
Austin Group

Status Update February 2006

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

Summary

- ❑ The Austin Group
- ❑ JDOCS Procedures
- ❑ Participation
- ❑ Draft Development Methodology
- ❑ Maintenance Procedures
- ❑ Plenary Meeting Goals
- ❑ Plenary Meeting Deliverables

The *Austin Group*

- ❑ The Austin Common Standards Revision Group
- ❑ An open industry initiative to revise the core *POSIX standard* and the *Single UNIX Specification*; standards that lie at the heart of today's open systems
- ❑ Chair and editors from The Open Group

The *Austin Group*

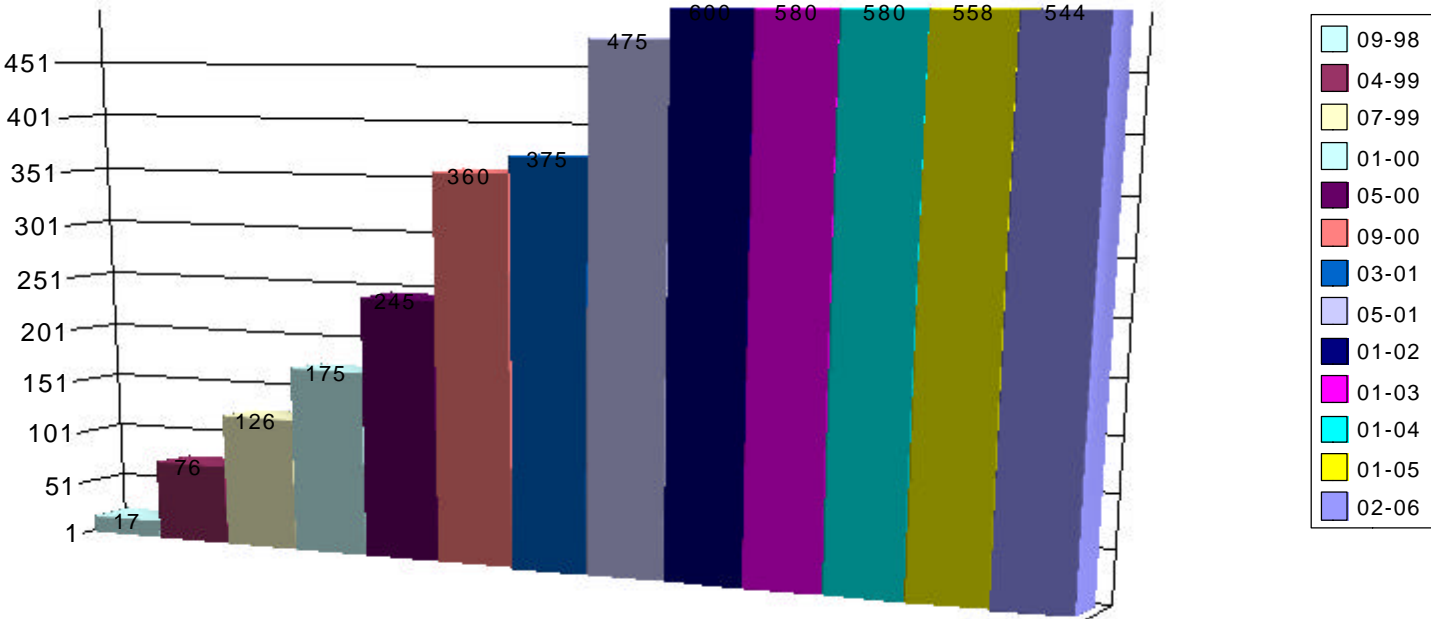
- ❑ Electronic participation
- ❑ Participation in the group is free
- ❑ Deliverables:
 - IEEE Std 1003.1 (POSIX.1) (incl former 1003.2)
 - The Open Group Base Specifications Issue 6
 - ISO/IEC 9945
 - (they are the same document!)

