

ISO/IEC JTC 1 "Information technology"

Secretariat: ANSI

Committee manager: Rajchel Lisa Mrs.



SC34 Business Plan 2023

Document type	Related content	Document date	Expected action
General / Other		2023-09-21	COMMENT/REPLY by 2023-10-16

Description

This document is circulated for review and consideration at the November 2023 JTC 1 Plenary.

BUSINESS PLAN FOR JTC 1/SC 34

PERIOD COVERED: from September 2022 to September 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Francis Cave, SC 34 Chair

1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

SC 34 continues to develop and maintain widely-used core standards in the field of document description and processing languages. During the period, SC 34 had four active Working Groups. SC 34 continues to collaborate closely with Ecma International on the maintenance of the multi-part office file format standard ISO/IEC 29500 Office Open XML File Formats. Following discussions with ISO publishing staff in 2022, the Project Editor for ISO/IEC 29500-1 and -4, supported by experts from SC 34/WG 4, is making good progress on revision of these large and complex standards, with formal CD review due in the next period. SC 34/JWG 7, administered by SC 34 in collaboration with ISO TC 46/SC 4, is preparing to develop a significant new standard on long-term preservation of EPUB 3 documents, with a PWI being launched in the next period. SC 34/WG 9 is continuing work on preparing a Technical Report that documents use cases for enabling enriched metadata support in office document applications. SC 34/WG 10 has begun work on a further revision of ISO/IEC 19757-3 Schematron.

2.0 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

2.1 Market Requirements, Innovation

The creation and use of documents is fundamental to organizational activity of all kinds, commercial and non-commercial. Innovation occurs in how documents are created, stored and used. Examples of the first include the use of cloud-based applications to enable collaborative authoring and editing of documents, of the second include the need to enable long-term preservation and access to document content, and of the third include applications of existing document repositories as training data for AI systems. The challenge for the developers and implementers of standards in this domain is to recognize when there is sufficient consensus on the value of an innovation to extend the functionality of what are already large and complex standards.

2.2 Accomplishments

Having reached overall agreement with the ISO publishing team in 2022 on editorial changes that must be made, SC 34/WG 4 has spent significant time in the current period on determining how to revise ISO/IEC 29500-1 and -4 to comply more closely to the ISO/IEC Directives. This has already involved hundreds of hours of editorial drafting and expert review: changing the organization, formatting and in some cases language of the existing standards. SC 34/JWG 7 has been working on the upgrade of ISO/IEC 23078-1/3 from TS to IS, and has found a project leader and is identifying experts to work on a PWI on the long-term preservation of EPUB

documents. SC 34/WG 9 has continued to work on drafting ISO/IEC WD TR 5812. SC 34/WG 10 has held its first meetings on revision of ISO/IEC 19757-3.

2.3 Resources

SC 34 has 17 P-member National Bodies (Armenia, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Poland, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States). SC 34 currently holds a single annual plenary meeting. Participation in the 2023 SC 34 Plenary online meeting, was good: 28 delegates/experts from eight NBs and two liaison members participated in the 2022 Online Plenary and Working Group meetings.

2.4 Competition and cooperation

SC 34 collaborates closely with Ecma International on the maintenance of ISO/IEC 29500 Office Open XML File Formats, and SC 34 is particularly grateful to Ecma International for its strong cooperation on maintenance tasks, especially Defect Report resolution, and excellent participation in meetings. Since the publication of the first edition of ISO/IEC 29500, Ecma-376 (Office Open XML File Formats) and ISO/IEC 29500 have been maintained in step.

SC 34 collaborates with OASIS on the maintenance of ISO/IEC 26300 OpenDocument Format (ODF), under the agreement between JTC 1 and OASIS. Under that agreement, the text of ISO/IEC 26300 must remain technically equivalent to the approved OASIS standard: no technical changes are possible and editorial defects may only be corrected in parallel with publication of Approved Errata documents by OASIS. The submission of ODF 1.3 to JTC 1 for PAS transposition was made right at the end of the current period, so activities of SC 34/WG 6 can only resume in the next period.

