

MUMPS Development Committee

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

charset Names

June 4, 1995

Produced by the MDC Subcommittee #12
Environment

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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 Change

1.1 Title

charset Names

1.2 MDC Proposer and Sponsor:

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1.3 Motion

Final MDC Write-up

1.4 History

4 Jun 95	X11/SC12/95-88	Corrected typos in previous document. (Passed as MDC Type A 26:0:6), superceding X11/SC12/95-7
3 Jun 95	X11/SC12/95-7	Passed as a Subcommittee 12 Type A (4:0:3), superceding the previous document
2 Jun 95	X11/SC12/TG2/95-2	Task group moved w/o dissent to split proposal so that metalanguage could move forward
19 Apr 95	X11/SC12/TG2/95-2	Proposed as SC12/B (revised)
1 Dec 94	X11/SC12/TG2/94-7	Initial Proposal Passed as SC B 4:0:2

1.5 Dependencies

No proposals have been identified on which this proposal depends
ISO-8859-1-USA depends on this proposal for the name of the charset only

2. Justification of Proposed Change

2.1 Needs

The definition of charset needs to be changed so that descriptive, intuitive names can be provided for charsets.

2.2 Existing Practice

Currently charset names are alphanumeric as in ASCII, MUMPS, JIS90

3. Description of Proposed Change

3.1 General description

The definition of charset is changed to allow more descriptive, intuitive names for character set profiles. This proposal creates a new meta-language element descriptor. A descriptor is like name with the exception that a descriptor may have separating characters (descsep) included in the name; these characters are from a limited set, may not begin or end the name, and (with the exception of the possible % in the first position) may not follow each other.

3.2 Annotated Examples of Use

ISO-8859-1-USA
ISO-8859-1-USA/M

3.3 Formalization (References are to the X11.1-1994 Canvass Document)

Modify the definition of charset in I.9:

charset ::= descriptor

descriptor ::= | % ident | | [descsep] | | ident | | digit | | ...

descsep ::= | - | (note: hyphen)
| _ | (note: underscore)
| % |
| * |
| . |
| / |
| + |
| : |
| \$ |
| ! |
| @ |

4. Implementation Effects

4.1 Effect on Existing User Practices and Investments

None expected

4.2 Effect on Existing Vendor Practices and Investments

None expected

4.3 Techniques and Costs for Compliance Verification

Test names that include the set of characters defined in descsep.

4.4 Legal Considerations

None identified

5. Closely Related Standards Activities

5.1 Other X11 Proposals Under Consideration

None

5.2 Other Related Standards Efforts

None

5.3 Recommendations for Coordinating Liaison

None

6. Associated Documents

None

7. Issues, Pros and Cons, and Discussion

January, 1995 (Albuquerque)

Passed as SC12 Type B 4:0:2

- Pros:
- 1) allows structured definition of charset names.
 - 2) allows standardized usage of ISO 8859-1 within M applications.
- Con:
- 1) mixes two amendments in one proposal
 - 2) profile may not be completely accurate

Responses to cons:

- 1) Rather than make a pair of co-dependent proposals, the author feels that a single proposal is more appropriate since this is the only proposal trying to use descriptor.
- 2) X11/SC12/TG2/95-2 has a modified form of the collation algorithm which should allow arbitrary collation definitions which are flexible enough for other character sets in the future.

June 2, 1995 (Chicago)

TG2 moved to split document X11/SC12/TG2/95-2 (passed w/o dissent)

- Pros:
- 1) Meta-language changes are ready to move forward (SC Type A)
 - 2) Rest of document (charset profile) is not ready)
 - 3) Functionality is useful independent of ISO-8859-1-USA

June 3, 1995 (Chicago)

SC12 accepted this document as a subcommittee Type A (Passed 4:0:3)

- Pros:
- 1) Addresses con raised at previous meeting
 - 2) Meta-language changes are ready to move forward
 - 3) Functionality is useful independent of ISO-8859-1-USA
 - 4) The "separated out" part needs more work
 - 5) Improved naming conventions

October 26, 1996 (New Orleans)

MDC accepted this document as an MDC Type A (Passed 26:0:6)

- Pros:
- 1) Functionality is useful independent of ISO-8859-1-USA
 - 2) Addresses con raised at previous meeting
 - 3) Meta-language changes are ready to move forward
 - 4) Improved naming conventions