About the *Austin Group*

- 544 Participants (mailing list members as of February 2006)
 - *Note the trend slightly downwards*
- Wide industry support,
 - *AT&T, HP, IBM, Lucent, Microsoft, Red Hat, SGI, Siemens, Sun,*
 - *DoD, USENIX*
- Participation in the *Austin Group* from the Open Source community includes
 - *The Linux Standard Base, NetBSD, FreeBSD, GNU and many others.*

Participation

of Members of the Austin Group Mailing List



JDOCS Procedures

- ❑ The Austin Group operates under the JDOCS procedures
- ❑ Procedures *approved* by the three organizations
 - IEEE PASC
 - The Open Group
 - ISO SC22
- ❑ Officers
 - Chair
 - Three organizational Reps (Ors)

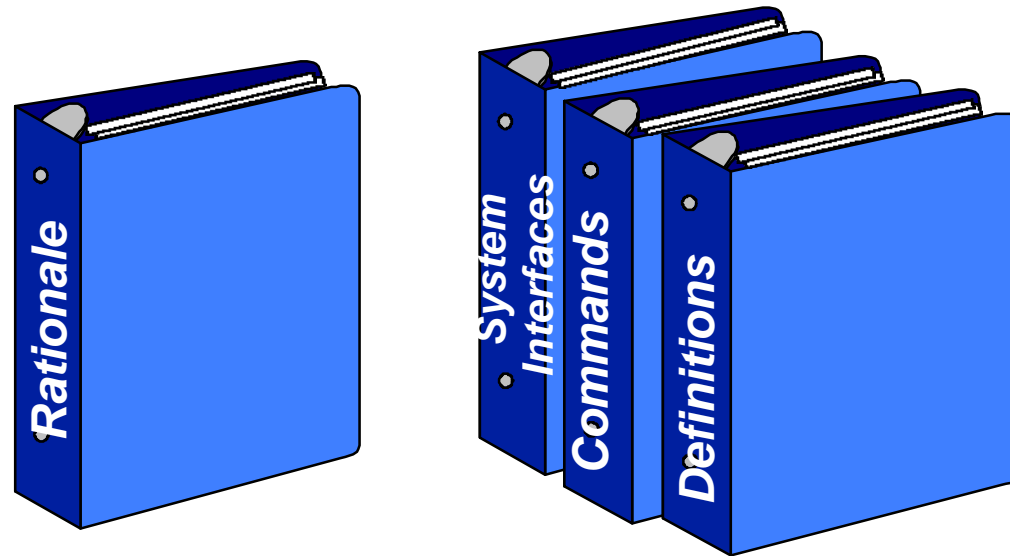
Original Objectives

- ❑ To target the joint specification at the programmer / user rather than the system implementer
- ❑ Organization based on the Core volumes of the Single UNIX Specification, organized alphabetically, and including Rationale
- ❑ To produce a new standard in year 2001.

