

ISO/IEC JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility (SWG-A)

JTC 1 SWG-A N 297

2007-10-11

Document Type: Presentation to JTC 1 Plenary Meeting

Title: **SWG-A Secretariat's Report to the October 2007 JTC 1 Plenary Meeting – Gold Coast, Australia**

Source: JTC 1 SWG-A Secretariat

Status: This presentation was given at the October 2007 JTC 1 Plenary meeting in Australia.

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JTC 1 SWG – Accessibility

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October 2007

Gold Coast, Australia

www.jtc1access.org

Establishment and ToR

The JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility (SWG-A) was established at the October 2004 JTC 1 Plenary meeting in Berlin, Germany (Resolution 24):

JTC 1 believes that the work in the area of information communication and technology standardization for accessibility is a major undertaking, encompassing many international, regional and local interests. Additionally, there are significant standards efforts taking place in ISO, IEC, ITU and the national and regional standards bodies as well as various consortia/fora and user groups.

As identified in its long term business plan and to be responsive to international, regional, national, and end user requirements in the area of accessibility, JTC 1 establishes a Special Working Group on Accessibility with the following Terms of Reference:

The SWG will:

- determine an approach, and implement, the gathering of user requirements, being mindful of the varied and unique opportunities (direct participation of user organizations, workshops, liaisons)
- identify a mechanism to work proactively between meetings to make forward progress
- gather and publish an inventory of all known accessibility standards efforts
- identify areas/technologies where voluntary standards are not being addressed and suggest an appropriate body to consider the new work
- track public laws, policies/measures and guidelines to ensure the necessary standards are available
- through wide dissemination of the SWG materials, encourage the use of globally relevant voluntary standards
- assist consortia/fora, if desired, in submitting their specifications to the formal standards process

Membership in the SWG will be open to:

- ISO/IEC JTC 1 National Bodies and Category A Liaisons
- ISO/IEC JTC 1 SCs with accessibility efforts or concerns (such as SC 35, SC 36, SC 37)

- ISO or IEC TCs with accessibility efforts or concerns (such as ISO TC 159)
- ITU-T SGs with interests/efforts in accessibility
- Regional standard development and support organizations with accessibility efforts/concerns (such as ICT SB DATSCG, ETSI HF, ITI, ANEC, CEN TC 224)
- Representatives of consortia/fora (for example, but not limited to) W3C's WAI, FSG Accessibility Workgroup, the International Ergonomics Association
- Consumer Organizations and User Representatives (the SWG will be responsible for determining the most appropriate method to identify and engage such recognized activities)

The SWG on Accessibility will meet twice a year. To demonstrate the achievements of the group, a status report will be submitted to JTC 1 after each SWG meeting as well as at each JTC 1 Plenary.

Task Groups

- **Task Group 1 on User Requirements -**
Dr. John Gill (UK) and Mr. Michael Takemura (US)
- **Task Group 2 on Accessibility Standards Inventory and Gap Analysis -**
Mr. Alex Li (US)

2007 Ad Hoc Activities

- **AH 8 on Outreach** - Dr. Kate Grant (UK / JTC 1/SC 29)
- **AH 9 on User Needs Mapping and Gap Analysis** - Dr. Jim Carter (Canada) and Dr. Hajime Yamada (Japan)
- **AH 10 on User Needs Document Maintenance** - Ms. Andi Snow-Weaver (US)
- **AH 11 on Reference Materials for the User Needs Summary** - Ms. Mary Frances Laughton (Canada)
- **AH 12 on JTC 1 Web Site Accessibility** - Ms. Mary Frances Laughton (Canada)

2007 Meetings

Three SWG-A meetings

- April 2007 – Hamar, Norway hosted by Standards Norway
- July 2007 – teleconference
- August 2007 – teleconference

2007 Participation

- **7 National Bodies:** Canada, France, Japan, Korea, Norway, United Kingdom, United States
- **2 JTC 1 Subcommittees:** SC 35, SC 36
- **1 ITU-T SG:** ITU-T SG 16
- **3 Regional standard development and support organizations:** CEN/ISSS, CEN TC 224 WG 6, ITI
- **2 Consortia/fora:** The Linux Foundation, W3C/Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)
- **1 Consumer Organizations, User Representatives and other interested parties:** Visual Impairment Knowledge Centre

