

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC2/WG2/IRG
Ideographic Rapporteur Group

Source: Japan

Meeting: IRG#23 @ Jeju

Title: Japan's Concerns on the IRG Document Management

Keywords: (administrative procedures)

Status: For your information

Short Description:

This paper discusses the risk of making a last-minute change to IRG source documents.

Proposed Conclusion / Requested Action: IRG to discuss.

Japan's Concerns on the IRG Document Management

1. Background

At the last IRG meeting held in Chengdu, the IRG resolved to accept IICore v2.1 (IRG N1052) for submission to WG2. Right before its submission, there was a quick discussion via e-mail based on a request from a member body to remove one character and to revise IICore version to 2.2. The IRG chief editors decided to accept it and assigned a new IRG document number (IRG N1067) to the revised version of IICore for submission to WG2#45. However, during the WG2 meeting, it turned out that the submitted document from the IRG was not actually IRG N1067, but IRG N1052. The proposal to include IICORE as a new fixed collection of ISO/IEC 10646 was accepted by the WG2 with the understanding that IICORE data file would be corrected to match exactly up to the latest version 2.2.

The correction was confirmed in the IICORE data file distributed as part of ISO/IEC 10646:2003/FPDAM1, however, it was also confirmed that there were exactly 100 changes in IICORE source identifiers, which are least expected because there has been no such discussion or even announcement among the member chief editors. Inferring from what was changed, it seems a member body was trying to make their source identifiers to be consistent in terms of the source identifier format the IRG defined and documented. If that's the account for those changes in the data file, there still exist 9 erroneous identifiers on the same account.

To sum up the problems observed:

1. The IRG made decision to make a last-minute change to the IICORE data file which was agreed upon at the meeting, but the change was not reflected to the submitted document to WG2.
2. The correction was made on PDAM1 data file, but there were more changes the IRG has never discussed before.
3. Possibly 9 errors on G source identifiers remain unfixed on IICORE data file provided with PDAM1.

2. The importance of having agreed upon procedures for IRG source documents.

The IRG source documents for submission to WG2 are not considered to be owned by just one member body but the product of cooperative efforts of all IRG members. As such, it is strongly recommended that any technical changes in documents should not be made without consulting with the rest of members. Even with the agreement by members, it is generally discouraged to make a last-minute change because of the risk we saw on the 1st problem summary. Unstable proposals are considered immature and will not even be discussed within WG2. Nonetheless, we understand there may be a situation where making a change is necessary after full evaluation of the benefits and risks by members. To manage such a case in the future without sacrificing the quality and stability of the IRG contributions, it is recommended for the IRG to consider a set of agreed upon procedures to ensure that all intended changes are reflected on the submitted documents.

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