

JULY 1992

In September of 1991, WG5 requested the X3J3 committee to assume responsibility for technical maintenance of Fortran 90. X3J3 accepted and this decision was subsequently ratified by SC22 later the same month.

X3J3 has, since assuming the responsibility, devoted the major part of all its quarterly meetings to responding to requests for interpretations. In between meetings, work has continued by email (resulting in almost 350 messages). X3J3 has set up a document S20 that is the compendium of all responses (determined by full committee vote) to requests for interpretation and, where deemed necessary, corrections to the standard.

The X3J3 committee is considering how to improve the process of standards production via such mechanisms as greater use of email and easier access to electronic copies of draft documents. Also under consideration are improvements to the document style.

The US Fortran TAG made a presentation to WG5, in June of 1991, on how it recommends the future evolution of Fortran be managed. As a result, WG5 set up a subcommittee (L12) to prepare a proposal for consideration at the WG5 August 1992 meeting. Currently, the L12 subcommittee, of which the US Fortran TAG is a member, is proposing that there be a short-term effort to produce corrections, clarifications, and interpretations of the Fortran 90 standard. This is proposed for completion in 1995. The L12 subcommittee is also recommending that an evolutionary successor to Fortran 90 be produced by the year 2000. The process envisaged is that of a requirements body (WG5) defining the functional requirements and an implementation body to perform all aspects of implementing the requirements. There will be close cooperation between the two bodies. The US Fortran TAG is proposing that X3J3 be the implementation body. Finally, the L12 subcommittee has allowed for the possibility of ISO collateral standards, to Fortran 90, to be produced under the control of WG5.

With increasing need for integration, the future will also see continuing X3J3 cooperation with other standards committees. Some examples are: parallelism (X3H5), operating systems (POSIX IEEE P1003.9, SC22/WG15), cross-language issues (X3T2, WG11), and graphics (X3H3/SC24).