

Interim Report of the SC22 POSIX Advisory Group

This SC22 advisory group was created in the 2004 SC22 plenary meeting (Resolution 04-20) coincident with the disbanding of Working Group 15 (POSIX), and was assigned the work of:

- Monitoring POSIX-related activities
- Recommending to SC 22 in time for the 2005 plenary how:
 - SC 22 can be involved in POSIX-related activities
 - Organizational representation within the Austin Group should be handled
 - Such representation will report to SC 22 on Austin Group activities

The first meeting of the SC22 POSIX Advisory Group was held 10 January, 2005 in Reading, UK, hosted by The Open Group on their premises, and held just prior to the next Austin Group meeting.

Attendees:

- Stephen Walli (Chair)
- John Hill (SC 22 Chair)
- Nick Stoughton (SC 22 Interim Representative to the Austin Group, US)
- Andrew Josey (UK)
- Lois Goldthwaite (UK)
- Don Cragun (IEEE)
- Joanna Farley (UK)
- Mats Wichman (FSG)
- Mark Brown (US)
- Keld Simonsen (Alternate Interim OR)

The Open Group host set up a collaborative website to use to share documents. This is available at: <http://www.opengroup.org/projects/sc22pag>. The agenda (SC22PAG/N0001) was structured to ensure the advisory group understood its scope (SC22PAG/N0002), to understand the present status of the Austin Group work (SC22PAG/N003), to review the list of known SC22/WG15 work items, and develop guidance to the Austin Group OR for the subsequent Austin Group meeting. A set of recommendations from the SC22PAG to SC22 was developed through the meeting.

Recommendations (from SC22PAG/N0004):

1. Recommends that Nick Stoughton be appointed as Organizational Representative from SC 22 to the Austin Group, with Keld Simonsen as alternate.
2. Advises SC22 of possible overlap in scope between the work of the Austin Group and that of WG14 (C Libraries), WG21 (C++ multi-thread memory models) and the I18NRG (I18N issues [POSIX Locales, WG 20 Locales, C Locales, C++ Locales etc, and character set issues]). See recommendation 11 for further details.
3. Requests that the SC 22 Chair ask ITTF about the packaging status of the four parts of 9945, which should constitute a single standard, possibly published in four volumes.
4. Recommends that the Project Editor for any document should continue to be the primary mechanism by which new versions of any specification should be forwarded to SC 22 for approval.
5. Advises SC 22 that the existing procedures (see SC 22 N3486) used to jointly develop and maintain specifications within the Austin Group are sufficient.

6. Nominates Andrew Josey (UK) to be the project editor for 22.21.04.01.01 (POSIX, 9945 parts I-IV), and notes that the UK delegation present at the PAG meeting were willing to provide National Body support for this nomination.
7. Advises SC 22 of the following POSIX related projects that were formerly under the scope of WG 15, and makes recommendations as follows:

22.21.03.04 15068-2 POSIX System Administration - Software Admin
This project (and its published standard) has been administratively withdrawn by the IEEE, and PAG recommends that JTC 1 withdraws the ISO version.
22.21.04.01.01 9945 POSIX
This is the document under development within the Austin Group, and the project editor should be updated as described in Recommendation 6
22.21.04.02 14519 POSIX Ada Binding
PAG Recommends that the Project Editor continues to maintain this document (see also Recommendation 4)
22.37 13210 POSIX Test Methods
PAG Recommends that the Project Editor continues to maintain this document (see also Recommendation 4)
22.38 TR 14252 POSIX Guide (a.k.a. POSIX.0)
This project (and its published standard) has been administratively withdrawn by the IEEE, and PAG recommends that JTC 1 withdraws the ISO version.
22.14515-1.01 14515-1 POSIX.1 Test Methods
This spec is the subject of a current letter ballot within SC 22, and cannot be commented on.
22.14515-1.02 14515-1 Realtime Test Methods
FDAM 1 Believe that this document is ready to be withdrawn, but recommends that the project editor should be contacted for current status update.
22.14515-2 14515-2 Shell and Utilities Test Methods
Recommends that this specification should be withdrawn at an appropriate time. Should SC 22 decide not to immediately withdraw, the abstract on the ISO store should be updated to indicate that this refers to Test Methods to the 1993 version of the POSIX standard (now superseded).
22.14766 TR 14766 National Profiles
Project previously canceled by ITTF because of non progress. The PAG notes that the Project Editor is considering requesting a new work item to restart this work.
22.15287 15287
POSIX.13 work
22.15287.02 15287-2 POSIX Realtime Application Support
This specification is the subject of a current letter ballot within SC 22, and cannot be commented on. Should the letter ballot recommend continuation of this work, PAG nominates M. Gonzalez (Spain) as project editor. ACTION Chair to contact Mr Gonzalez to ask him if he is willing to act in this role.