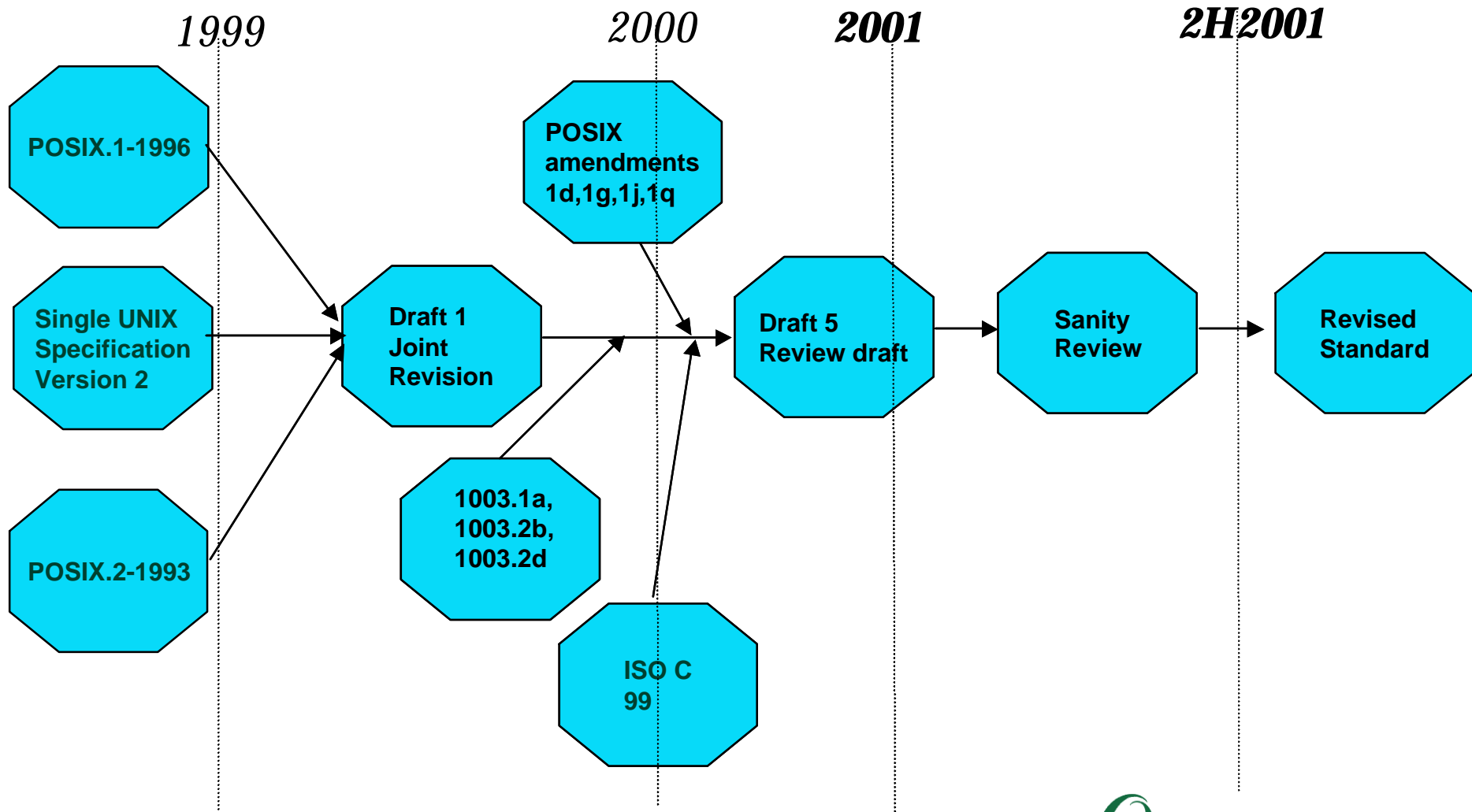
Scope of the revision

- ❑ Production of a single document to be adopted by multiple parties
- ❑ Minimize the number of changes required to implementations of earlier versions of the Base documents for the revision
- ❑ Limit new work items to those related to integration and consistency, resolving any conflicts
- ❑ Alignment with the ISO C 1999 standard

Document Set

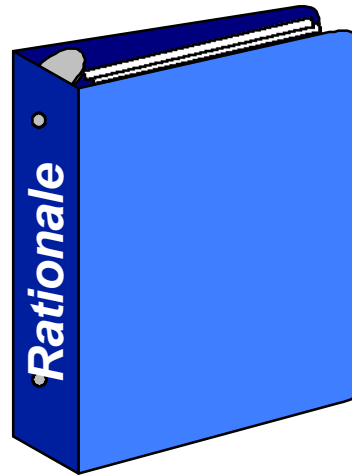


Roadmap



The New Common Specification

THE *Open* GROUP



IEEE Std 1003.1,

ISO/IEC 9945

The Open Group Base
Specifications Issue 6

THE *Open* GROUP

Approvals Status

- ❑ The Open Group September 12th 2001
- ❑ IEEE December 6th 2001
- ❑ ISO/IEC 9945:2002 Parts 1 thru 4, November 2002
- ❑ Published in hardcopy (3700 pages, 9kg!!), electronic and CDROM

THE *Open* GROUP



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Technical Corrigendum 1

- ❑ IEEE December 2002
- ❑ The Open Group February 2003
- ❑ *2003 Edition of Specifications published March 31st 2003*
- ❑ *ISO/IEC 9945:2003 August 2003*

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Technical Corrigendum 2

- ❑ The Open Group December 2003
- ❑ IEEE February 2004
- ❑ *2004 Edition of Specifications to be published April 30th 2004*
 - *IEEE Std 1003.1, 2004 Edition*
- ❑ *ISO Technical Corrigenda approved in Sep 2004*