We greatly appreciate the collaboration of Publishing@W3C, the Radium Foundation and the DAISY Consortium in assisting SC 34 and JWG 7 on EPUB-related standards published to date. We look forward to working with them, and hope to persuade experts from the library community, to join JWG 7 to work on the new PWI on long-term preservation of EPUB documents. However, we are concerned that collaboration with Publishing@W3C in particular does not always proceed smoothly, when the value of such collaboration is not always appreciated by some individual experts.

3.0 WORKING GROUPS

3.1 WG 4 Office Open XML File Formats

WG 4 is responsible for maintenance of ISO/IEC 29500. Ecma International provides secretariat support and there are currently 37 registered expert members nominated by 12 National Bodies and 3 Liaison Members.

3.1.1 WG 4 Accomplishments

WG 4 has held 13 teleconference meetings since the SC 34 2022 Virtual Plenary. Work has continued to focus on the revision of ISO/IEC 29500-1 and 4, addressing defect reports where the necessary changes have been agreed among WG 4 experts.

3.1.2 WG 4 Deliverables

There are no new formal deliverables, but WG 4 has created several informal working drafts for the aforementioned revisions.

3.1.3 WG 4 Strategies/Opportunities/Risks/Lessons learned

In the pursuit of timely revisions for ISO/IEC 29500-1 and -4, WG 4 and ISO engaged in discussions to identify provisions within Part 2 of ISO/IEC Directives and ISO house style that were problematic and could be relaxed. This was deemed necessary to ensure the feasibility of meeting the desired revision timelines, as strict adherence to all requirements in Part 2 of the Directives would hinder timely updates. A consensus was reached between WG 4 and ISO staff regarding the relaxation of a small number of specific requirements for these standards.

Following this consensus, WG 4 initiated the removal of normative modal verbs, such as 'shall' and 'should,' from examples and notes in ISO/IEC 29500-1 and -4 in August 2022. This task, which includes reformatting examples and notes according to the Directives Part 2, is nearing completion. In this task WG 4's preference has been to rewrite only where necessary, and convert note and example content to standard paragraphs where possible, rather than carry out automated revisions that might change the sense of the text and introduce errors. WG4 has also commenced work on figure and table numbering, correcting headings to sentence case, moving hanging paragraphs into their own subclauses and various other significant editorial tasks, substantial time having already been dedicated to these endeavours.

Following publication of ISO 14533-2:2021 (Profiles for XML Advanced Electronic Signatures), collaboration with XAdES and digital signatures experts in ETSI and the Japan Network Security Association (JNSA) is expected to resume after the current revision work is completed. The addition of XAdES to ISO/IEC 29500-2 is expected to be submitted by Japan as an Amendment proposal.

3.2 WG 6 OpenDocument Format (ODF)

WG 6 is responsible jointly with OASIS for maintenance of ISO/IEC 26300. There are currently 33 registered expert members nominated by 8 National Bodies and 3 Liaison Members.

3.2.1 WG 6 Accomplishments

WG 6 held no meetings in the current period. OASIS published ODF 1.3 in April 2021, and it had been hoped that OASIS would submit ODF 1.3 to JTC 1 for PAS transposition early in the current period. Unfortunately, it has taken OASIS staff longer than anticipated to prepare the submission, and it was finally submitted to JTC 1 at the end of the current period. WG 6 experts continue to collaborate with the OASIS ODF Technical Committee on the issues raised by SC 34 members.

3.2.2 WG 6 Deliverables

There have been no deliverables in the current period. WG 6 expects to be able to resume its role collaborating with the OASIS ODF TC on maintenance later in the next period, once the submission of ODF 1.3 has been approved by JTC 1.

