ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC2/WG2/
Ideographic Rapporteur Group

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Arguments / Text of Contribution: See attachments.

Japan Activity Report (June 2007)

1 Japan National Body Activities

1.1 Overview

JNB for SC2 (JSC2) is set at the IPSJ/ITSCJ (Information Processing Society of Japan, Information Technology Standards Commissions of Japan) and the committee monthly meets face-to-face. This committee is responsible to the all JTC1/SC2 activities. It has 23 members and 5 observers, who are experts of coded character sets and/or ideographic characters.

1.2 Recent Activities related IRG

After the last IRG meeting, JSC2 has been working on Extension-C review regarding PDAM 4 ballot and submission of Extension-D attributes. In addition, JSC2 continues developing new character proposal from Japanese governmental request for proposing to the future extensions.

1.3 Attending to the International Meetings

2 delegates attended the IRG Sanya meeting in November 2006, and 2 delegates attended the last WG2 Frankfurt meeting in April this year.

2. JIS updates

New revision of JIS X0221 draft has submitted to JISC (Japanese Industrial Standards Committee) for publication. This draft is a Japanese translation of ISO/IEC 10646:2003 including amendment 1 and 2. It will be issued soon.

3. Studies on the ideographs for Japanese e-government system

METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) continues studying on the real usage of Kanji glyphs for Japanese e-government. This project is known as "Promotion of the standardization of character encoding and the operation of a database (汎用電子情報交換環境整備プログラム)" which is based on IT Policy Package - 2005 adopted by the IT Strategic Headquarters of Japanese government.

2nd year of the Phase 2 activity started on April, and the committee is working on the repertoire for possible addtion to ISO/IEC 10646. Japan will propose the outcomes into the future extensions of CJK Ideographs.

4. Study on the IICORE safe character

According to the resolution M27.9, Japan reviewed IICORE and its safe characters for security with reference to UTR36 and RFC3743. The original idea was to report very safe character subset of IICORE for using in IDN (Internationalized Domain Names) by requesting WG2 #47 discussions.

Japan concluded that:

(1) It is impractical to dig out all such characters exhaustively.
(2) Subdividing IICORE might produce useless subset because IICORE itself is consisted as the smallest common set of CJK unified ideographs.

In UTR36, it is discussed about many cases of spoofing by visual confusion of non-ideographic character shapes. Those situations will be possible on ideographs as well as non-ideographic characters. However, this problem might be more serious with ideographs than non-ideographic characters, because there are cases that two or more ideographs have same meanings and the choice is sometimes depend on the situation.

Some examples that may confuse Japanese users are shown below with explanations.

(1) Possible confusion by shapes. Characters used in the specific region (e.g. in Japan) therefore be confused

(凛凜), (靭靱), (高髙), (俱倶), (冑胄冑), (采采), (日曰), (壷壹壺壼), etc.

(2) Easily recognized shape difference but users may be spoofed by their meanings

(2-1) Glyph variants of one character

(学學), (島嶋嶌), (斉齊), (鴬鶯), etc.

(2-2) Different characters but used as a same word

(新撰組 vs 新選組), (寿司 vs 鮨 vs 鮓), (皐月 vs 五月), (苺 vs 苺), etc.

(2-3) Different characters used in the different word but same readings. Some of them have similar meanings also.

(科学 vs 化学), (共同 vs 協同 vs 協働), (回答 vs 解答), (保険 vs 保健), etc.

(2-4) Different expressions of names for people, place or other specific individuals

(太田 vs 大田), (渡部 vs 渡辺 vs 渡邉 vs 渡邊), (斉藤 vs 斎藤 vs 齊藤 vs 齋藤 vs 齎藤), etc.

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