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Douglas Mann, Secretariat, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory *, 901 D Street, SW., Suite 900, Washington, DC, 20024-2115,
United States of America

Telephone: +1 703 575 2114; Facsimile: +1 703 681 9180; E-mail: MannD@battelle.org

*Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNL) administers the ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 Secretariat on behalf of ANSI

BUSINESS PLAN FOR JTC 1/SC32, Data Management and Interchange

PERIOD COVERED: July 1998 to January 1999

SUBMITTED BY: Bruce Bargmeyer, Chairman JTC 1/SC 32

1. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY:

1a CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

SC 32 met in late June and early July 1998 in Brisbane, Australia. All working groups except WG 1 –Open EDI were present. The operation of the SC 32 Secretariat was transferred from ANSI to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory operating on behalf of ANSI.

1.1 JTC 1 SC32 STATEMENT OF SCOPE

JTC 1/SC 32

Title: Data Management and Interchange

Area of Work: Standards for data management within and among local and distributed information systems environments. SC 32 provides enabling technologies to promote harmonization of data management facilities across sector-specific areas.

Specifically, SC 32 standards include:

- 1) reference models and frameworks for the coordination of existing and emerging standards;
- 2) definition of data domains, data types and data structures, and their associated semantics;
- 3) languages, services and protocols for persistent storage, concurrent access, concurrent update and interchange of data;
- 4) methods, languages, services and protocols to structure, organize and register metadata and other information resources associated with sharing and interoperability, including electronic commerce.

JTC 1/SC 32 WG 1

Title: Open-edi

Area of Work: Standardization in the field of generic information technology standards for open electronic data interchange needed to attain global interoperability among the information technology systems used by organizations. Such interoperability is viewed from both business and information technology perspective.

JTC 1/SC 32 WG 2

Title: Metadata

Area of Work: To develop and maintain standards that facilitate specification and management of metadata. Use of these standards will enhance the understanding and sharing of data, information and processes to support, for example, interoperability, electronic commerce and component-based development.

The scope shall include:

- a) a framework for specifying and managing metadata;
- b) specification and management of data elements, structures and their associated semantics;
- c) specification and management of value domains, such as classification and code schemes;
- d) specification and management of data about processes and behaviour;
- e) facilities to manage metadata, for example: data dictionaries, repositories, information resource dictionary systems, registries and glossaries;
- f) facilities to exchange metadata, including its semantics, over the Internet, intranets and other media.

JTC 1/SC 32 WG 3

Title: Database Languages

Area of Work:

1. To develop and maintain languages for the dynamic specification, maintenance and description of database structures and contents in multi-user and multi-server environments. The specifications may include the data types, behaviours and any integrity constraints on the contents of the defined structures. The specifications may include mechanisms for the creation and generation of new data types and behaviours so as to support the specification of other international standards.
2. To develop and maintain languages that provide for the storage, access and manipulation of data in database structures by multiple concurrent users. These languages may be computationally complete and may contain features for the packaging and storage of modules and procedures in database structures.
3. To provide interfaces for the languages developed to other standard programming languages.
4. To provide interfaces or access to other standards describing data types, behaviours or database content to users of the languages developed.

JTC 1/SC 32 WG 4

Title: SQL Multimedia & Application Packages

Area of Work: To specify packages of abstract data types for use in various application areas. Specify each package of abstract data type definitions using the facilities for user-defined type provided in the Database Language SQL/Foundation. This should include packages such as Full-Text, Spatial, Still Image, Still Graphic, Animation, Full Motion Video, Audio, Seismic, and Music.

JTC 1/SC 32 WG 5

Title: Remote Database Access (RDA)

Area of Work: Standards to facilitate interworking of applications and databases that may be located on different sites. These standards relate principally to communications and management data. They are complementary to and dependent on standards for database languages.

The activities include the analysis of distributed database applications and requirements, definition of system models, communication APIs and protocols for interworking between client systems and one or more server systems; the systems may be on different hardware, with software from different suppliers.

JTC 1/SC 32 RG 1

Title: Reference Model for Data Management Maintenance

Area of Work: Maintenance of ISO/IEC 10032, Reference Model of Data Management, and enhancements to it as may be required by SC 32.

JTC 1/SC 32 RG 2

Title: Export/Import Maintenance

Area of Work: To develop and maintain standards that facilitate the interchange of data and metadata using stream-based media. Use of these standards will facilitate the definition of export/import services within, and the sharing of data and metadata between data management environments.