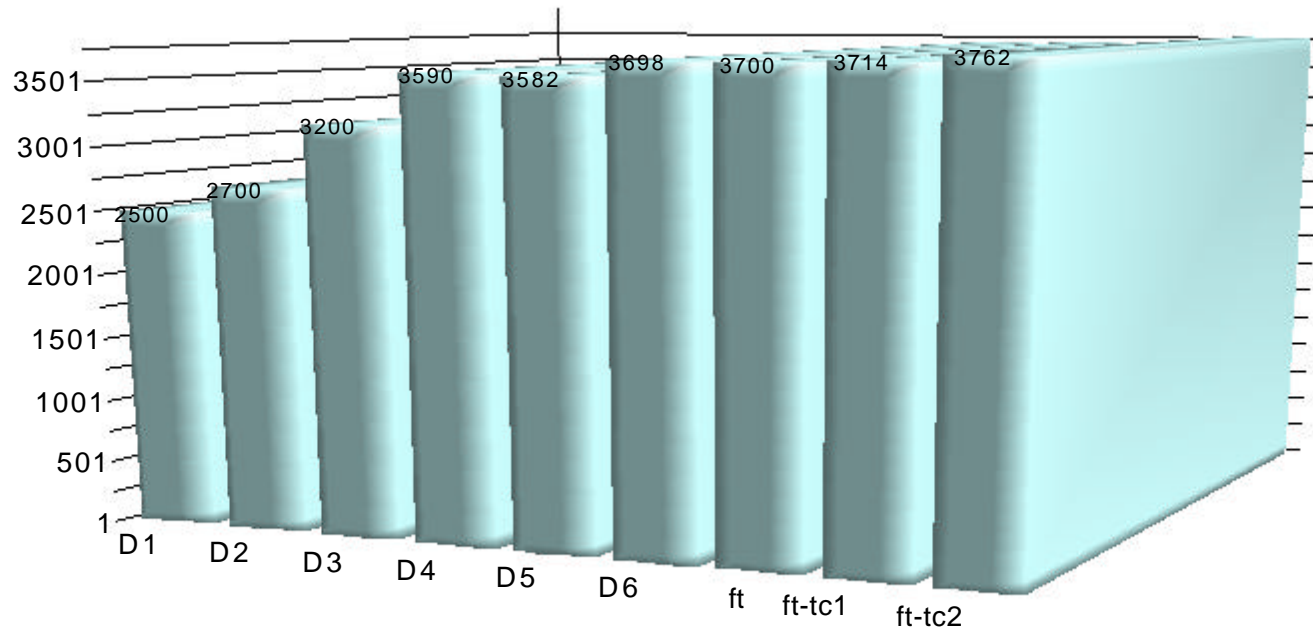
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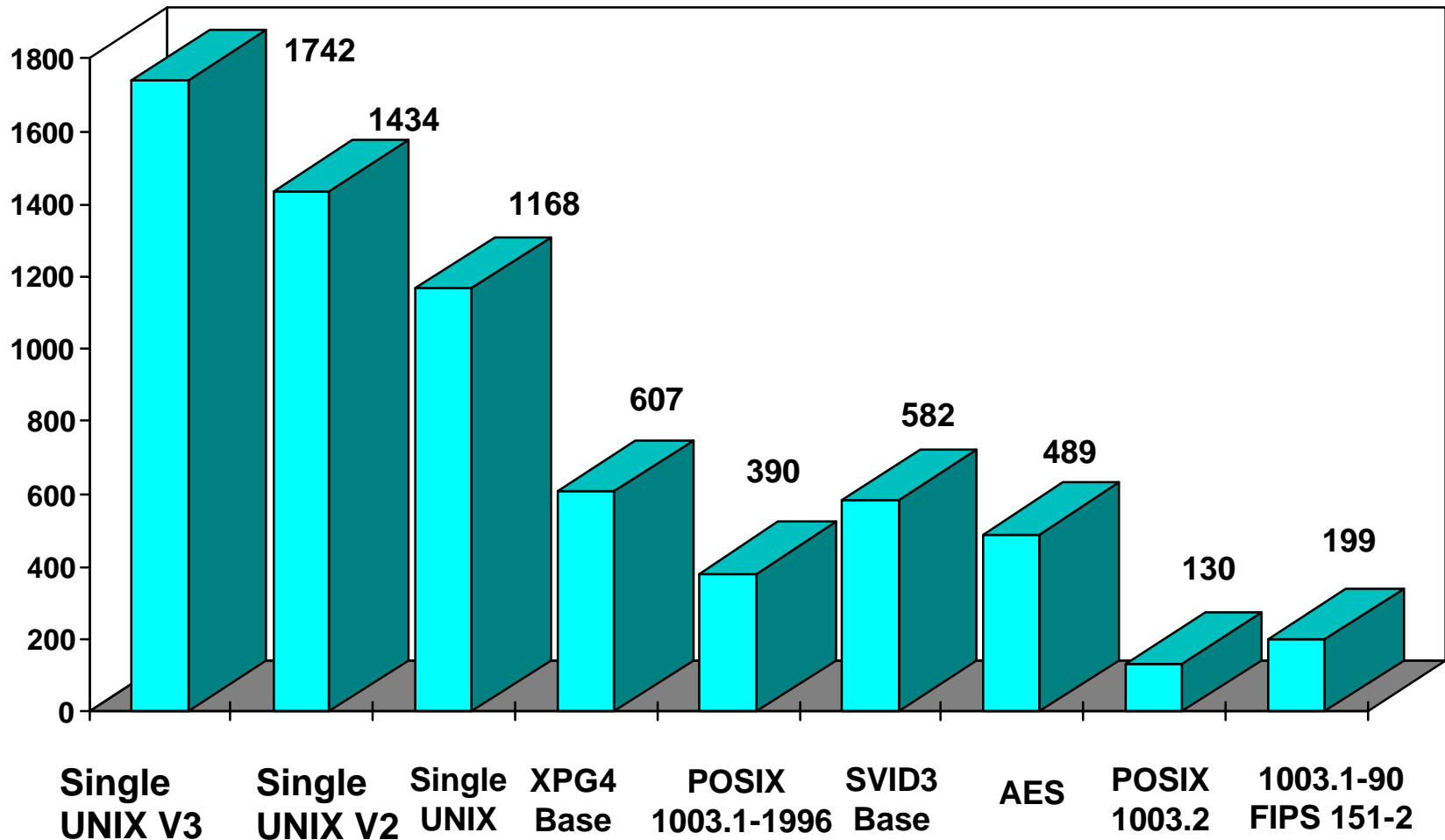
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Page Count

