

MEEK Project Team chat 23.5.2008

23/05/2008 11:06:15 * Maria joins meek

23/05/2008 11:06:49 <Erkki> I should point out that as the result of last week's chat, we've changed the Finnish proposed standard. It goes out for public review apparently early next week.

23/05/2008 11:08:19 <Erkki> We now allow another option, i.e. the creation of decomposed characters in the basic mode, i.e. utilizing the dead key method.

23/05/2008 11:08:52 <Maria> Yes!

23/05/2008 11:09:24 <Erkki> Thus, any given user would not have to switch between two settings.

23/05/2008 11:09:55 <Mike Pluke> How comprehensive is this option - is this a limited set of decomposed characters?

23/05/2008 11:10:30 <Karl> Erkki, that's fine.

23/05/2008 11:11:22 <Erkki> Mike, this is totally open ended.

23/05/2008 11:11:33 <Mike Pluke> Great!

23/05/2008 11:12:17 <Erkki> ... similar to the already existing decomposed mode, but with a different keying sequence.

23/05/2008 11:13:15 <Erkki> Do you all plan to attend the WS meeting in Brussels on June 13th?

23/05/2008 11:13:30 <Mike Pluke> Yes for me

23/05/2008 11:13:34 <Troy> me too.

23/05/2008 11:13:42 <Karl> Yes

23/05/2008 11:14:17 <Mike Pluke> I also know that marc will be there (not sure where he is today)

23/05/2008 11:14:23 <Tero Aalto> I have received the information from everyone present.

23/05/2008 11:15:04 <Erkki> My plan is to extend the introductory document for that meeting, so that the first version of the actual CWA would be produced only thereafter, based on the guidance received at the meeting.

23/05/2008 11:15:24 <Mike Pluke> Sounds good

23/05/2008 11:15:41 <Erkki> ...the first draft version... of course

23/05/2008 11:17:11 <Erkki> Incidentally, I understand that Yves Neuville will also be present in Brussels.

23/05/2008 11:19:49 <Mike Pluke> Erkki: Have you distributed or uploaded the revised Finnish draft (in an English translation!)?

23/05/2008 11:21:00 <Karl> Anybody has an opinion how far my draft (N11 and my synopsis) fulfils the goals requirements of MEEK, especially as exemplified in Mike's paper?

23/05/2008 11:22:23 <Erkki> Mike: No, I just submitted it to SFS, and the SFS version will be available (with some corrected links, etc.) in the next few days.

23/05/2008 11:23:41 <Erkki> Karl: I need to understand better the various groups, and how intuitive they'll be for the user.

23/05/2008 11:23:54 <Mike Pluke> Erkki: That will be good - I was being a little optimistic to expect a version for us quite so quickly - I know you have had to rush this out very quickly

23/05/2008 11:25:01 <Erkki> Mike: Tero could upload the new version (without the adjustments by SFS) immediately. Would you like that?!

23/05/2008 11:25:16 <Mike Pluke> Karl: this is also my first initial thought. it seems like there is a lot for the user to remember - and without some very clear patterns for how letters are allocated to keys this may be extremely hard

23/05/2008 11:26:00 <Mike Pluke> Hever, I think working out which keys to press may be very hard in ANY solution - so this may not be a unique question related to Karl's proposal

23/05/2008 11:26:25 <Mike Pluke> Hever - should read However - I think Visata ate my characters ☹️

23/05/2008 11:27:45 <Mike Pluke> Erkki: That might be good if you think the SFS adjustments are likely to be small

23/05/2008 11:28:50 <Karl> Mike, how much is to remember depends of the needs of the user. If he wants only to enter 5 special letters of his language, he has to remember those. If he wants to do more (e.g. high quality typography), he has to remember a little more. ...

23/05/2008 11:29:16 <Maria> Sorry, but must leave for 15 minutes.

23/05/2008 11:29:31 <Erkki> Mike: I know that there are very few of them, e.g. the pointer to the MES CWA is no longer valid in the current draft. Also, the Finnish names of MES-2 is not an SFS recommendation, it is a recommendation published with SFS's permit, and the like.

23/05/2008 11:30:41 <Mike Pluke> Karl: Agreed - I think that this, together with the fact the same keys should work on any nationalities keyboard are good features

23/05/2008 11:31:51 <Karl> ... It is something like playing a flute: To play a simple lullaby, you have to remember only a few tones to play that lullaby perfectly. Only if you want to play virtuoso music, you need to remember the semitones etc. But they are available if you need them.