These standards do not specify a transfer mechanism, and the interchange format is environment independent.

The scope currently includes:

- a) a standardization framework for establishing Export/Import concepts, facilities, requirements, and components candidate for standardization;
- b) specification of Export/Import services for SQL-based data management environments, and IRDS-based metadata management environments;
- c) specification of a transfer format for the interchange of data between SQL-based data management environments;
- d) specification of a transfer format for the interchange of data between IRDS-based metadata management environments.

1.2 PROJECT REPORT

<p>03.04.01.01.00 [ISO-id 30673]</p>	<p>Information technology- Database languages - SQL - Technical Corrigendum 3 ISO/IEC 9075 : 1992/Cor 3 <i>Target Dates:</i></p>
<p>03.04.01.02.00 [ISO-id 31022]</p>	<p>Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 3: Call-Level Interface (SQL/CLI) Technical Corrigendum 1 ISO/IEC 9075-3 : 1995/Cor 1 <i>Target Dates:</i></p>
<p>03.04.01.03.00 [ISO-id 31023]</p>	<p>Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 4: Persistent Stored Modules (SQL/PSM) Technical Corrigendum 1 ISO/IEC 9075-4 : 1996/Cor 1 <i>Target Dates:</i></p>
<p>03.04.01.00.00 [ISO-id 26196]</p>	<p>Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 1: Framework (for SQL3) ISO/IEC DIS 9075-1 <i>Target Dates:</i> FDIS 1999.03 IS 1999.05</p>
<p>03.04.02.00.00 [ISO-id 26197]</p>	<p>Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 2: Foundation (SQL 3) ISO/IEC DIS 9075-2</p>

Target Dates:

FDIS 1999.03
IS 1999.05

03.04.03.00.00
[ISO-id 30609]

Information Technology - Database Language SQL -
Part 3: Call-Level Interface (for SQL 3)
ISO/IEC DIS 9075-3

Target Dates:

FDIS 1999.08
IS 1999.12

03.04.04.00.00
[ISO-id 29864]

Information Technology - Database Language SQL -
Part 4: Persistent Stored Modules (for SQL 3)
ISO/IEC DIS 9075-4

Target Dates:

FDIS 1999.03
IS 1999.05

03.04.05.00.00
[ISO-id 26198]

Information Technology - Database Language SQL -
Part 5: Language Bindings (for SQL 3)
ISO/IEC DIS 9075-5

Target Dates:

FDIS 1999.03
IS 1999.05

03.04.06.00.00
[ISO-id 26199]

Information Technology - Database Language SQL -
Part 6: XA Specialization (for SQL3)
ISO/IEC WD 9075-6

Target Dates:

FCD 1999.10
FDIS 2000.06
IS 2000.10

03.04.07.00.00
[ISO-id 30611]

Information Technology - Database Language SQL -
Part 7: Temporal (for SQL3)
ISO/IEC AWI 9075-7

Target Dates:

FCD 2000.06
FDIS 2001.01

IS 2001.05

03.04.09.00.00
[ISO-id 31370]

Information Technology - Database Language SQL -
Part 9: Management of External Data
(Subdivision subject to JTC 1 endorsement)
ISO/IEC AWI 9075-9

Target Dates

CD 1998.12
FCD 1999.09
FDIS 2000.03
ID 2000.07

03.04.10.00.00
[ISO-id 30613]

Information technology --Database Language SQL - Part
10: Object language bindings
ISO/IEC AWI 9075-10

Target Dates

FCD 1998.10
FDIS 1999.10
IS 2000.02

06.02.04.00.00
[ISO-id 28052]

Information Technology - Information Resource
Dictionary System (IRDS) Service Interface -
Amendment 4: Remote Procedure Call IDL Binding
ISO/IEC 10728 : 1993

Target Dates

IS 1998.08

06.06.00.00.00

Information Technology - IRDS Content Module - Design
Support for SQL Applications

Target Dates

CD 1998.09
FCD 1999.07
FDIS 2000.04
IS 2000.07

06.07.00.00.00
[ISO-id 25838]

Information Technology - Information Resource
Dictionary System (IRDS) Services Interface (Revision
of ISO/IEC 10728:1993) Extensions to IRDS Services
Interface
ISO/IEC CD 10728

Target Dates

FCD 2001.01
FDIS 2001.10
IS 2002.01

06.08.00.00.00
[ISO-id 20189]

Information Processing Systems - Information Resource
Dictionary System (IRDS) Framework (Revision of
ISO/IEC 10027:1990)