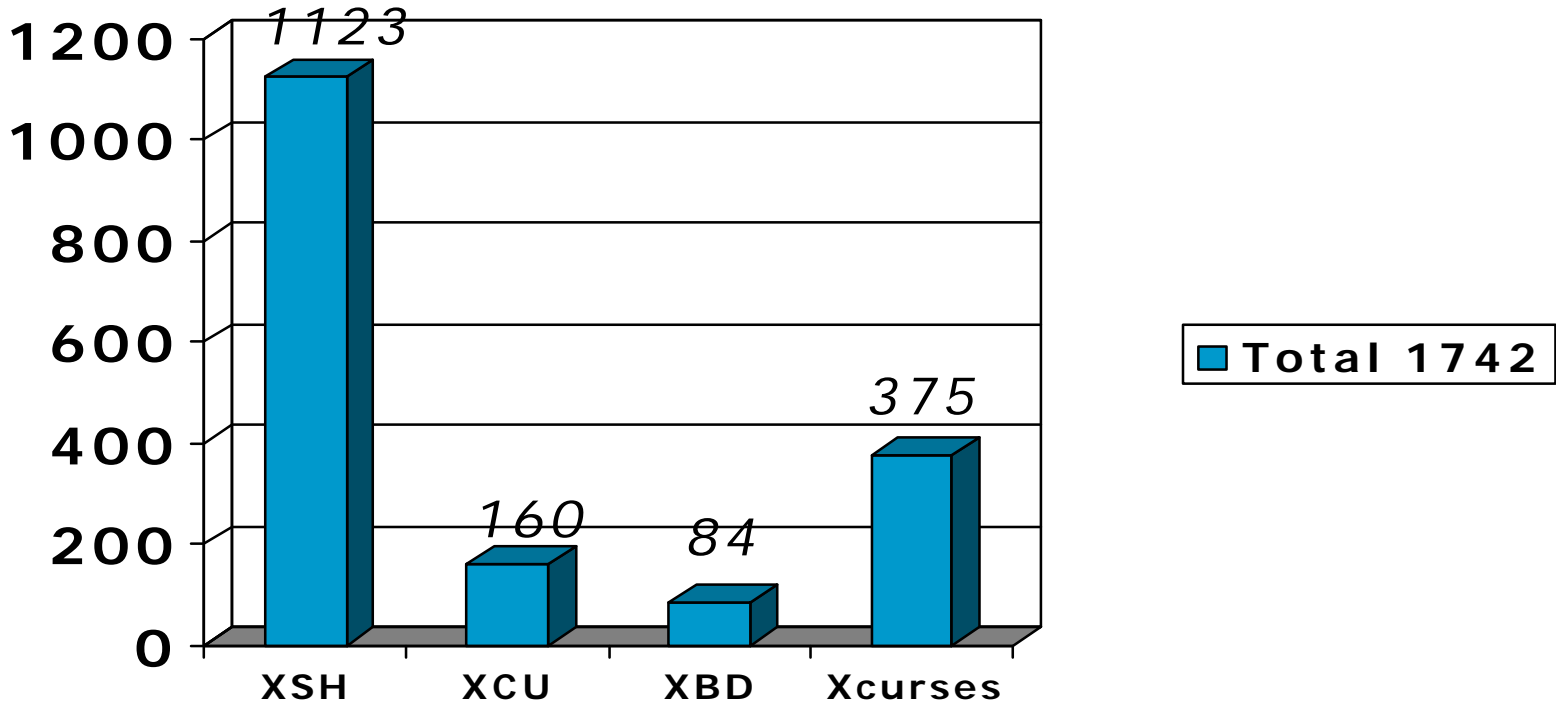
Draft Page count



Portability Functions



Interface Count



Formal Standards Alignment

- ❑ IEEE Std 1003.1, 2004 Edition (POSIX.1)
- ❑ ISO/IEC 9945:2003 (ISO-POSIX) + ISO TC1
 - The Base Specifications Issue 6 is technically identical to POSIX.1 and ISO-POSIX, they are all one and the same document
- ❑ ISO/IEC 9899:1999, Programming Languages – C (ISO C)

Documentation Grants

- ❑ Linux Man pages project
- ❑ FreeBSD Project
- ❑ NetBSD project
- ❑ Heirloom Toolkit and other tools (Gunnar Ritter)
- ❑ Joerg Schilling pax and find
- ❑ Jens Schweikhardt Book

Firefox Search Plugin

- ❑ Add the Austin Group specification to your Firefox Search or Mozilla Search Sidebar
