

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC17
Cards and personal identification

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Secretariat ISO/IEC JTC1/SC17, APACS, Mercury House, Triton Court, 14 Finsbury Square,
London EC2A 1LQ, England;
Telephone +44 (0)20 7711 6255; Fax: +44 (0)20 7711 6299; e-mail: chris.starr@apacs.org.uk

ISO/IEC14443 AND NFC HARMONISATION

Background

Delegates to the SC17 plenary meetings over the last two years will recall the debate at successive plenary meetings concerning the harmonisation of ISO/IEC 14443 'Contactless ICCs' with the Near Field Communications (NFC) standards from Ecma where the Ecma standards are fast-tracked into ISO through SC6.

At the 2007 plenary in October in Berlin, Germany, SC17 passed Resolution 589/07 below proposing a Joint Working Group with SC6:

SC17 Resolution 589/07 - Harmonisation of ISO/IEC 14443 and NFC Standards (ISO/IEC 18092, ISO/IEC 21481)

“ Aiming at the harmonisation of ISO/IEC 14443 and NFC standards, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC17 instructs the WG8 Convenor to contact SC6 to propose the formation of a joint working group representing both SC17/WG8 and SC6/WG1. SC17 propose that the joint working group be under the purview of SC6 but convened by the convenor of SC17/WG8 Mr M Hegenbarth.

Should this joint working group not be formed then the SC17 Chair and WG8 Convenor shall consider alternative strategies.”

Pursuant to this resolution, an Ad hoc meeting of experts from SC17 and SC6 was held on 2008-09-03/04 in Berlin, Germany, to discuss the need for harmonisation. The meeting report from that meeting, 17n3590 was circulated to both SC6 and SC17. (A copy of 17n3590 is attached to this note for information.)

The Ad hoc meeting made five recommendations which were all accepted by SC17 at their plenary in October, 2008 where Resolution 604/08 below was passed unanimously:

SC17 Resolution 604/08 - Recommendations from the Joint SC6 and SC17 Ad hoc Meeting

“ ISO/IEC JTC1/SC17 accepts the recommendations of the ad-hoc meeting and directs the secretariat to send a liaison statement to SC6 acknowledging this fact and to attach the summary report (17n3590). SC17 requests SC6 confirm these recommendations and that SC17 and SC6 work together accordingly.”

In the event SC6 declined SC17's original proposal to form a joint working group, preferring instead to establish their own Study Group (SG) under SC6/WG1 to study the case for harmonisation and to work with SC17 through the formal liaison relationship that exists between the two SCs.

SC6's Study Group held its first meeting in Fukuoka, Japan, on 18-19 March 2009 and the official meeting report, entitled “SC6 Study Group for Harmonization between NFC and ISO/IEC 14443 containing the proposed Terms of Reference” is attached to this note for information (6n13918/17n3658).

This note from the Chairman of SC17 is to bring the Study Group meeting report to the attention of National Bodies and particularly the experts concerned with harmonisation, to explain the process now being followed and to comment on the issues raised by that process.

Process

As agreed at the 2008 SC17 plenary in London, UK, the Chairman of SC17 was asked to raise the harmonisation issue between SC17 and Ecma at the forthcoming JTC1 plenary meeting in November 2008 in Nara, Japan. The result of which was the chairman of JTC1 asked the chairs of SC6 and SC17 to craft a resolution leading to harmonisation of the two sets of standards. That resolution was JTC1 Resolution 42 reproduced below:

JTC1 Resolution 42 - Harmonisation of ISO/IEC 14443 standard with standards on Near Field Communications (NFC)

“ JTC1 recognises the establishment of a study group in SC 6 to address the harmonisation of the NFC standards and ISO/IEC 14443 with SC 17's collaboration through their on-going liaison relationship. JTC 1 encourages SC6 and SC17 to continue this harmonisation effort between the ISO/IEC 14443 series of standards from SC17 and the NFC standards from SC6.

JTC 1 encourages SC6 and SC17 to first draw-up and agree on a list of technical points to address in order to perform this harmonisation. ECMA International as the originator of the NFC standards is invited to be actively involved in this effort.

SC 6 and SC 17 are requested to report on the aforementioned joint harmonization effort at the next JTC 1 plenary in 2009.”

Consequently, SC17 has supported SC6's SG through our on-going liaison relationship. Experts from France, Germany, Japan and UK attended the first meeting with SC17's interests represented by the SC17 Liaison Officer to SC6 - Mr M Hegenbarth - who is also the convenor of SC17/WG8.

Mr Hegenbarth submitted a liaison statement on behalf of SC17 to the SG ahead of their meeting, proposing that the PCD (card reader role) and PICC (card role) be standardised in a single standard, i.e. 14443, and that NFC standards make normative reference to 14443 accordingly rather than reproduce the 14443 text in the NFC standards (and similarly for 15693 and its corresponding VCD and VICC respectively). Section 6.3 of the meeting report refers to the liaison statement, a copy of which is also attached (i.e. 17n3642 / 6n13878).

This proposal was unanimously supported by the experts from the national bodies listed above. (Please see section 8.2)

The deliverable from this first SG meeting is a proposed Terms of Reference for the continued work of the SG. These are contained in section 8 of the meeting report (i.e. 8.1 through 8.4) which is being circulated for comment to SC6, ahead of their plenary in June 2009, and through the SC6 liaison relationship with SC17 to SC17 for their comments. Comments need to be received by the SC6 Secretariat by 21 May 2009 at the latest to be considered by the SC6 plenary.

To expedite this harmonisation it is particularly important that interested NBs form a view on the various harmonisation issues, i.e. as between their SC17 experts and their NFC/SC6 experts, and then represent the same view consistently to both SC17 and SC6. To that end, **it would be enormously helpful if NBs submitted their views in writing to the SC6 secretariat, ahead of the submission deadline of 21 May 2009 for consideration at the SC6 plenary in June 2009, with a copy to the SC17 secretariat.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and if there is anything which is unclear or upon which you wish to consult further please do not hesitate to contact either myself on richard.mabbott@apacs.org.uk or the secretary - Mr Chris Starr - on chris.starr@apacs.org.uk

Dick Mabbott
Chairman ISO/IEC JTC1 SC17
'Cards and Personal Identification'

Encl: 17n3590 "Summary Report of the Ad Hoc Meeting of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC17 and JTC1/SC6 on harmonization of the NFC standards and ISO/IEC 14443, held at the DIN Headquarters in Berlin on 2008-09-03/04"

17n3658 (6n13918) "SC6 Study Group for Harmonization between NFC and ISO/IEC 14443 containing the proposed Terms of Reference"

17n3642 (6n13878) "Liaison Statement from SC17 to SC6: SC17's position on a general approach for an efficient harmonization process regarding the NFC standards and ISO/IEC 14443"