22.15287.02.01 15287-2AM1
Recommends this project be canceled.
22.15287.02.02 15287-2AM2
Recommends this project be canceled.
22.15287.01 15287-1 Supercomputing Profile
Recommends this project be canceled.
22.18011 18011 Realtime Distributed Systems
Recommend that this project be canceled.
22.21.02.03 9945
This work is now incorporated into the revised 9945 standard, and the PAG recommends that the project be canceled (and the resources reassigned to work with the Austin Group).
22.21.03.01 Umbrella WI
Already canceled.
22.15879 15879 DCE-RPC Software Admin Interoperability
Recommend that this specification be withdrawn.
22.21.03.05 15068-3 User Administration
Recommend that this project be canceled.
22.39 9945-1AM5 POSIX.1a
This work is now incorporated into the revised 9945 standard, and the PAG recommends that the project be canceled (and the resources reassigned to work with the Austin Group).
22.40 9945-1AM8 POSIX.1d
This work is now incorporated into the revised 9945 standard, and the PAG recommends that the project be canceled (and the resources reassigned to work with the Austin Group).
22.41(**) 9945-2AM2 POSIX.2b
This work is now incorporated into the revised 9945 standard, and the PAG recommends that the project be canceled (and the resources reassigned to work with the Austin Group).
22.42(*) 9945-1AMx POSIX.1e Security Extensions
PAG Recommends that this project be canceled.
22.43(**) 9945-2AM3 POSIX.2c Security Extensions
PAG Recommends that this project be canceled.
22.21.01.03.01(*) POSIX.8 Transparent File Access
PAG Recommends that this project be canceled.
22.21.01.03.03(*) POSIX.1g
This work is now incorporated into the revised 9945 standard, and the PAG recommends that the project be canceled (and the resources reassigned to work with the Austin Group).
22.21.04.01.01(*) POSIX.1j

This work is now incorporated into the revised 9945 standard, and the PAG recommends that the project be canceled (and the resources reassigned to work with the Austin Group).	
22.21.02.03(*)	POSIX.2d
This work is now incorporated into the revised 9945 standard, and the PAG recommends that the project be cancelled (and the resources reassigned to work with the Austin Group).	
22.21.01.01(*)	POSIX LIS
PAG Recommends that this project be canceled.	
22.21.03.03(*)	Print Administration
PAG Recommends that this project be canceled.	
(*) These items are not referred to in the SC22 POW, but have been found in other documents. (**) NOTE There is some confusion regarding project numbering for 22.41 and 22.43. For clarification, the PAG assumes that 22.41 refers to the work otherwise known as POSIX.2b, and 22.43 refers to POSIX.2c.	

8. Recommends that all project editors of all surviving projects listed above provide a copy of their document source to Keld Simonsen for archive. PAG further recommends that all project editors of projects canceled as listed above should provide Keld Simonsen a copy of all relevant documents around the canceled project (including any drafts) for archive. *ACTION: NS to request that the Project Editor for 9945 (AJ) provide Keld Simonsen with a copy of the sources for the current standard (including all of the Technical Corrigenda).*
9. Recommends that SC 22 assigns the WG 15 action item regarding the repository for POSIX character maps and locales to the I18NRG.
10. Recommends that SC 22 thank Mr Keld Simonsen for the maintenance of the WG 15 website and email lists. Further, PAG recommends that SC 22 ask Mr. Simonsen to continue to maintain this archive, noting that it is now a disbanded group. PAG thanks Mr Simonsen directly for his untiring efforts in this respect.
11. Recommends that the Austin Group OR should make the following points during the Austin Group meeting, and recommends that SC 22 note any areas of inter WG liaison that may exist:
 - a) The WG 14 "Secure Library" TR is at best mis-named. This document has nothing to do with security, and should probably be called "Additional Library Interfaces". Where there is a function with equivalent functionality in POSIX, then either the WG 14 TR should withdraw the duplicate function, or use the POSIX version without change. The functions *asctime*, *ctime* et al should be deprecated interfaces, and *strftime* function used instead.
 - b) The WG 21 white paper on Memory Models has a bearing on the Aardvark on memory synchronization, and should be considered during that discussion. See <http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2004/n1738.pdf>. OR should request that Austin Group experts engage with WG 21 to review the documents and provide feedback.
 - c) The draft TR on conflicts with Linux Standards Base: where 9945 and 23360 can make accommodations to reduce conflict, they should do so. However, the PAG recommends, and requests the OR to represent, that 9945 not be changed to accommodate 23360 in any form that breaks existing conforming POSIX applications. Where appropriate, 23360 should defer to 9945 (it does).

Next Steps

At this time the group didn't feel the need to plan a next meeting. We have reviewed the WG15 work items and made appropriate recommendations to SC22 through this report. The SC22 OR to the Austin Group will continue to keep the POSIX Advisory Group informed of anything the group needs to consider, or that needs to be brought to the attention of SC22. An email reflector exists for the group to continue discussions as the need arises (sc22pag@opengroup.org). A final report of the SC22 POSIX Advisory Group will be developed closer to the SC22 2005 plenary meeting.