

From the Chairman of the MUMPS Development Committee

Around Christmas of last year, I received the most wonderful e-mail from the MTA office:

From: MVB::"PICCONE.DON@FORUM.VA.GOV" 21-DEC-1995 11:05:12.68
 To: FWVA::demoel
 Subj: NEW M[UMPS] LANGUAGE STANDARD

Spread the Word!

On December 8, 1995, the American National Standards Institute approved, as an American National Standard, ANSI/MDC X11.1-1995, Programming Language M[UMPS] (revision of ANSI/MDC X11.1-1990).

It was the nicest professional Christmas present I had received in years!

So far, this sounds great. However, ANSI has informed us that Mr. Heffernan has announced that he will appeal the acceptance of X11.1 and X11.2 on the basis of "lack of due process." Since no technical modifications have been proposed in the course of the canvass process, the text of the standards, once formally accepted, will not differ from the draft documents that were circulated during 1994/1995. The MTA is currently working on the production of the official publication of X11.1 Programming Language M.

At this point in time, I know nothing more than that Mr. Heffernan has announced his intent to file appeals. If and when he supplies any additional information, ANSI will let us know. ANSI did tell us that it is likely there will be an appeals hearing in April 1996.

This means that, at this moment, we have 5 ANSI standards:

- X11.1 8 December 1995
M[UMPS] Language standard (suspended)
 - X11.2 11 December 1995 Open
M[UMPS] Interconnect (suspended)
 - X11.3 14 November 1994 M[UMPS] - GKS Binding
 - X11.4 12 June 1995 M[UMPS] - X Window System
Binding
 - X11.6 27 October 1995 M[UMPS] Windowing
Application Programmer's Interface
- The number X11.5 is still reserved for the M[UMPS] -

TCP/IP Binding (although the final name of this document will probably be the M[UMPS] Sockets Binding).

The various articles and columns in this journal have described the importance of the various standards documents in the past, so I will only itemize a small number of the important capabilities here:

- Transaction Processing
- MERGE command
- Reverse \$ORDER
- SETable \$X and \$Y
- Access to Routine directory and Global
- Variable directory
- Protocol for networking
- Graphics library
- Windowing capability

All of these (and more) can now be used in ANSI Standard M[UMPS].

Although I am very happy with the establishment of the current standards, I am also very much aware that our work is far from done. If we wish to renew the various standards around the year 2000, we ought to start work on finalizing the draft documents to be canvassed. For the MDC this means that we will have to complete the work on the documents that have been on our desks for a number of years now; for the M[UMPS] community at large, this means that it is time to check with the members of the MDC to make certain that those capabilities that are important to you will indeed be included in those upcoming draft texts.

I invite you all to let us know what your priorities are.

*Ed de Moel,
MDC-Chairman.*

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