23/05/2008 11:31:52 <Mike Pluke> Erkki: Then I think it might be good to see the nearly final document soon rather than wait for a version with only minor (from our viewpoint) changes

23/05/2008 11:32:16 <Erkki> Tero will upload that.

23/05/2008 11:34:53 <Mike Pluke> It seems that on the 13th we will be likely to have 3 possible proposals for achieving the aims of MEEK. Something based on the revised Finnish model, Karl's proposal and, I suspect, something from Yves that may be different but that will rely heavily on past 9995 work - so we all see it that way?

23/05/2008 11:36:50 <Erkki> Yes, but we should also look at Jukka Korpela's document, and decide, whether something should be lifted from there.

23/05/2008 11:37:16 <Mike Pluke> Yes - I had forgotten that - you are right

23/05/2008 11:39:13 <Erkki> I plan to also bring up some other methods that I know of, if for nothing else, just to mention them.

23/05/2008 11:39:36 <Mike Pluke> It seems to me that it may not be possible to take the best ideas from all of these proposals and combine them to reach an ideal - I suspect that adopting one option in one proposal will prevent the adoption of another good option from an alternative proposal

23/05/2008 11:40:01 <Tero Aalto> The new versio of the said document is now available at <http://www.csc.fi/meek>

23/05/2008 11:40:08 <Erkki> I'm afraid that such is the case.

23/05/2008 11:40:36 <Tero Aalto> Hang on, I'm not sure if the update's complete just yet...

23/05/2008 11:41:16 <Mike Pluke> Given Erkki's remark about further alternatives - we will have a lot of things to consider - and only 6 hours (including lunch) to reach an outcome - agreed

23/05/2008 11:43:01 <Tero Aalto> It will be there as soon as the server feels like updating itself.

23/05/2008 11:43:18 <Karl> Until the 13th, there will be a new version of my proposal depending of the outcome a discussion at DIN in Berlin at May 27th. If I find the time, I will also expand the synopsis to show the ideas behind the groups etc. more clearly.

23/05/2008 11:44:07 <Erkki> The document is uploade. It consists of the introduction tho the request for comments in Finnish and in English, the proposed standard in Finnish and in English, plus several bilingual appendices.u
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23/05/2008 11:45:14 <Troy> Karl, a quick question on the 9995-3. As an example, if I want to produce the letter '@', as I understand it, I have to first select group B and then press '.'. Is that correct?

23/05/2008 11:45:34 <Karl> What about cyrillic letters? Is it sufficient to say "If you want to write Bulgarian, switch to the Bulgarian standard keyboard"? What about Russian (afaik an official minority language in Lithuania)?

23/05/2008 11:45:53 <Troy> And I select group B by pressing AltGr and which character?

23/05/2008 11:46:42 <Troy> I think yes, cyrillic and Greek are so different it's impossible to try to encompass them in a common layout with latin.

23/05/2008 11:46:55 <Mike Pluke> My thinking is that we may need to look at each proposal against a set of criteria (1 set of evaluations per proposal) rather than look at each proposal against every other proposal (an extremely large range of comparisons)

23/05/2008 11:47:36 <Troy> The same goes for Japanese, Arabic and so on. They need their own keyboard mode, or an input method.

23/05/2008 11:47:37 <Karl> Troy, yes. The process of selecting group B is not standardized (yet), it could be AltGr+Comma on a keyboard where comma and full stop are on distinct keys (which is the case for almost all but not for all standard keyboards). ...

23/05/2008 11:48:56 <Troy> OK. I thought I just missed it. The concept is very different from ours, so it's difficult to visualize it immediately.

23/05/2008 11:49:11 <Karl> ... I plan to propose a special key engraving for such keys. (Either "SYM" like a similar key on the Blackberry device, or a special "symbol".)

23/05/2008 11:49:41 <Troy> I see the potential in that it enables one to enter a very large set of special characters. Well, at least in that.

23/05/2008 11:50:43 <Troy> I am not totally convinced the kotoistus method and the proposed 9995-3 are totally at loggerheads with each other.

23/05/2008 11:50:45 <Karl> Troy, regarding visualization, I already have promised some diagrams to my DIN colleagues but unfortunately have not yet found the time until now. Seems I have to find that time before the 13th of June.

23/05/2008 11:51:02 <Troy> great.

