

# **MUMPS Development Committee**

Extension to the MDC Standard  
Type A Release of the MUMPS Development Committee

## **Clarification: String Length Limit Exceeded**

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Produced by the MDC Task Group #17  
Interpretations

Ed de Moel, Chairman  
MUMPS Development Committee

Kate Schell, Chairman  
Task Group #17

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Because of the evolutionary nature of MDC specifications, the reader is further reminded that changes are likely to occur in the specification released, herein, prior to a complete republication of the MDC Standard.

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## 1. Identification of the Proposed Clarification

### 1.1 Title **Clarification: String Length Limit Exceeded**

### 1.2 MDC Proposer and Sponsor

**Proposer**  
Task Group 17  
Interpretations  
Chairman: Kate Schell

**Sponsor**  
Frederick L. Hiltz  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
10 Vining Street  
Boston, MA 02115-6198  
617-732-7028  
FORUM: HILTZ,FREDERICK  
Internet: fhiltz@bics.bwh.harvard.edu

### 1.3 Motion

None. This document supersedes X11/TG17/95-7.

### 1.4 History

26 Oct 1995	X11/95-136	Final version.
26 Oct 1995	X11/TG17/95-7	MDC accepted, 27:0:5.
22 Oct 1995	X11/TG17/95-7	TG17 accepted.

### 1.5 Dependencies

This proposal is dependent upon ANSI X11.1-1994 Canvass Version 1.

Proposals that depend on this proposal: None.

## 2. Justification of the Proposed Clarification

### 2.1 Needs

Scattered references to string length limits in Section 2: M Portability Requirements have led to misunderstandings of erroneous results that do not satisfy the constraints on character strings.

### 2.2 Existing Practice in Area of the Proposed Clarification

Section 2: M Portability Requirements refers to string length limits in three places:

**Introduction** - Section 2 ... provides a specification of limits that must be observed by both implementors and programmers if portability is not to be ruled out. To this end, implementors must meet or exceed these limits, treating them as a minimum requirement. [emphasis original]

**2.8 Character Strings** - Character string length is limited to 255 characters.

**3.2 Results** - Any result, whether intermediate or final, which does not satisfy the constraints on character strings (see 2.8) is erroneous.

## 3. Description of the Proposed Clarification

If a string's length exceeds an implementor's limit, an error condition occurs with ecode = "M75".

## 4. Implementation Effects

### 4.1 Effect on Existing User Practices and Investments

None. All implementations that allow string lengths greater than the portability minimum behave as stated in 3. Some vendors may offer a "portability check" that evokes an error when string lengths exceed the portability minimum.

### 4.2 Effect on Existing Vendor Practices and Investments

None. All implementations that allow string lengths greater than the portability minimum behave as stated in 3.

### 4.3 Techniques and Costs for Compliance Verification

Extend the length of a string to the maximum declared by the implementor and verify that no error occurs. Extend it by 1 more character and verify that an error with ecode = M75 occurs.

### 4.4 Legal Considerations

None.

## 5. Closely Related Standards Activities

None

## 6. Associated Documents

On February 27, 1994, after the ANSI X11.1-1994 Canvass document was prepared, the MDC approved a proposal adding the language shown in 3 at the end of X11.1-1994 Canvass Version 1 clause 2.8 (Document X11/94-16).