3.2.3 WG 6 Strategies/Opportunities/Risks/Lessons learned

Joint work with OASIS on maintenance of ISO/IEC 26300 has been managed successfully in the past, but is dependent upon both sides having the resources to

collaborate effectively, to ensure that the published standard is maintained to a high quality. There continue to be resourcing challenges for both the OASIS ODF Technical Committee and WG 6. There are potential opportunities for new work related to ISO/IEC 26300, but these need to be developed in close collaboration with the OASIS ODF Technical Committee.

3.3 JWG 7 EPUB

3.3.1 JWG 7 Accomplishments

JWG 7 is responsible for maintenance of EPUB3 standards and technical specifications, and in this work collaborates with experts from the Publishing@W3C. JWG 7 currently has 58 registered expert members nominated by 10 National Bodies and 4 Liaison Members. Meetings of JWG 7 were held during Plenary meeting of ISO TC 46 in May 2023, and during the SC 34 Plenary in September 2023. ISO/IEC DIS 23078-1, -2 and -3 have been submitted for approval following successful CD consultations in March 2023.

3.3.2 JWG 7 Deliverables

JWG 7 has submitted revised text to change ISO/IEC 23078-1, -2 and -3 from TS to IS, and a DIS ballot is in progress.

3.3.3 JWG 7 Strategies/Opportunities/Risks/Lessons learned

JWG 7 having almost completed its current planned programme of work, the co-Convenors, in consultation with expert members of JWG 7, have been reviewing whether there is additional standardization work to be done related to EPUB. At their meeting during the Plenary meeting of ISO TC 46 in May 2023 JWG7 prepared a rationale document for EPUB 3 long-term preservation, entitled EPUB/A. A resolution to commence a Preliminary Work Item on EPUB/A, to replace ISO/IEC TS 22424-1 and -2, was approved at SC 34 2023 Plenary meeting.

Recently JWG 7 has seen potential risk in Publishing@W3C who own EPUB and related specifications. W3C has released new EPUB specifications named EPUB 3.3, EPUB Reading System 3.3, and EPUB Accessibility 1.1. Publishing@W3C has recently agreed that these will be submitted when their adoption becomes a requirement under the European Accessibility Act. The timetable for submitting these specifications to JTC 1 is therefore not yet known. For as long as Publication@W3C delays submitting these specifications to JTC 1, technical equivalence between the relevant ISO/IEC standards and W3C specifications is not sustainable.

3.4 WG 9 Document Semantic Support

3.4.1 WG 9 Accomplishments

WG 9 met five times formally between September 2022 and September 2023. The Project Editor and WG 9 experts have been continuing to work on drafting ISO/IEC WD TR 5812.

3.4.2 WG 9 Deliverables

Development of the Technical Report is at a middle stage and there have been no deliverables during this period.

3.4.3 WG 9 Strategies/Opportunities/Risks/Lessons learned

WG 9 has recently had some resourcing issues, which it is hoped will be addressed with the appointment of a new Convenor. It is hoped to have a draft Technical Report ready for formal review by SC 34 members during the next period.

3.5 WG 10 Schematron

3.5.1 WG 10 Accomplishments

WG 10 is a new Working Group created at the SC 34 Plenary in September 2022, tasked with further revision of ISO/IEC 19757-3:2020 Rule-based validation using Schematron. This maintains SC 34's leadership position in the setting and maintenance of international standards for XML data validation.

WG 10 has met twice formally and once informally between September 2022 and September 2023.

3.5.2 WG 10 Deliverables

Revision of the standard is at Working Draft stage. There have been no deliverables during this period.

3.5.3 WG 10 Strategies/Opportunities/Risks/Lessons learned

Development of the Working Draft is expected to be completed during the next period, given the significant scope of the work envisaged.

Informal meetings have proven a successful means to ensure engagement and garner input from the wider (implementer, user) community. These will continue as and when necessary.