23/05/2008 11:51:11 <Mike Pluke> Going back to my remark about evaluation - do you believe that the criteria I set out in my recent document are helpful? Could they be changed? Are there other criteria? My suggestion is that on the 13th we maybe try to assess proposals against these criteria - or some revised criteria that we can all agree to.

23/05/2008 11:51:28 <Troy> Sounds good.

23/05/2008 11:51:37 <Troy> I have some comments on your document, Mike.

23/05/2008 11:52:01 * Erkki quit (timeout)

23/05/2008 11:52:16 <Mike Pluke> Good - are they brief enough to discuss here?

23/05/2008 11:53:12 <Troy> Although, now that I read them again, I see that one is the decomposed layout matter, which was already solved in this discussion.

23/05/2008 11:53:31 <Troy> The comment was, The decomposed mode might not be needed if windows can implement an IM which supports the decomposed characters in Lithuanian. The changes to the Finnish standard allow the basic setting (dead-key method) to produce also decomposed characters, when those characters are not in the predefined sets in the standard.

23/05/2008 11:54:56 <Troy> Second issue, a minor comment really: "They should not be expected to learn a new method of entering their own normal characters." This might be very hard, as they will have to learn something new, in some cases at least.

23/05/2008 11:55:40 <Troy> Meaning that some letters cannot be in the same positions on other keyboards. E.g. the Finnish adiaeretic and odiaeretic.

23/05/2008 11:56:08 <Erkki> The idea is that you only have to learn something new if YOU as the user need new functionality.

23/05/2008 11:57:21 <Troy> In Internet cafes people will have to learn to input characters with diacritics using the dead-key method, even if their own national keyboards have defined positions for the combined characters.

23/05/2008 11:58:17 <Erkki> True!

23/05/2008 11:58:40 <Mike Pluke> Good comments. I have a suspicion that Erkki's last comment is very well met by the old and revised Finnish proposal for people using their own national keyboard. What I fear is that when using some other national keyboard you may have to learn something new each time you use another keyboard - even to type your own characters.

23/05/2008 11:59:26 <Erkki> That is so, and there can be no way out of it, .

23/05/2008 12:00:07 <Mike Pluke> It does appear that finding a solution that fits both scenarios may be extremely difficult. It seems at present that the Finnish proposals are excellent for the first scenario and that Karl's proposal is

optimised for the seconf scenario - bu possibly both are less good in the opposite scenario

23/05/2008 12:01:22 <Troy> What do you mean by the oppostite scenario here?

23/05/2008 12:02:29 <Erkki> I'd recommend that we give this some serious thought before our next chat. - Would it be next Friday?

23/05/2008 12:03:06 <Mike Pluke> A solution that works well for local usage is not good for visitors and one that works well for visitors may not wok well for local usage

23/05/2008 12:03:28 <Mike Pluke> I have to go now - next Friday works for me

23/05/2008 12:04:08 <Tero Aalto> At the same time?

23/05/2008 12:04:08 <Erkki> Even in Karl's scenario you'd have to learn something new to type in your own national characters with diacritics, e.g., ä, å an ö in Finnish don't exist on many other keyboards.r

23/05/2008 12:04:18 <Troy> Yes, that's an eternal problem. I think the only way to solve that problem would be to add another column or two of keys to current keyboards. It would be great to have extra keys, but doesn't seem likely to happen.

23/05/2008 12:04:27 <Troy> Friday is good.

23/05/2008 12:05:31 <Troy> Before you all go, I would like to add another thought that aroe when I was reading Mike's document.

23/05/2008 12:05:39 <Mike Pluke> Friday at 13:00 then?

23/05/2008 12:05:41 <Erkki> Fine, I think that we have now been given much food for thought, i.e., we could quit for now, unless somebody wants to add specific comments now..

23/05/2008 12:06:00 <Troy> Another issue which could be tackled by MEEK is to make sure that all European keyboards are able to generate all characters on a US-ASCII keyboard, and vice-versa, that all keys on European keyboards can be produced on a US-ASCII keyboard when layout setting is changed in software. Since most (maybe all) US-ASCII characters are in use on the Internet, they are all especially significant

23/05/2008 12:06:13 <Troy> Next week, then.

23/05/2008 12:06:39 <Mike Pluke> Good point Troy - see you next week

23/05/2008 12:06:49 * Mike Pluke quit

23/05/2008 12:06:58 <Tero Aalto> This log will join the previous one on the site.

23/05/2008 12:07:06 <Erkki> OK, I'd like to thank you all for your participation. See you next week!

23/05/2008 12:07:18 <Troy> See you next week.