ISO/IEC WD 10027 edition 2

Target Dates

CD 1999.07
FCD 2000.07
FDIS 2001.04
IS 2001.07

06.09.00.00.00
[ISO-id 21852]

Information Technology - Guidelines for the Design of
IRDS Content Modules

ISO/IEC DIS 13645.2

Target Dates

FDIS 1998.10
IS 1999.01

06.09.01.00.00
[ISO-id 21472]

IRDS Content Module to Support a Naming and
Thesaurus Facility

ISO/IEC DIS 13237.2

Target Dates

FDIS 1999.07
IS 1999.10

14.06.01.00.00
[ISO-id 31384]

Standard representation of latitude, longitude and
altitude for geographic point locations (Revision of ISO
6709:1983)

ISO/IEC AWI 6709

Target Dates

CD 1999.05
FCD 2000.05
FDIS 2000.08
IS 2000.12

14.08.00.00.00
[ISO-id 28698] Information Technology - Specification of Data Element Concepts
ISO/IEC NP 17413
Target Dates
CD 2000.12
FCD 2001.08
FDIS 2002.03
IS 2002.07

14.09.00.00.00
[ISO-id 27695] Information technology - Specification of Data Value Domain
ISO/IEC PDTR 15452
Target Dates
FDTR 1999.12
TR 2000.05

14.10.01.00.00
[ISO-id 31365] Information interchange - Representation of human sexes (Revision of ISO 5218:1977)
ISO/IEC AWI 5218
Target Dates
CD 1999.05
FCD 1999.12
FDIS 2000.05
IS 2000.08

14.17.01.00.00
[ISO-id 2349] Information technology - Specification and standardization of data elements - Part 1: Framework for the specification and standardization of data elements
ISO/IEC DIS 11179-1
Target Dates
FDIS 1999.03
IS 1999.06

14.17.02.00.00
[ISO-id 28698] Information Technology - Specification and standardization of data elements - Part 2: Classification for data elements
ISO/IEC DIS 11179-2
Target Dates
FDIS 1998.09

IS 1998.12

- 14.17.04.00.00
[ISO-id 31367] Information Technology - Specification and standardization of data elements - Part 3: Basic attributes of data elements (Revision of ISO/IEC 11179-3:1994)
ISO/IEC AWI 11179-3
Target Dates
CD 1999.05
FCD 2000.05
FDIS 2000.09
IS 2000.12
- 31.04.00.00.00
[ISO-id 29799] Information Technology - Remote Database Access for SQL
[Proceed as 9579, Ed. 1, new edition of RDA consolidating all parts. To be withdrawn upon publication of ISO/IEC 9579, Ed. 2)
ISO/IEC FDIS 9579 edition 1
Target Dates
IS 1998.10
- 31.04.01.00.00
[ISO-id 30688] Information technology - Remote database access for SQL (RDA/SQL). Amendment 1. Secure RDA.
ISO/IEC 9579 / CD Amd 1
Target Dates
FDAM 1998.10
AMD 1999.03
- 31.04.02.00.00
[ISO-id 31373] Information Technology - Remote Database Access for SQL (RDA/SQL) - Amendment 2: Distribution Schema for RDA
ISO/IEC 9579 / AWI Amd 2
Target Dates
FPDAM 1999.08
FDAM 2000.06
AMD 2000.10
- 31.04.03.00.00
[ISO-id 31372] Information Technology - Remote Database Access for SQL (RDA/SQL) - Amendment 3: Encompassing Transaction (Subdivision subject to JTC 1 endorsement)

ISO/IEC 9579 / AWI Amd 3

Target Dates

FPDAM 1999.08
FDAM 2000.06
AMD 2000.10

31.05.00.00.00
[ISO-id 30615]

Information technology - Remote database access for
SQL (RDA/SQL) - Support for SQL 3

ISO/IEC AWI 9579 edition 2

Target Dates

FCD 1998.09
FDIS 1999.08
IS 1999.12

58.01.00.00.00
[ISO-id 29940]

Information Technology - Data Management
Export/Import Facilities - Part 1: Standardization
Framework

ISO/IEC CD 13238-1

Target Dates

FCD 1999.09
FDIS 2000.02
IS 2000.08

58.02.00.00.00
[ISO-id 29941]

Information Technology - Data Management
Export/Import Facilities - Part 2: SQL Export/Import

ISO/IEC CD 13238-2

Target Dates

FCD 1999.09
FDIS 2000.02
IS 2000.08

63.00.00.00.00
[ISO-id 22785]

