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INCITS Annual Report

Annual Report for: V2 Technical Committee
US TAG to ISO/IEC JTC1 SC35, US TAG to ISO/IEC JTC1
SC35 WG6, WG7 & WG8

Covering the Period from July 2006 to June 2007

Title of INCITS Subgroup: Information Technology Access Interfaces Technical Committee

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Informal Description of Work:

Though V2 is charged with developing national standards for Information Technology Access Interfaces, we believe that our resulting standards will impact how everyone in the world interacts with intelligent devices of all kinds.

The first project of the technical committee has been to develop standards for a Universal Remote Console (URC). This family of standards complements and builds on industry activity in home networking, wireless networking, consumer electronics control and integration, and metadata registries for discovery and interoperation of devices. The Universal Remote Console specification and related standards will enable IT products and services to be more accommodating of the needs and preferences of the consumer by allowing for alternative user interfaces. While addressing the special needs of people with disabilities, the option to change interfaces will have a broader market application. Indeed we believe that these standards will revolutionize how we all, throughout the world, interact with electronics and information technology (E & IT) in the near future.

Also, V2 has taken on international projects on accessibility which are developed under JTC1 SC35.

1. Executive Summary

As of this report, INCITS/V2 has 5 member organizations of record. It has held 24 plenary meetings (4 during the 12 month period of this report), most by teleconference. The committee has developed ISO/IEC FDIS 24752 (5 parts), based on the 5 American National Standards on Universal Remote Console (URC). A V2 member is editor of the international standards. URC Work continues by several organizations on developing prototypes using various technologies. In addition, a consortium has been formed to promote implementations.

INCITS/V2 is also assisting JTC1 SC35 WG6 in the development of accessibility related standards.

2. Significant Accomplishments

During the 12-month period of this report, JTC1 SC35 has approved FCD 24752 (5 parts) and registered as FDIS. FDIS 24752 is currently under JTC1 vote. V2 has provided support for the editor of this IS, Gottfried Zimmermann, who is also IR of V2.

The 5 parts of ISO/IEC 24752 are:

- Part 1: Framework
- Part 2: User Interface Socket Description
- Part 3: Presentation Template
- Part 4: Target Description
- Part 5: Resource Descriptions

Also, V2 has been an active participant in JTC1 SC35 WG6, assisting in the development of accessibility related standards. V2 has provided comments at several votes, which have impacted these international standards.

3. Significant Challenges

Most of the editing work on ISO/IEC 24752 was done prior to the reporting period. Therefore, it was important to focus on retaining and adding to V2 membership. In fact, V2 has lost one member in the reporting period, but also regained one.

Coordination with other organizations and standardization groups is essential, to work towards the adoption of the URC standard through industry and other standard development bodies:

- JTC1 SC25 WG1, SC35 and SC36
- URC Consortium
- Consumer Electronics Association
- Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA)
- Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) Forum
- W3C XForms

4. Expected Challenges

V2 needs to cooperate with organizations that are working towards implementation of the URC standards, or that might reference the URC standards in their work (URC Consortium, CEA R7WG12 Task-Based User Interfaces).

Once the URC standard has been published under JTC1, new requirements may arise for new applications. These will need to be taken into consideration in the maintenance process of ISO/IEC 24752.

JTC1 SC35 has become more active recently in the development of accessibility related standards. It is important that V2 follows this work closely, and makes appropriate resources available. This will also help to foster an active membership within V2.

5. Committee Activities

a. Previous Year's Meetings:

Meeting Number	Date	Location
Plenary #21	8/14/2006	Teleconference
Plenary #22	11/20-21/2006	Gaithersburg, MD
Plenary #23	12/21/2006	Teleconference
Plenary #24	6/21/2007	Teleconference

b. Next Year's Planned Meetings:

Meeting Number	Date	Location
Plenary #25	Around Oct.2007	Teleconference
Plenary #26	Around April 2008	Teleconference

An additional face-to-face plenary meeting may take place.

6. Liaison Activities

External:

1. **URC Consortium** (a formal liaison has been established during the reporting period). The mission of the URC Consortium is to promote and implement Universal Remote Console (URC) standards and support services, facilitating user interfaces that are simple and intuitive to use, including future interface technologies such as task-orientation and natural language interaction. It was founded in the summer of 2005, immediately following publication of the first Universal Remote Console (URC) Standards (ANSI/INCITS 389-2005 through 393-2005).
2. **Consumer Electronics Association.** Based on supporting users with different Human Computer Interface needs and abilities access to home environmental controls, home appliances and home electronics.

3. **W3C/WAI.** Common interest in needs and preferences based selection of services or rendering. Maintain continuing exchange of information through overlapping membership.
4. **UPnP Forum.** Common interest in selection of services or features. We have established a formal liaison with this organization.
5. **ISO/IEC JTC1 SC 36 Learning Technologies.** Based on supporting users with different Human Computer Interface needs and abilities access to learning technologies.
6. **ISO/IEC JTC1 SC 25 WG 1 Home Electronic Systems.** Based on supporting users with different Human Computer Interface needs and abilities access to home environmental controls, home appliances and home electronics.
7. **The Accessibility Working Group Dublin Core Metadata Initiative.** Common interest in the representation of accessibility needs and preferences of individuals and the accommodation capabilities of intelligent devices providing services.

Internal (other INCITS Sub groups):

1. **L8 Metadata.** Coordination and technical support and advice on metadata related specifications used in the URC standards and other projects.
2. **M1 Biometrics.** There is a common interest in the representation of certain human user characteristics.

7. Membership and Officers

a. Officers:

Position (and training date)	Name and organization represented
Chair until 7/2007	Bill LaPlant, Trace Center
Vice Chair until 7/2007, Chair from 7/2007 (2004)	Gregg Vanderheiden, Trace Center
Secretary	Charles Sheppard, NIST
International Representative (7/2007)	Gottfried Zimmermann, Trace Center
Vocabulary Representative	

b. Membership:

This attachment serves as the INCITS subgroup input to the INCITS secretariat to keep their membership database up -to-date. Approximately two and a half months before the INCITS subgroup annual report is due, the INCITS secretariat will provide the INCITS subgroup chair a copy of the data base information for that INCITS subgroup as currently on file in the secretariat. The secretariat and the INCITS subgroup chair will then work together to update the membership information as required to reflect the current situation. Based on this collaboration, the secretariat will provide an updated electronic copy of the membership data to the INCITS subgroup chair for submission with the annual report.

If this information is available on a web site, please include a link instead of providing the full list. [Membership List](#).

8. Future Trends and Related Technical Activities

Even though the URC standards are expected to be published as International Standards within the next reporting period, the main work of dissemination, promotion and implementation still needs to be done. This will take years and needs to happen outside V2. If successful, these standards will be a foundation of more usable user interfaces that are accessible to all.

Some industry trends are encouraging, especially in the area of consumer electronics and the digital home. Companies become increasingly aware of the need for user interfaces that are easy to use. Indicators of this development are the work of CEA R7WG12 on a standard for Task Model Description, and the DLNA Ease-of-Use TAG team (under the DLNA Ecosystem Committee).

There are a growing number of European projects that are looking at the URC standards for implementation of smart home related projects. One example is the [i2home project](#) (“Intuitive Interaction for Everyone with Home Appliances based on Industry Standards”).

Another encouraging development is the growing maturity of voice interaction systems, with or without natural language use. These can be well accommodated within the URC framework.

9. Other Administrative Information

V2 has no funds collection.

V2 has no written procedures for meeting or other committee activities. We use the current INCITS Procedures.