MUMPS Development Committee

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

FIRST LINE FORMAT

September 27, 1997

Produced by the MDC Subcommittee #15
Programming Structures

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MUMPS Development Committee

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1.1 Title

FIRST LINE FORMAT

1.2 MDC Proposer and Sponsor:

Proposer:
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1.3 Motion:
None. This document supersedes X11/SC15/97-7

1.4 History:

Oct. 1997	X11/97-25	Final Document
Sept 1997	X11/SC15/97-7	Passed as MDC type A (22:0:3)
Mar. 1996	X11/SC15/97-1	Passed as a SC15 type A. (20:0:6)
Sept. 1996	X11/SC15/96-20	Request for updated version
Mar. 1996	X11/SC15/95-40	FIRST LINE FORMAT superseded by X11/SC15/TG9/96-4 (VA FIRST LINE FORMAT) Amended to "STRIKE ANNEX E" Passed (15-0-7).
Oct. 1995	X11/SC15/TG9/95-104	Passed, as amended in task group, as a replacement SC15 type B (20:0:5)
June 1995	X11/SC15/TG9/95-3	Passed in SC (9:8:4) Passed TG9 as amended (10:1:3)
10 May 1993	X11/SC15/TG9/93-4	No action. New sponsor assigned.
26 February 1993	X11/SC15/TG9/93-1	Approved as SC Type B 13:7:3
22 February 1993	X11/SC15/TG9/93-1	The following changes were made: make location optional; change definition of person to nonatsign
14 January 1993	X11/SC15/TG9/93-1	Revised to delete the ambiguous pkgprm
3 December 1992	X11/SC15/TG8/93-1	Fred Hiltz pointed out that this document was ambiguous in the separation of contact and pkgprm
19 October 1992	X11/SC15/TG8/92-1	Approved for submission to SC15 approval with the following modifications:
13 June 1992		TG8 requested to be dissolved, SC15 refused
12 June 1992		TG8 could not make a recommendation
11 June 1992		Remanded to Task Group 8 by SC15
26 December 1991	X11/SC15/91-13	Initial proposal

2 Justification of Proposed Change

2.1 Needs
The current document specifies a binding to a standard the MDC has not been able to obtain, and specifies a date/time format that is really a binding.

2.2 Existing Practice in Area of the Proposed Change
At least one vendor - M-Global - has provided tools that follow the existing MDC Type A since 1988. Users frequently follow the convention used by their system or tool vendor. Because of the

widespread use of non-standard formats, most tools that reference or manipulate the first line of a routine are of limited value, or even damaging, when used with routines that did not follow the convention assumed by the tool developer.

3. Description of Proposed change

3.1 General Description of the Proposed Change
This proposal removes ANNEX E (Routine First Line Format) from the X11.1 document.

3.2 Annotated Examples of Use
```
DR2    ;UTILITY,DR,DRS;1977-11-15T10:00:05-05:00;DATE  READ;1
TAG    ;POSTMASTER@FORUM.VA.GOV;;MailMan  Driver;17.7
RTN    ;ABC;DEF,XYZ,GROUP;1976-07-04T15:04:02z
```

3.3 Formalization
Strike Annex E, "Routine First Line Format" from X11.1.

4. Implementation Impacts

4.1 Effect on Existing User Practices and Investments
Current tools for managing and manipulating routines are designed to work with the proprietary format used by that implementation or package developer. This will continue to be true.

4.2 Effect on Existing Vendor Practices and Investments
No impact expected.

4.3 Techniques and Costs for Compliance Verification
None.

4.4 Legal Considerations
None expected

5. Closely Related Standards Activities

5.1 Other X11 Proposals Under Consideration
X11/SC15/tg9/95-1   Parameter Passing to a Routine

5.2 Other Related Standards Efforts
None.

5.3 Recommendations for Coordinating Liaison
None.

6. Associated Documents

ISO   8601:1988   Data elements and interchange formats-Information
                                         interchange-Representation of dates and times
ISO   8601:1988/Cor.1:1911 (E)   Data elements and interchange formats-Information
                                         interchange-Representation of dates and times,
Technical   Corrigendum 1

7. Issues, Pros and Cons, and Discussion

19 October 1992
* Change the existing practice to reflect the support of at least one vendor for the current Type A
* Correct the line description to include the first semicolon and the eol
* Clarify the definition of several elements to prohibit the inclusion of semicolons
* Change the date format to reference an ISO standard that allows a delimited date

27 February 1993
    pro:

Remove ambiguity [I]
Simplifies finding date [I]
Backward compatible [I]

con:

Non-normative [6]
Date is ambiguous [2]
Looks bad [5]

June 95
Pro: Fixes errors
- Con: Removes programmer's free choice
Looks bad
Abuses metalanguage re label

TG9 Pro: Fixes an error
Con: Looks Bad.

Oct. 1995
Pro: Fixes errors
Fixes bad non-normative annex
Con: Removes programmer's free choice
Looks bad

Mar. 1996
TG9 voted to replace X11/SC15/TG9/95-104 with X11/SC15/TG9/96-4.
In SC15 X11/SC15/TG9/96-4 was amended to change the formalization to remove
"Annex E". This amendment passed (8-2) with the main motion, as amended passed(15-0-7)

Sept. 1996
Mar. 1997
Pro: 1. Pragmatic solution
2. Requested solution
No Con's

8.   Glossary

9.   Appendix
None.