Information Technology - Conceptual Schema Modelling
Facilities

ISO/IEC DIS 14481

Target Dates

FDIS 1999.05
IS 1999.08

64.01.00.00.00
[ISO-id 21484]

Information Technology - SQL Multimedia and
Application Packages - Part 1: Framework

ISO/IEC DIS 13249-1

Target Dates

FDIS 1999.07

IS 1999.10

64.02.00.00.00
[ISO-id 28053]

Information Technology - SQL Multimedia and
Application Packages - Part 2: Full -Text

ISO/IEC DIS 13249-2

Target Dates

FDIS 1998.12

IS 1999.03

64.02.01.00.00
[ISO-id 31368]

Information Technology - SQL Multimedia and
Application Packages - Part 2: Full-Text (Revision of
ISO/IEC DIS 13249-2) (Later Progression)

ISO/IEC AWI 13249-2

Target Dates

FCD 2000.06

FDIS 2001.06

IS 2001.09

64.03.00.00.00
[ISO-id 28054]

Information Technology - SQL Multimedia and
Application Packages - Part 3: Spatial

ISO/IEC DIS 13249-3

Target Dates

FDIS 1998.09

IS 1998.12

64.03.01.00.00
[ISO-id 31369]

Information Technology - SQL Multimedia and
Application Packages - Part 3: Spatial Text (Revision of
ISO/IEC DIS 13249-3) (Later Progression)

ISO/IEC AWI 13249-3

Target Dates

FCD 2000.06

FDIS 2001.06

IS 2001.09

64.04.00.00.00
[ISO-id 30616]

Information Technology - SQL Multimedia and
Application Packages - Part 4: General Purpose
Facilities (WG recommendation to bring project back to
WD stage - previously circulated as CD 13249-9 - SC 32

N 16)

64.05.00.00.00
[ISO-id 30617]

Information Technology - SQL Multimedia and
Application Packages - Part 5: Still Image
ISO/IEC CD 13249-5

Target Dates

FCD 1998.10
FDIS 1999.02
IS 2000.10

1.3 COOPERATION AND COMPETITION

A complete listing of SC 32 liaisons is listed in the following tables. SC 32 is currently reevaluating its liaisons and assessing areas of internal and external cooperation and competition. A complete listing of SC 32 liaisons is listed in the following tables. SC 32 is currently reevaluating its liaisons and assessing areas of internal and external cooperation and competition. Liaison members from many organizations were carried into SC 32 during the JTC 1 reengineering effort. All liaison members are being contacted to insure that the membership is desired. . The SC 32 Secretariat has contacting those organizations to confirm their continuing interest.

Internal Liaison Membership

ISO/IEC or CEN Group	Organization
ISO/TC 12	Quantities, units, symbols, conversion factors
ISO/TC 23/SC 19	Tractors and Machinery for agriculture and forestry/Agricultural electronics
ISO/TC 37	Terminology (principles and coordination)
ISO/TC 37/SC 3	Terminology/Computer Applications
ISO/TC 46	Information and documentation
ISO/TC 46/WG 2	Information and documentation/Coding of country names and related entities
ISO/TC 46/SC 3	Information and documentation/ Terminology
ISO/TC 46/SC 4	Information and documentation/Computer applications
ISO/TC 68	Banking, securities and other financial services
ISO/TC 68/SC 2	Banking, securities and other financial services/ Security management
ISO/TC 154	Documents and data elements in administration, commerce and industry
ISO/TC 184	Industrial automation systems and integration
ISO/TC 184/SC 4	Industrial automation systems and integration/ Industrial data
ISO/TC 204	Transport Information and Control Systems

ISO/TC 211	Geographic information/Geomatics
ISO/TC 215	Healthcare Informatics
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 1	Vocabulary
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2	Coded character sets
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6	Telecommunications and information exchange between systems
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 7	Software Engineering
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 7/WG 11	Software engineering/Life cycle management
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 22/WG 20	Programming languages/Internationalization
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 22/JSG	Programming languages/Java Study Group
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27	IT Security Techniques
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29	Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31	Automatic identification and data capture techniques
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 34	Document Description and Processing Languages
IEC 93	Design Automation
CEN/ISSS	Information Society Standardization System
CEN/TC 310 AMT	Advanced Manufacturing Technologies