- ❑ <http://mycroft.mozdev.org/download.html?name=unix.org&submitform=Search>

Draft Development Methodology

Aardvark “The bug eater”

- ❑ *A formal commenting format*
- ❑ *Used to collect written comments on specific review documents.*
- ❑ *Phrased in terms of specific wording changes.*
- ❑ *Bugs submitted in this way can then be more easily discussed at relevant working group meetings, or voted on by email.*

Aardvark Classifications

❑ Objections

- *If you would vote against approval of the submission if that issue is not resolved*

❑ Comments

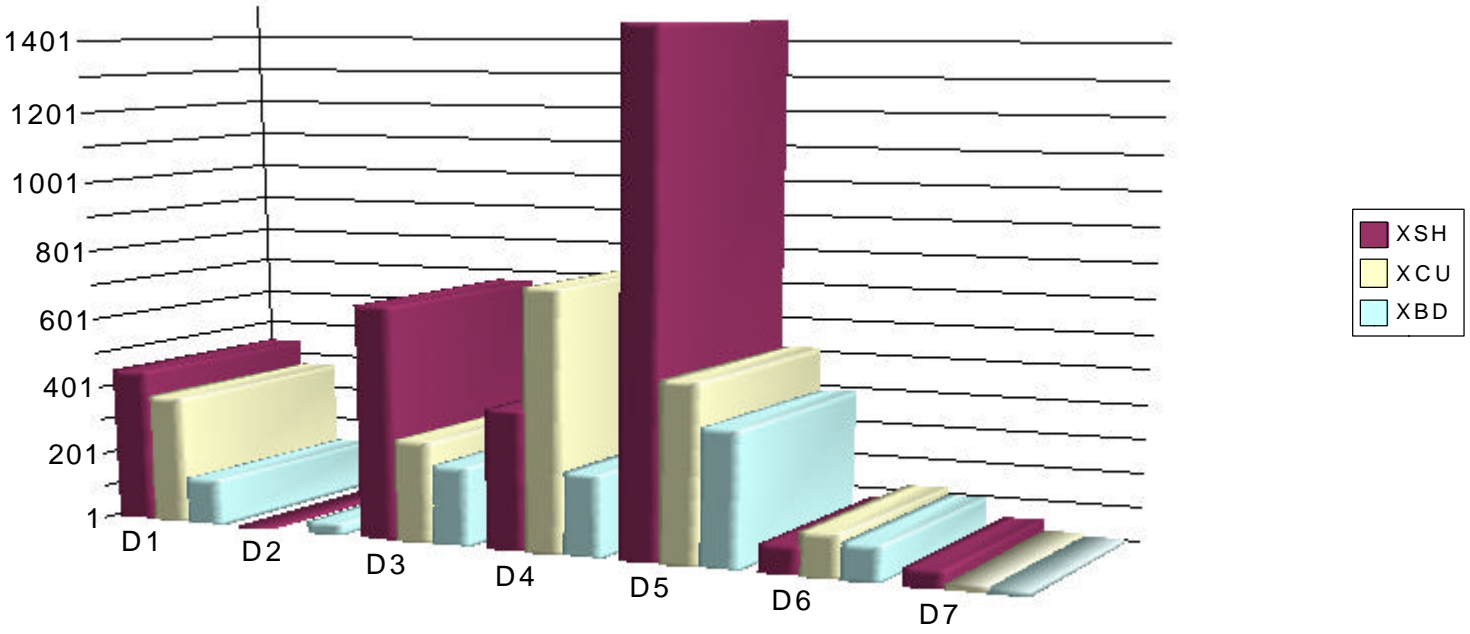
- *Where you believe a better solution is available, but the issue would not cause you to vote no*

