1. Identification of the proposed change

1.1.   Title

Device Parameter Issues

1.2.   MDC Proposer and Sponsor

This proposal originates from Paul Grabscheid and Mo Cheng.

The current document editor is Ed de Moel.

Motions regarding the status of this document will be made by Taskgroup 9 (General Device Issues) of Subcommittee 12 (Environment).

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1.3.   Motion

No motion.

1.4.   History of MDC actions

Date	Document	Action
September 1998	X11/1998-25	Final print-out
June 1998	X11/SC12/1998-9	Presented for consideration as MDC Type A, accepted 14:0:5.
March 1998	X11/SC12/TG9/1998-2	Presented for consideration as SC#12 Type A; accepted 12:0:5.
September 1997	X11/SC12/TG9/97-5	Several changes made by new document editor; to be determined whether these are editorial or substantive. References to non-existent documents removed. Presented for re-affirmation as SC#12 Type B, accepted, as amended in task group, 12:0:5.
June 1995	X11/SC12/95-5	Presented for discussion. Straw poll held, requesting guidance.
January 1995	X11/SC12/TG9-95-4	Adopted as Subcommittee Type B 4:0:2
January 1995	X11/SC12/TG9/95-1	Discussed in SC#14, no vote taken
June 1994	<hand-out>	Initial document, adopted as Subcommittee Type C. Passed 9:0:2.

1.5.   Dependencies

None.

2. Justification of Proposed Change

2.1.   Needs

The existing practice of a number of M[UMPS] implementations is to allow the use of expr in deviceparam and also allow the use of controlmnemonic. Such practice has been a faithful interpretation of the M[UMPS] standard, the use of expr in deviceparam complies with the 1990 standard and the use of controlmnemonic has had MDC Type A Status for a number of years. The current M[UMPS] standard with its wording on mnemonicspace, deviceparam and related topics effectively makes it illegal to use exprs in deviceparams under some circumstances, which can be seen as a backward incompatibility, and can be judged to unfairly penalize implementations that once adhered to the standard.

2.2.   Existing Practice in Area of the Proposed Change

The current syntax specification is unambiguous, but since the meaning and interpretation of certain parameters is different, depending on whether or not a mnemonicspace has been selected for a device, implementations may be more or less successful in parsing and interpreting parameters correctly.

3.   Description of the proposed change

3.1.   General Description of the Proposed Change
This proposal removes the perceived backward incompatibility by merely redefining the metalanguage elements <u>devicekeyword</u> and <u>deviceattribute</u> to be [/] <u>name</u>.

3.2.   Annotated Examples of Use
None.

3.3.   Formalization
3.3.1. Replace the definitions of <u>devicekeyword</u> and <u>deviceattribute</u> in 8.2.2. by the following:

```
devicekeyword ::= [ / ] name

deviceattribute ::= [ / ] name
```

4.   Implementation impacts

4.1.   Impact on Existing User Practices and Investments
This proposal legalizes existing user practice, and removes a perceived backward incompatibility.

4.2.   Impact on Existing Vendor Practices and Investments
After this proposal has been changed several times to reflect a number of possible approaches, it is generally felt that the current approach has a minimal impact on all vendors.

4.3.   Techniques and Costs for Compliance Verification
To be supplied.

4.4.   Legal considerations
None.

5.   Closely related standards activities

5.1.   Other X11 Proposals (Type A or Type B) Under Consideration
None.

5.2.   Other Related Standards Efforts
None.

5.3.   Recommendations for Co-ordinating Liaison
None.

6. List of Associated Documents

None.

7. Issues, Pros and Cons, and Discussion

7.1.   12 June 1994, Reno Nevada

Handed out document presented for consideration as a Type C document of SC12.
Pro:
1. Solves backward incompatibility problem.
2. Provides a portable device parameter
3. Extends functionality
Con:
1. Portability issue needs to be further addressed.
2. Should itemize affected currently existing proposals.

7.2.   28 January 1995, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Pro: Resolves perceived ambiguity
Con: May require developer to change existing applications. Only benefit is performance.

7.3.   3 June 1995, Chicago, Illinois
A straw poll was requested to obtain guidance for the document editor.
1 vote for proceeding as published in X11/SC12/95-5
2 votes for addition of portability statement
4 votes for "no change"
3 votes for moving a slash before the expr
2 votes for changing the proposal to allow a slash only in MDC defined mnemonicspaces

7.4.   18 March 1997, San Diego, California
Attempt to locate the document; new document editor sought.

7.5.   26 September 1997, Chicago, Illinois
Task group 9 preferred the most simple and backward compatible change to the current standard. A
redefinition of devicekeyword and deviceattribute to be [/] name would address and resolve InterSystems'
concerns, and not invalidate any other implementation.

Pro: 1. Requested by an implementor.

7.6.   21 March 1998, Buckhead, Georgia
Task group 9 presented the document as printed and recommended one pro. No cons were raised.

Pro: 1. Requested by an implementor.

7.7.   28 June 1998, Waltham, Massachusetts
Accepted as MDC Type A (14:0:5), no cons raised.