Category A Liaison Membership

Acronym	Organization
INTELSAT	International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
ISBT	International Society of Blood Transfusion
ITU-T	International Telecommunications Union – Telecommunication Standardization Sector
SITA	Societe Internationale de Telecommunications (Airline Telecommunications & Information Services)
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UN/ECE/TRADE/WP4	UN Economic Commission for Europe – WP 4 on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures
UN/ECE/CEFACT	UN Economic Commission for Europe/CEFACT

Category B Liaison Membership

Acronym	Organization
CEPT	European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research
CISAC	Confederation internationale des societes d'auteurs et compositeurs

ECMA	European Computer Manufacturers Association
ESA	European Space Association
ETDE	Energy Technology Data Exchange
EWICS	European Workshop on Industrial Computer Systems
IFIP	International Federation for Information Processing
IPTC	International Press Telecommunications Council
SWIFT	Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
UNESA	UN-Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Metrological Organization

Category C Liaison Membership

Acronym	Organization
ExpertnetSA	ExpertnetSA MEDSEC (Health Care Security and Privacy in the Information Society)
OMG	Object Management Group
Open Group	Open Group
OGC	Open GIS Consortium
W3C	WWW Consortia

SC 32 is working with the MoU Management Group, UN/ECE/CFACT, and Intelsat, as well as other ISO groups involved in EDI, data representation and database activity. Cooperation exists with the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and CEN/TC 310 AMT.

Cooperation has been established with TC 211 on SQL/MM and Meta-data, JTC 1 SC 2 on coded character sets, SC 7 on Data Definition and Representation, SC 22 on Internationalization, SC 33.

2.0 PERIOD REVIEW

Excellent progress has been made in developing SQL, SQL MM, RDA, IRDS, and Data Representation, and Conceptual Schema standards, and we expect that progress to continue in the future. Open-Edi and Data Representation projects are also proceeding well.

2.1 MARKET REQUIREMENTS

With the advent of the internet, electronic information interchange, and other global computing facilities, the interconnection and data interchange problems have been addressed and, to a limited extent, resolved. However, there is no single dominant standard for exchanging database data or repository metadata. The semantic content

and the representation of data, however, have not been adequately addressed to facilitate the transformation of interchanged data into intelligible and useful information.

Implementation of many metadata registries based upon ISO/IEC 11179 is providing requirements for current projects and anticipated projects to extend the support facilities. This work provides a capability to facilitate cross-sector metadata sharing.

Frustrating progress in many search standardization efforts is the lack of a process for handling multiple overlapping semantic domains. Such domains range from low-level programming constructs, through structured meta-data elements, and into linguistic regimes such as thesauri and semantic networks. There have been many efforts over the years to address these problems, and efforts are ongoing still. The IRDS Naming and Thesaurus project provides a standard meta-data repository structure for naming objects and recording, the structure of their names.

Although the current state of understanding and technology may not be adequate to address all of these problem areas, it should be possible to improve the situation within a sufficiently constrained problem space such as Global Information Locator Service (GILS). The GILS semantic problem is focused specifically on the search service interface at the server side of a client/server interface. The relevant semantic domains are only those that are commonly used in locating information resources, which is a tiny subset of the full array of possible resource characteristics. Thus, a key goal of SC 32 should be to provide interoperability for tools that manipulate meta-data and repositories.

Market demand for SQL database products remains strong, with a clear market need for advanced SQL multimedia standards and products. The work of SC 32 in these areas are particularly importing in defining the standards that industry will implement to satisfy the strong market demand.

Market demand of EDI products remains strong, and standards for EDI functions are necessary to facilitate this demand. The SC 32 work related to Open edi work is and integral part of the international EDI standardization activity.

2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

Completion of Parts 1 and 2 of ISO/IEC 11179 is near

14.17.01.00.00	Information technology - Specification and standardization of data elements - Part 1: Framework for the specification and standardization of data elements ISO/IEC CD 11179-1 <i>Target Dates</i> FCD 1998.11 FDIS 1999.03 IS 1999.06
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Completion of Part 3 of ISO/IEC 13238 is near:

58.03.00.00.00 Information Technology – Data Management
Export/Import Facilities – Part 3: Export/Import Facilities
for IRDS
ISO/IEC DIS 13238-3.2
Target date
IS 98.07

The following two projects completed FCD balloting:

14.17.02.00.00 Information Technology - Specification and
standardization of data elements - Part 2: Classification
for data elements
ISO/IEC FCD 11179-2
Target Dates
FDIS 1998.09
IS 1998.12

63.00.00.00.00 Information Technology - Conceptual Schema Modelling
Facilities
ISO/IEC FCD 14481
Target Dates
FDIS 1999.05
IS 1999.08

The following project is completing FCD balloting:

03.04.03.00.00 Information Technology - Database Language SQL -
Part 3: Call-Level Interface (for SQL 3)
ISO/IEC FCD 9075-3
Target Dates:
FCD 1998.09
FDIS 1999.08
IS 1999.12

Major editing has been completed for the following four projects to complete the FCD processing.

