To   : **WG5**
From   : **Steve Morgan**
Subject   : **ISO/IEC 1539-2 : 1997(E)**
Date   : **26**th **May 1998**

Introduction

This brief paper is intended to provide WG5 with information on the current status of the Varying String Standard ISO/IEC 1539-2.

History

The following resolution was carried at WG5's last meeting in Vienna:

> ***V6 Part 2 of the Fortran Standard (Varying Length Strings)***
> *That WG5 instructs its convenor to request SC22 approval to revise both the normative and the informative parts of Part 2 of the Fortran Standard, along the lines outlined in **WG5-N1297**. Further, WG5 records its intent to form a group to assist the project editor and requests members of WG5 to nominate participants for this group.*
>
> *Personal Objections:*   *0*   *Personal Abstentions:*   *3*
> *Country Objections:*   *0*   *Country Abstentions:*   *1 (U.S.)*

Following the Vienna meeting the project editor (Lawrie Schonfelder) produced a HTML version of the normative part of the proposed revised standard and also a version of the informative part. These were placed on the WWW and advertised on the SC22WG5 and J3 mailing lists and comments from interested parties were invited. However, the project editor indicated that, although he was willing to continue to develop both the normative and informative parts of the standard, he did not have the resources to produce a fully formatted version according to strict ISO guidelines. It was suggested that this would be a job better (and much more easily) done by the main standard's editor who had the formatting macros required to automatically produce a properly formatted document.

To date, the project editor has received no comments on the HTML draught of the normative part of the revised standard, from members of WG5. The project editor has produced a Fortran 95 version of the *informative* part but a small part of the code has not completely been tested successfully due to the lack (locally at present) of a sufficiently well developed Fortran 95 compiler.

A recent note from JTC1 (Bill Rinehuls) to the convenor of WG5 points out that the revision of the Varying Length String Standard is one of a (small) number of SC22 projects which will reach the third anniversary of their establishment this year without having produced a document for ballot, and that if such a document is not ready by August then SC22 will have to make a decision to either recommend to JTC1 that an extension be granted, or to cancel the project.

Future work

There are three issues that need addressing:-

1. The proposed revised standard needs to be reviewed in the technical and editorial senses and formally approved by WG5. At present the HTML draught is entirely the work of the project editor.

2. A volunteer willing to produce the standard in its final ISO format has to be found. Of course, unless a volunteer *is* found, or some other means of doing the work is proposed, it is pointless continuing with 1.

3. WG5 needs to request an extension to the project if appropriate.