tentatively planned for June 2024 in Prague, Czech republic.