Presentations and Reports Received in 2007

- ISO/TC 159 Liaison Officer
- CEN/ISSS Workshop on Document Processing for Accessibility (CEN/ISSS WS DPA) Liaison Officer
- ITU-T SG 16 Liaison Officer
- TEITAC Liaison Officer
- CEN TC 224 WG 6 Convener - Presentation on New Item of Work Proposed by Standards Norway to Ensure That Public Procurement of Self Service Systems Facilitates Access By All People
- Japanese National Body Presentation on JIS X 8341-5 "Guidelines for older persons and persons with disabilities - Information and communications equipment, software and services - Part 5: Office equipment"
- Status Update on W3C/WAI WCAG 2.0 and Other WAI Guidelines
- JTC 1/SC 36/WG 7 Convener - Presentation on Relevant Work in JTC 1/SC 36

Major Accomplishments

- SWG-A Deliverable as Technical Report Part 1 (Information Technology: Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities: Part 1 – User Needs Summary) – Project Editors: Dr. Jim Carter (Canada) and Ms. Andi Snow-Weaver (US)
- SWG-A Deliverable as Technical Report Part 2 (Information Technology: Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities: Part 2 – Standards Inventory) – Project Editors: Dr. Jim Carter (Canada) and Mr. Alex Li (US)
- SWG-A Deliverable as Technical Report Part 3 (Information Technology: Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities: Part 3 – Guidance on User Needs Mapping) – Project Editors: Dr. Jim Carter (Canada) and Dr. Hajime Yamada (Japan)

Resolution of Note

SWG-A August 2007 Teleconference Resolution 1: Submission of Multi-Part Type 3 Technical Report, ISO/IEC PDTR nnnnnn, Information Technology – Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities

The JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility (SWG-A) resolves to request that JTC 1, at its October 2007 Plenary, accept the following SWG-A deliverables as consensus documents from the SWG-A and initiate the ballot process for approval of the following documents as a multi-part Technical Report Type 3:

- ISO/IEC PDTR nnnnnn-1, Information Technology - Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities - Part 1: User Needs Summary
- ISO/IEC PDTR nnnnnn-2, Information Technology - Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities - Part 2: Standards inventory
- ISO/IEC PDTR nnnnnn-3, Information Technology - Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities - Part 3: Guidance on User Needs Mapping

Resolution of Note – cont.

The SWG-A requests that four-month TR ballots be conducted. Further, the JTC 1 SWG-A offers its services to JTC 1 for the ballot resolution meeting and proposes that the BRM be scheduled for 16-20 June 2008. The Japanese National Body has tentatively offered to host this meeting.

The SWG-A requests that the TR be made publicly available as the three parts catalog or reference standards that are either freely available from other sites or are available for sale, greatly enhance the awareness and influence of JTC 1, and describe basic visions and concepts related to Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities in the technical domain of Information Technology. The SWG-A also requests the publication of the TR in accessible HTML as the primary format as well as in accessible PDF.

Rationale/Justification for Free Availability of the TR

The following criteria and rationale accompany the SWG-A's request for free availability of the multi-part TR:

- Criteria (1) Publications that are merely references (pointers) to other documents, e.g. developed outside JTC 1. Rationale: Available free from other sites.
- Criteria (5) REFERENCE MODELS A: Standards which explain the relationships between existing standards. Rationale: Catalogues of standards for sales promotion.
- Criteria (8) Subsets: Those Type 3 technical reports which describe basic visions and concepts in the technical domains covered by a set of standards. Rationale: Free availability of the multi-part TR will enhance the awareness and influence of JTC 1.

Response to JTC 1 Banff Resolution 19 (Trial of Enhanced Use of Teleconferencing)

Teleconference participation available during physical meetings for specific agenda items

- beneficial to gain expertise from participants not able to travel to meetings
- some problems experienced with internet dial-ins

Two full teleconference meetings

- short duration (two hours or less) was quite manageable
- some problems experienced with internet dial-ins
- some problems with unmuted lines

Appreciation

The SWG-A's activities have been greatly enhanced by JTC 1's decision to embrace direct participation by interested users and organizations. Their continued involvement is encouraged.

Next Meeting

16-20 June 2008

or

3-6 September 2008

(depending upon the length of the DTR ballot)

To conduct regular business, discuss the future of the SWG-A and if necessary and agreed to by JTC 1, to serve as the DTR ballot resolution meeting.