

Telecommunications and Information Exchange Between Systems

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6

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Liaison statement (for information) to ITU-T SG16 from the joint meeting of ITU-T SG17 Q.10/17 (ASN.1) and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6/WG 9

This Liaison Statement is related to document COM 16-TD 736 (WP2) from the previous Study Period, entitled "Reply LS (via email) on information on the status of EXI and XML Schema 1.1."

We recommend that SG16 adopt Fast Infoset for the purpose of efficiently encoding XML data. Fast Infoset (Rec. ITU-T X.891 | ISO/IEC 24824-1) was jointly developed by ITU-T SG 17 and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6, and was published in 2005.

One of the design goals of Fast Infoset was to optimize the encoding/decoding speed, the size of the encodings, and the ease of implementation. Fast Infoset is a high-quality standard, with several implementations (both commercial and open-source) available today for different languages and computing platforms. There has also been a public interoperability testing initiative which has demonstrated excellent interoperability among the existing implementations.

It is worth noting that Fast Infoset was chosen by the Web3D Consortium and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 24 as the standard format for the compact encoding of three-dimensional scenes (ISO/IEC 19776-3, "Information technology – Computer graphics, image processing and environmental data representation – Extensible 3D (X3D) encodings – Part 3: Compressed binary encoding"). This X3D standard takes advantage of the ability to specify external dictionaries in Fast Infoset, which are particularly beneficial when there is a known set of XML element/attribute names, uniform resource identifiers, and other long character strings that occur frequently in instance documents. We believe that SG 16 could also take advantage of this feature to further reduce the size and processing time of encoded XML data in the Advanced Multimedia System.

Also note that Fast Infoset does not depend on XML Schema and can be used to encode any XML infoset whether or not it conforms (or is intended to conform) to a schema.

In summary, Fast Infoset is a proven standard, developed within the ITU-T, and available today. We believe it meets the requirements of the Advanced Multimedia System for a compact encoding of XML data.

For more information on Fast Infoset, see: <http://asn1.elibel.tm.fr/en/xml/finf.htm>