

The Austin Common Standards Revision Project

<http://www.opengroup.org/austin/>

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AGENDA

- About the *Austin Group*
Why are we here? Who are the players, what's new about this?
- Progress to date
- Plans for 1999
Baseline draft 1 contents, sample man pages
- Committee draft development procedures
- Proposed Timeline
- What about In-flight amendments?
- Challenges, Next Meeting

The Project

- A collaboration to develop a replacement for the core POSIX and UNIX specifications
- Participants include IEEE PASC, WG15 and The Open Group.
- The joint group informally known as the “*Austin Group*”

About the Austin Group

- The group has met twice (Sept 1998 and March 1999)
- Developed long scope and editing directions for production of a baseline draft 1.
- Developed an outline schedule and draft document development procedures.
- Working under *JPC* procedures for joint development of standards

An Open Project

- All information is on the World Wide Web
- All interested parties can participate for no fee.
- Participation can be electronic only
- All group documents and meeting minutes are at *<http://www.opengroup.org/austin/>*

The *Players*

- As of April 7th, there are 76 participants on the Austin Group mailing list from a mix of interest groups:
 - Commercial Vendors both large and small
 - Free software suppliers
 - Universities, User groups and Government agencies

The *Players* (Cont'd)

- Apple Computer • Aptest
• AT&T • Bull SA. • BSDI
• Compaq Computer Corporation • Cygnus • DCS Corporation • DKUUG • Florida State University • FreeBSD
• Fujitsu • GTE Laboratories
• Hewlett Packard Company
• International Business Machines, Corporation. • John Hopkins University
- Linux Standard Base • Lockheed Martin • Matchlogic • Microsoft
• MKS/Datafocus • Mount Bonnell Inc. • NetBSD
• Perennial • Raytheon • SCO
• Siemens • Softway Systems Inc. • Sun Microsystems Inc.
• Texas Instruments • The Open Group • The University of Alberta, Canada • The US Department of Defense
• USENIX Association.

The Deliverables

"write once, adopt everywhere"

- The deliverables are to be a set of specifications carrying both the IEEE POSIX designation and The Open Group's CAE Specification designation, and if approved an ISO/IEC designation.
- The set of specifications will replace POSIX 1003.1, POSIX 1003.2 and form the core of the Single UNIX Specification Version 3, with delivery in early 2001.

How does it differ from what we have today?

- The joint specification is targeted more at the programmer and end user rather than the system implementor
- Organization to be based on the Core volumes of the Single UNIX Specification, and to be organized alphabetically, but also to include Rationale

What's new about this?

- This collaboration combines both the industry led efforts and the formal standardization activities into a single initiative.
- This means that the work will be done in a single working group thereby reducing the associated costs

What's new about this? (cont'd)

- The working group is operating using well defined mechanisms for document development which favour timely production of the end result.
- The working group utilizes electronic means for document development and review

Plans for 1999

- Two drafts planned for this year
 - June 1st
 - October 25th
- There will be a six week review period.
- First review meeting scheduled for July.

Baseline Draft 1 Contents

- Start with the three Base CAE volumes updated as follows:
 - terminology changes to match IEEE style (*shall* instead of *will*)
 - Integration of .13 “*slice and dice*” capability
 - Addition of rationale section to individual man pages
 - Introduction of option margin markers for POSIX options

Baseline Draft 1 Contents (Cont'd)

- Removal of obsolescent features and interfaces marked LEGACY
- For interfaces from the C standard , extensions over the C standard will be marked.
- Approved TOG corrigenda and Base WG resolutions included
- UNIX extensions over POSIX are marked
- Detailed changed history

Committee Draft Development Procedures

- 6 Committee drafts planned to develop the set of consensus documents
- Electronic participation, document circulation and review comments/resolution
- Web site for downloading committee drafts
- Reflector for review comments and circulation of change request review reports.

Committee Draft Development Procedures

- Aardvark comment format
- Review meeting at end of each review period
- After review meeting, change request report sent back to the review reflector

Committee Draft Development Procedures

- All rdvk items are considered individually
- Consensus decision reached by review meeting for each rdvk item:
 - Accept
 - Accept as marked below
 - Duplicate
 - Reject
- A rationale recorded with each rdvk for rejected or partial changes

The Timeline

- June 1st 1999 - Draft 1 available
- June 1st - July 13th D1 Review Period
- July 20-22 Review meeting Montreal
Canada
- October 11- Nov 22 D2 Review Period
- December 6 - 10 Review meeting

Timeline Part 2

- January 31st 2000 - D3 available
- Feb 1 - Mar 15 D3 Review
- Mar 27 - 31 Review meeting
- May 15 2000 - D4 available
- May 15 - July 3 D4 Review
- Jul 10 - 15 Review meeting

Timeline Part 3

- Sep 4 2000 D5 available
- Sep 4 - Oct 16 D5 Review
- Oct 23-27 Review meeting
- Nov 30 Sanity draft available
- Dec 1 - Dec 15 Sanity review period
- Jan 5 2001- Technical completion

● Handling *In-flight* Amendments

- Projects completing by 1999-12-31 are in scope
- In-flight amendment projects have a choice
 - ⇒ Complete by 1999-12-31
 - ⇒ Convert to a standalone document
 - ⇒ Lobby the Austin Group to extend the scope for inclusion and prepare a submission

Handling *In-flight* Amendments (Cont'd)

- For projects completing by 1999-12-31
- Since the document being merged into is different to which the amendment was developed against, our editors will need your assistance

Challenges revisited...

- A joint project continues to have some interesting challenges
 - A plan for balloting the final concensus documents needs to be put in place
 - Positive attitude,
 - Timeliness,
 - Fear of the unknown

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be on July 20-22 in Montreal , Canada
- The agenda and logistics information will be available in early June
- We aim to co-locate at the PASC committee if we can be accommodated.
- The meeting will run from 0900 thru 1800 each day including Thursday (possibly later on the Tuesday and Wednesday if needed)

How You Can Help?

- To participate in the *Austin Group*, send email to
 - *austin-group-request@opengroup.org* with the word *subscribe* in the subject line
- Participate in future meetings
- Help our editors , by taking on work items and responding to questions sent to the reflector
- Fund or volunteer to take on additional work needed for production of the XRAT volume