❑ Editorials

- *Not discussed at the meeting unless the editors wish to*

Aardvark Totals (D1-D7)

Aardvark counts



Pro-forma Responses

- ❑ R1.Reject: The requirement is from a base document and to change it is out of scope. Bringing it in scope would require an interpretation, corrigenda or resolution from the appropriate body.
- ❑ R2. Reject: this interface is not a candidate for Legacy, the list of Legacy interfaces was considered in March 1999 and is now final. It is widely used in historic practise and deprecating this interface would break the contract with the application developer.
- ❑ R3. Reject: we cannot see the problem at the referenced lines, as such this comment is non-responsive.
- ❑ R4: Reject: no action is specified in the aardvark comment.
- ❑ R5: Reject; The review team disagrees with the problem statement because.. ... {further rationale needed}
- ❑ R6: Reject: The review team believes that accepting the proposed change would decrease consensus.

Balloting

- ❑ Committee draft balloting
- ❑ Concurrent IEEE and ISO balloting
- ❑ The Open Group company review ballot
- ❑ Recirculation ballots
- ❑ TC ballot processes

Draft Maintenance Procedures

- ❑ See Austin/112r2
- ❑ Aardvark defect reports are generated and accepted
- ❑ Production of responses to aardvark defect reports including
 - technical corrigenda
 - interpretations
- ❑ A policy on new work items proposed for a future revision.

Scope of Technical Corrigenda Changes

- ❑ a. In scope of the original project.
http://www.opengroup.org/austin/docs/austin_9r6.txt
- ❑ b. Non-controversial (a TC is intended to pass ballot at the first attempt)
- ❑ c. No new APIs (functions/utilities), however it may add enumeration symbol and non-function #defines and reserve additional namespaces.
- ❑ d. Typical use to fix contradictions in the standard, add consistency between the standard and overriding standards, and to fix security-related problems

Interpretations Process

- ❑ An interpretation does not change the meaning of the standard.
- ❑ Notes to the editor (not part of the formal interpretation) are expected to be considered in the next revision of the standard.
- ❑ An interpretation may be controversial.
- ❑ There are formal rules for the interpretations process, and proforma guidelines for responses

New Work Items

- ❑ From time to time, an aardvark defect report may propose new work items that are outside the scope of maintenance
- ❑ The Austin Group is not a development body for new material apart from integration issues arising from the merger of the approved standards that were the Base documents into the revision.

