

Telecommunications and Information Exchange Between Systems

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6

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Liaison to ISO/TC 215 concerning NWIPs ISO/TC 215/SC WG3 N 679 and N 680

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6/WG 9 meeting jointly with ITU-T SG 17 Q12 in Tokyo (1-5 May 2009) has noted the above NWIPs concerning management of object identifiers within e-health and an XML exchange format for registries containing allocated object identifiers with their associated meta-data.

We have also noted that:

While in Edinburgh for the TC 215 meetings on 30 April 2009, TC 215 voted on resolution #26 as presented by Work Group 3 Semantic content:

Resolved that ISO/TC 215 provides guidance on the process for liaison with ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6, ITU-T SG17 and ISO/TC 54 regarding the following work items currently out for NP ballot, if the ballots are approved:

ISO/NP 13581: Health informatics: Guidance for maintenance of object identifiers

ISO/NP 13582: Health informatics: Communication model and XML interface specification for OID registries

We would welcome close collaboration with both these pieces of work, but have a number of comments:

1) We believe that the last part of the title should make it clear that these are not generic standards related to the general use of object identifiers (which would be in our purview to produce), but are rather guidance and interchange format for use in e-health. We would appreciate it if you would consider changing the last part of the titles to "Guidance for maintenance of e-health object identifiers" and "Communication model and XML-interface specification for e-health OID registries". This would avoid any misunderstanding.

2) Whilst it is perfectly appropriate for you or any other application area to develop guidance on the way that object identifiers are used in your area, and a proliferation of such Technical Reports in different areas could be expected, the same is **not** true for the interchange format. It would be highly desirable for there to be a single world-wide standard for such interchange, to permit full interworking between different organizations. Thus we would like to strongly propose that the close liaison that you envisage should be strengthened to an agreement to work with you on common text, to be published by you as an ISO Technical Specification, and by SG 17 as an ITU-T Recommendation. We have considerable experience in producing common text between an ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC (JTC 1/SC 6) and ITU-T (ITU-T SG 17). In this case the procedures for the collaboration are fully documented in Annex K to the JTC 1 Directives which is freely accessible at:

<http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink/fetch/2000/2489/186491/186605/customview.html?func=ll&objId=186605&objAction=browse&sort=subtype>

and we would recommend that TC 215 agree to identical procedures for the collaborative team that would produce the common text.

3) We also believe that any interface specification should include both XML and binary encoding options, which is most easily achieved by the use of ASN.1 to define the exchange format.

4) If you agree to making this common text, then we would suggest a main body that is fully generic and can be used by anybody, with an Annex (normative in your TS and informative or missing in our Recommendation) that contains any material that is specific to e-health.

5) On a minor point, we have corresponded with the Chair of TC 54 (which is mentioned in your Resolution), and they have nothing to do with object identifiers. We wondered if it was a typo for TC 154, but they also do not seem to have any involvement in this area.