MDC INQUIRY

Open MUMPS Interconnect: Revise the ANSI Standard?

by Fred Hiltz

The Open MUMPS Interconnect (OMI) standard defines a network protocol for M jobs on one computer to use the globals and some of the devices on another computer, even if different vendors provided the two M computers. The MDC has revised the ANSI standard, ANSI/MDC X11.2-1995, to support the language features proposed for the next revision of the M language standard.

Should the revised OMI become an ANSI standard too, or should it remain an MDC standard only? The sponsor wants your opinion.

Since OMI first was published, the MDC has approved several enhancements:

 Write (but not read) to devices on another computer.
 Start an M job on another computer.
 Packaging several transactions in one message for efficiency.
 Combining transactions supporting $ORDER and $GET for speed.
 Reverse $QUERY support.
 Support for national language character sets.

OMI has seen little commercial interest, running, to the sponsor's knowledge, at fewer than 10 sites. The benefit of updating the standard may not exceed the cost, money and time—to the MDC and the M Technology Association, of pursuing an ANSI standard. If we decide not to do it, we would withdraw the present ANSI standard and keep the revised OMI as an MDC standard. Customers and vendors could still do business around an MDC standard, but it would lack the cachet of an ANSI standard.

What do you think, pro or con, about taking the OMI revisions through the ANSI standard process? Would it matter to your M applications or to your business? The MDC needs your opinion. Please send your thoughts to:

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