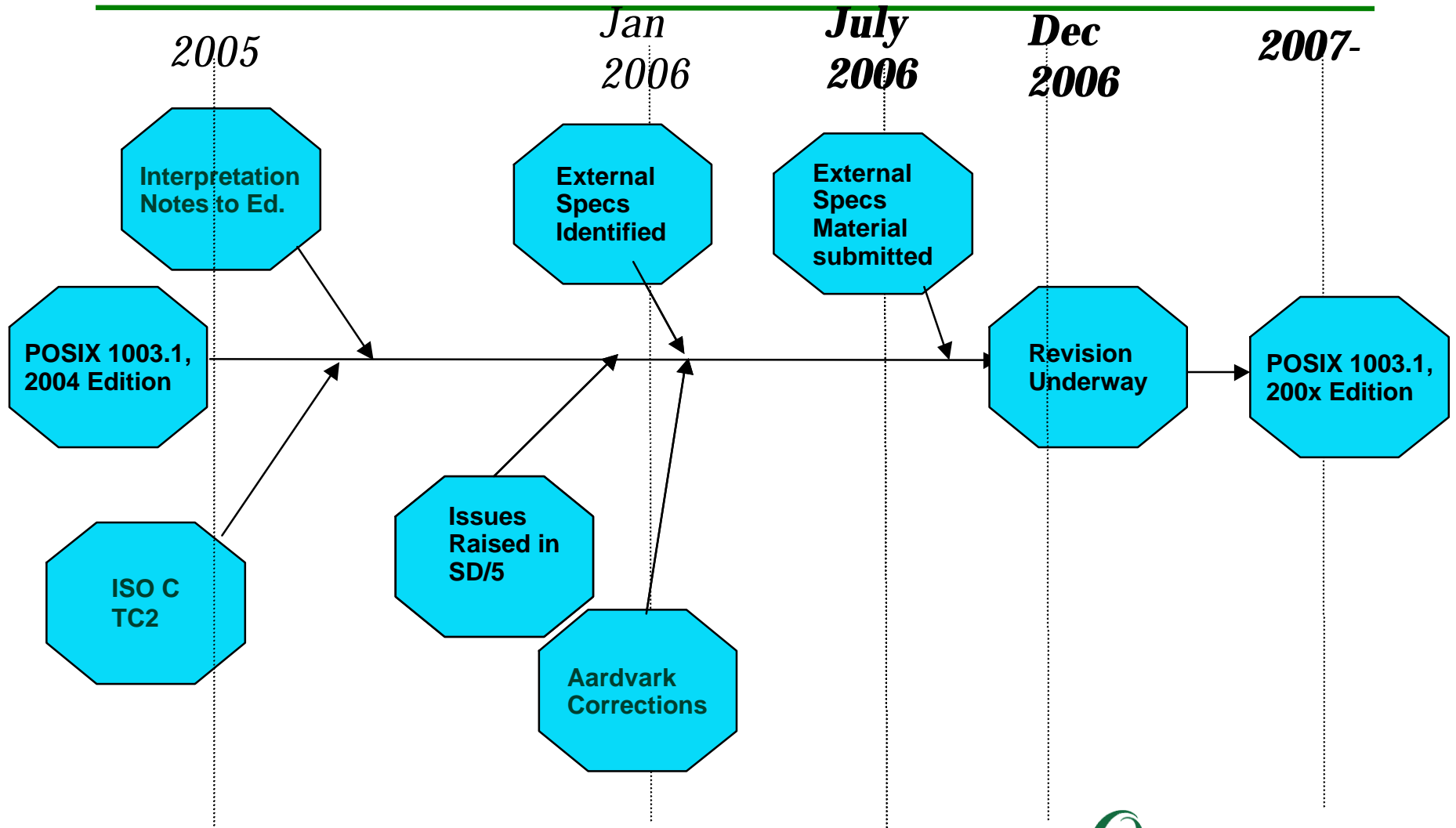
Criteria for New Work Items

- ❑ 1. A written specification must exist that has undergone a formal consensus based approval process and is suitable for inclusion.
- ❑ 2. There must be an implementation, preferably a reference implementation.
- ❑ 3. The specification must be "sponsored" by one of three organizations (The Open Group, IEEE, SC22) within the Austin Group,
- ❑ 4. Submitters must provide an outline plan of the editing instructions to merge the document with the Austin Group specifications

Plenary Meeting Goals

- To put together the work plan for the next revision of the joint standard. Initial topic areas:
 - Outstanding defect reports and Interpretation Requests that may require changes to the standard not permitted through the TC Process (see document Austin/SD5).
 - New interfaces being submitted through The Open Group (the "strawman" interfaces documents) and from other parties.
 - Possible areas where alignment with IS 23360 can be improved.

Austin Group *Draft* Roadmap



Plenary Deliverables

- ❑ Timeline Plan to next Revision
- ❑ Revised Objectives Statement
- ❑ Revised Scope Statement
- ❑ Draft IEEE PAR

Strawman *Revision Objectives*

- ❑ To continue to target the joint specification at the programmer / user rather than the system implementer
- ❑ Organization based on the Austin Group 2004 Edition
- ❑ To update the specification to reflect current existing practice
- ❑ To produce a new standard in year 2008.

Strawman **Scope for the next revision**

- ❑ Production of a single document to be adopted by multiple parties
- ❑ Minimize the number of changes required to implementations of earlier versions of the Base documents for the revision
- ❑ ...
- ❑ Alignment with the ISO C 1999 standard

Further Information

- ❑ The Austin Group
 - *<http://www.opengroup.org/austin>*
- ❑ *The IEEE PASC Web Site*
 - *<http://www.pasc.org>*
- ❑ *The Single UNIX Specification*
 - *<http://www.UNIX-systems.org>*

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
- ❑ Visit the web site
 - *<http://www.opengroup.org/austin/>*