Business Plan and Convener’s Report

ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC 22/WG 23 (Programming Language Vulnerabilities)


Date: 2018-07-13

PERIOD COVERED: July 2017 – June 2018

SUBMITTED BY:

Convener, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 22/WG 23: Vulnerabilities
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1. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

1.1. JTC 1/SC 22/WG 23 Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages through Language Selection and Use

1.2. PROJECT REPORT

1.2.1. COMPLETED PROJECTS

ISO/IEC TR TR 24772:2013, Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages through Language Selection and use. This is a Technical Report.

ISO/IEC 17960, Code Signing for Source Code. This project is to produce an International Standard, and has been published.

1.2.2. PROJECTS UNDERWAY

ISO/IEC TR 24772-1, Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages. This is the update of TR24772:2013 for language independent
vulnerabilities, following the project split of project 22.24772.

ISO/IEC TR 24772-2, *Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages – Part 2, Vulnerability descriptions for programming language Ada*. This is the update of TR 24772:2013 Annex C for language specific vulnerabilities for Ada, following the project split of project 22.24772.

ISO/IEC TR 24772-3, *Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages – Part 3, Vulnerability descriptions for programming language C*. This is the update of TR 24772:2013 Annex D for language specific vulnerabilities for C, following the project split of project 22.24772.

ISO/IEC TR 24772-4, *Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages – Part 4, Vulnerability descriptions for programming language Python*. This is the update of TR 24772:2013 Annex E for language specific vulnerabilities for Python, following the project split of project 22.24772.

ISO/IEC TR 24772-8, *Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages – Part 8, Vulnerability descriptions for programming language Fortran*. This is a new Part for language specific vulnerabilities for Fortran.

ISO/IEC TR 24772-10, *Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages – Part 10, Vulnerability descriptions for programming language C++*. This is a new Part for language specific vulnerabilities for C++.

### 1.2.3. CANCELLED PROJECTS

None over this time period.

### 1.2.4. COOPERATION and COMPETITION

Where appropriate, WG 23 has established active liaisons with other SC22 working groups, other JTC 1 subcommittee working groups (such as SC 27/WG 3 and SC 7 WG19) and other standards organizations, such as Ecma International. See the table in 2.3 for a list of liaisons.

There is no apparent direct competition with any other current SC22 working group or JTC 1 subcommittee.
2. PERIOD REVIEW

2.1. MARKET REQUIREMENTS

WG 23 is responding to the needs of the programming language community by inclusion. WG 23 will accept input and liaison by any and all appropriate organizations.

The marketplace demands robust, secure software. Vulnerabilities are the antithesis of robust, secure software. Many of the attacks on software-based systems succeed because the computer language used did not prevent the attack vector, and did not warn the developer that the code being produced contained flaws that could be used to generate attacks.

WG 23 has produced 2 editions of TR 24772, but there are vulnerabilities that still need to be identified, and programming languages that still need to be documented with regards to vulnerabilities.

2.2. ACHIEVEMENTS

WG 23 has published the second edition of TR 24772, and have made significant progress on the third edition, after splitting the project and the TR into Part 1, language independent part, and Parts 2, 3, 4 and 8 for language-specific vulnerability descriptions for Ada, C, Python, and Fortran. Note that this third edition will be listed as the first edition of TR 24772-1, -2, etc.

2.3. RESOURCES

Seven national bodies have participated in the WG 23 meetings this year: Austria, Canada, China, Italy, Korea, UK, and the USA, as well as several liaisons.

Over the last several years WG 23 has made Web conferencing capabilities available for those that are finding it difficult to travel. At a typical WG 23, one-third to one-half of all participates are remote, but still participate meaningfully in the meeting. WG 23 finds that mixed-mode meetings work well in developing technical content. WG 23 would like to thank ISO for the Web conferencing support.

Liaison with five SC22 Language groups, and four groups outside of SC22 have been established. Liaisons fill a valuable role in that they identify the vulnerabilities that exist (and do not exist) in their language, produce the
primary documentation of those vulnerabilities and turn them into the relevant language-dependent part in conjunction with the core team through the liaison individual.
Current WG 23 liaisons are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Name/Type</th>
<th>Person assigned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC 22/WG4</td>
<td>Cobol</td>
<td>Robert Karlin, Chris Tandy</td>
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<td>SC 22/WG5</td>
<td>Fortran</td>
<td>Gary Klimowicz</td>
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<td>SC 22/WG9</td>
<td>Ada</td>
<td>Erhard Ploedereder</td>
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<td>SC 22/ WG14</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Clive Pygott</td>
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<td>SC 22/ WG 21</td>
<td>C++</td>
<td>Group</td>
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<td>SC 27/WG 3</td>
<td>Security evaluation, testing and specification</td>
<td>Stephen Michell</td>
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<td>ECMA TC39/TG2</td>
<td>C#</td>
<td>No liaison terminate</td>
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<td>Real-Time/Safety-Critical-Java</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDC</td>
<td>MUMPS</td>
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3. FOCUS NEXT WORK PERIOD