03.04.01.00.00	Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 1: Framework (for SQL 3) ISO/IEC FCD 9075-1 <i>Target Dates:</i> FDIS 1999.03 IS 1999.03
03.04.02.00.00	Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 2: Foundation (for SQL 3) ISO/IEC FCD 9075-2 <i>Target Dates:</i> FDIS 1999.03 IS 1999.03
03.04.04.00.00	Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 4: Persistent Stored Modules (for SQL 3) ISO/IEC FCD 9075-4 <i>Target Dates:</i> FDIS 1999.03 IS 1999.03
03.04.05.00.00	Information Technology - Database Language SQL - Part 5: Language Bindings (for SQL 3) ISO/IEC FCD 9075-5 <i>Target Dates:</i> FDIS 1999.03 IS 1999.03

2.3 RESOURCES

Adequate resources are available for all projects. Conveners have come forward for each of the newly formed WGs. The SC Secretariat was transferred to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who operates SC 32 on behalf of ANSI. The committee now has a permanent chairman, Mr. Bruce Bargmeyer.

3.0 FOCUS NEXT WORK PERIOD

SC 32 has refined its program of work to ensure that it is focusing on those standards that will meet market requirements. SC 32 plans to continue to focus on developing standards for SQL/MM, Open edi and data semantics. SQL work is expected to be particularly active. During the next period, four parts of ISO/IEC 9075 (SQL 3) are expected to be completed through the IS stage, another part of ISO/IEC 9075 will initiate FCD and significant progress on other parts is also expected. In addition a new project for another part of 9075 is anticipated to be initiated. The metadata registry market is becoming active with implementations of ISO/IEC 11179. The February 1999 SC 32/WG 2 meeting will include an Open Forum to describe the current ISO/IEC 11179 standards and implementations while gathering information and requirements for the metadata registry study period.

3.1 DELIVERABLES:

See section 1.2 for those projects with upcoming target dates.

3.2 STRATEGIES:

SC 32 will focus on progressing its program of work as quickly and efficiently as possible. It is important that the committee keep its focus on meeting market requirements, and emphasize new projects that have well-defined, concrete objectives that are market driven.

3.2.1 RISKS

SC 32 is the result of JTC 1 creating a new Technical Direction on Data Management and Interchange, and is a combination of three committees with different traditions, work programs and personalities. Each of these three groups had their own priorities, and different strategies for achieving their objectives. The first major meeting for SC 32 in June-July 1998, however, was able to make considerable progress in formulating a new working structure, scope and title, as well as identify and begin establishing critical inter- and intra-group understanding and liaisons. At the June-July meeting, the group worked cooperatively, and was able to satisfy all the constituent interests. The subcommittee has set a period at the future meetings for each working group to provide tutorials on their activities for the other working groups.

There is always the risk that new project could be initiated that do not have clear objectives and concrete specifications. If this occurs, SC 32 will dilute its focus and create incentive to produce important standards outside of SC 32 and JTC 1.

If SC 32 does not pursue its work aggressively, risks exist that essential capabilities will not be available in the marketplace to support important functions, or that the marketplace will produce multiple incompatible solutions in areas that common approaches and interoperability are essential to users.

3.2.2 OPPORTUNITIES

The new Technical Direction has the opportunity to utilize the resources of its three constituent bodies to develop standards and advance its program of work more effectively than they could have by working independently. One area where SC 32 standards could have a major impact is electronic commerce. SC 32 has received with interest the report of the Business Team on Electronic Commerce and is making a strong and positive response to it. We will continue to work with the others involved to identify the specific standardization needs and to respond with current and newly proposed standards.

3.3 WORK PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

In order to specify precisely data semantics, users need many aspects of data or information. As various aspects of data are provided, users can narrow down the semantics or meaning of the data gradually. That naturally leads to standardization which covers a very wide range of information processing. High priority, therefore, should be given to the standardization of integrated information processing environment. SC 32 key priority is completing the work that was established in its former committees. The committee has established a priority of educating each working group of the work and ideas of the other work groups. The Brisbane meeting has shown that there is considerable interest in the synergy that can be developed within the committee. The next SC 32 meeting will include tutorials from each work group.