3.1. DELIVERABLES

WG 23 plans to submit the following documents for DTR ballot before the SC 22 2018 Plenary:

JTC 1 24772-1, *Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages*.

JTC 1 24772-2, *Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming*
Languages – Part 2, Vulnerability descriptions for programming language Ada.

JTC 1 24772-3, Guidance to Avoiding Vulnerabilities in Programming Languages – Part 3, Vulnerability descriptions for programming language C.

For the 2018 SC 22 Plenary WG 23 will propose additional Parts for progress to publication.

Part 4 Python

Part 8 Fortran

Part 10 C++

Part 6 Spark

3.2. STRATEGIES

WG 23 decided in 2015 that a core document and seven language-specific annexes, with at least two or three more in planning, creates a maintenance burden that makes it difficult to keep all portions of the document up to date in a single document.

WG 23 therefore decided to split TR 24772 into a series of parts, as follows (see also clause 4.1 for the official request for SC 22 action):

- TR24772-1 Information Technology — Programming languages — Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Language Independent View
- TR24772-2 Information Technology — Programming languages — Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Programming Language Ada
- TR24772-3 Information Technology — Programming languages — Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Programming Language C
- TR24772-4 Information Technology — Programming languages — Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Programming Language Python
At the 2015 SC 22 plenary, projects for TR24772-1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 were initiated.

3.3. RISKS

Progress on parts 1, 2, 3, and 4 for which work items are allocated are showing reasonable progress. Some of the other parts for which work items have not been initiated require the identification of resources within other working groups or external experts to undertake the work.

3.4. OPPORTUNITIES

No special opportunities arose during the past year.

3.5. WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES
See 4.1.

## 4. OTHER ITEMS

### 4.1. POSSIBLE ACTION REQUESTS AT FORTHCOMING 2017 PLENARY

WG 23 requests the following Liaisons be terminated:

C#, Mumps and Linux Foundation.

### 4.2. PROJECT EDITOR

The following individuals have been appointed project editors and backup project editors:

- **JTC 1 NP 24772-1**, Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use. (Project Editor Stephen Michell)

- **JTC 1 NP 24772-2**, Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Programming language Ada. (Project Editor Joyce Tokar)

- **JTC 1 NP 24772-3**, Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Programming language C. (Project Editor Clive Pygott, backup Stephen Michell)

- **JTC 1 NP 24772-4**, Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Programming language Python. (Project Editor Stephen Michell)

- **JTC 1 NP 24772-8**, Guidance to avoiding vulnerabilities in programming languages through language selection and use – Programming language Fortran. (Project Editor Gary Klimowicz)


### 4.3. ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

Documents relevant to ISO/IEC/JTC1/SC22 processing are being entered on the ISO eCommittee web site for WG 23. WG 23 conducts some of its detailed
technical discussion using the email reflector maintained by Keld Simonsen. WG 23 also has an ftp and Web site at http://open-std.org/sc22/wg23.

4.4. RECENT MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th># attendees</th>
<th>Host</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>15-16 Sep 2016</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Austria NB</td>
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<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>23-24 Jan 2017</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
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<td>19-20 June 2017</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>US NB</td>
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<td>26-27 Apr 2018</td>
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<td>14 May 2018</td>
<td>WebEx</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>6-8 June 2018</td>
<td>Rapperswil with WG 21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Swiss NB</td>
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</tbody>
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4.5. FUTURE MEETINGS

#55 Rapperswil, Switzerland 6-8 June 2018 (with WG 21)
#56 Telemeeting 16 July 2018
#57 Telemeeting 27-28 Aug 2018
#58 San Diego, CA 8-9 Nov 2018 (with WG 21)
#59 Phoenix AZ 21-22 Jan 2019
#60 Telemeeting TBD March 2019
#61 (with WG 21) TBD April 2019
#62 Telemeeting TBD May 2019
WG 23 conducts intermeeting telemeetings in conjunction with the four face-to-face meetings annually, which are pre-meeting teleconferences to organize material for the in-person meetings.