

## MEEK Project Team chat 30.5.2008

11:01:42 <Erkki> Hi! And Welcome to all!

30/05/2008 11:06:27 <Karl> Welcome to all. Regarding my N11 proposal, last tuesday we had a meeting at DIN in Berlin where it was discussed. The outcome was that there has to be a substantial revision which I have to do until June 30th. I hope I will have a draft ready at our meeting at June 13rd. ...

30/05/2008 11:07:23 \* Troy joins meek

30/05/2008 11:08:03 <Erkki> Fine! Thus, I'll mention this in the introductory document that I'll revise for the next chat.

30/05/2008 11:08:19 <Troy> In which direction are you going with the changes?

30/05/2008 11:10:03 <Karl> If we will set up a list of criteria for keyboard extensions (as proposed in last week's chat), I would like to have checked the draft against these criteria. My final goal is to have the final version of my proposal mentioned in the final MEEK document as an example how the MEEK criteria can be fulfilled.

30/05/2008 11:11:02 <Erkki> Incidentally, SFS has sent the draft keyboard layout standard out for public review.

30/05/2008 11:12:11 <Karl> Troy, the main point is that the key for selecting the Group A should not be the same as the key which selects the subsequent groups, for reasons of ergonomic and conformance to the other parts of ISO 9995.

30/05/2008 11:13:02 <Troy> OK. I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

30/05/2008 11:16:05 <Karl> Erkki, you refer to N10R (the actual revision of the Finnish-Swedish Multilingual Keyboard Layout)?

30/05/2008 11:16:45 <Troy> I keep thinking of the problem of entering a vast number of special characters and letters from different cultural contexts, and it's a vexing problem. Once you lose cultural context, the letters and symbols become just code points, which makes them hard to comprehend with a normal user's mental facilities.

30/05/2008 11:18:24 <Troy> Even with Japanese and Chinese, where there are thousands of letters and dozens of symbols to deal with, there is a cultural context, where users know what the letters and symbols mean, and how they are pronounced. That makes it easier to enter them on a keyboard.

30/05/2008 11:19:13 \* Karl quit (timeout)

30/05/2008 11:20:30 <Troy> I can't answer this question myself, but I wonder if it would be possible to use names for the various symbols, and then provide users with an input method which allowed them to type in names of symbols and then select ones they need. This is a leap away from your N11, and would make for longer typing sequences, but it might be easier to memorize special symbols this way.

30/05/2008 11:20:34 <Erkki> No, the official SFS version is out. I'd expect that N10R should be cancelled and replaced by two new documents, the introduction to the request for comments and the proposed standard, as they are now separate documents. Tero should inform you of this.

30/05/2008 11:22:16 <Karl> ... Users are not required to know how to use all groups, only these which are relevant for their own cultural context.

30/05/2008 11:22:48 <Erkki> Troy, the names of symbols would be extremely difficult, unless you allow every user to define their own, which they most certainly wouldn't do.

30/05/2008 11:23:51 <Erkki> Karl: The cultural content that we aim for is pan-European.

30/05/2008 11:25:32 <Tero Aalto> Karl, I'm in the process of updating the site. The new documents will be available there next week.

30/05/2008 11:25:42 <Troy> Yes, for MEEK the goal should clearly be Europe oriented. I do see merits in expanding the horizons a bit, though, if there is a possibility of doing that.

30/05/2008 11:26:59 <Karl> The N11 successor will address Latin and (maybe) Cyrillic and Greek (it is just a matter of my available time if I manage to integrate these in the current draft). Other scripts may be treated by other people in subsequent revisions. Input methods for Chinese etc. or for larger symbol sets (e.g. the full Unicode mathematical character set) are explicitly not within the scope of that draft.

30/05/2008 11:28:42 <Troy> I find especially the symbols *espect* interesting, since they are needed, but entering them is often difficult.

30/05/2008 11:28:51 <Troy> *espect* → *aspect*

30/05/2008 11:29:37 <Karl> For Latin (and Cyrillic, if it will be included at all), the scope of the N11 successor will remain worldwide. It is simply some more special letters and diacritical marks, requiring no extensions of any mechanism (as multiple diacritic sequences are required by Lithuanian anyhow, and by Vietnamese which is a common immigrant's language within Europe).

30/05/2008 11:30:24 <Erkki> It looks like we won't have Mike on board this time, nor Mark. Thus, I suggest that we ensure their availability next week (and adjust the schedule, if necessary).

30/05/2008 11:31:20 <Troy> Since we are such a small group, would it possible to coordinate with SMS? At least to make sure that everyone can make it.

30/05/2008 11:31:54 <Troy> SMS does work on everybody's phones, I imagine.

30/05/2008 11:32:19 <Erkki> Tero, what do you think? y

30/05/2008 11:33:04 <Karl> Regarding symbols, N11 includes those symbols which are found on any European keyboard (I have not found any symbols specific to non-European languages using the Latin script, besides currency symbols). Moreover, N11 contains all currency symbols in current use (also requiring no special mechanism for the non-European ones).

30/05/2008 11:33:55 <Erkki> I'll send a revised draft for the introductory document out by Wednesday.

30/05/2008 11:35:32 <Erkki> Karl: There are many currency symbols in current use, most of them not being known to us, though. Look at the CLDR data for this.

30/05/2008 11:36:11 <Tero Aalto> SMS? Do you think that would be practical?

30/05/2008 11:36:18 <Troy> Yes, I am aware of a few of them. I hope you come up with a good mechanism for changing the groups.

30/05/2008 11:36:25 <Karl> Another topic, how should Cyrillic be treated? Even if confining to the contemporary EU members, besides Bulgarian there is Russian, a minority language in Lithuania (is this correct?).

30/05/2008 11:36:55 <Troy> What about Serbia? Do they use the latin alphabet?

30/05/2008 11:36:57 <Tero Aalto> What if I just sent an old-fashioned e-mail with possible dates and times? I think that would be more efficient.

30/05/2008 11:37:53 <Tero Aalto> Serbia uses both.

30/05/2008 11:37:59 <Troy> Tero, email is fine for most of the time. I think SMS might be faster, especially for agreeing last details of these meets.

30/05/2008 11:38:17 <Erkki> Karl: I believe that we cannot be specific on Cyrillic, unless the meeting agrees on a change to the scope (and there are no fundamental objections to it).

30/05/2008 11:38:21 <Troy> Oh, so cyrillic is actually needed in Serbia too.

30/05/2008 11:38:26 <Tero Aalto> According to my knowledge, mostly cyrillic still but the development is heading towards latin.

30/05/2008 11:39:00 <Tero Aalto> I don't know if you already mentioned Macedonia. They're also in cyrillics.

30/05/2008 11:39:03 <Karl> Troy, yes, and talking about EU candidate countries, also for Montenegro and Macedonia (a.k.a. FYROM).

30/05/2008 11:40:26 <Troy> I think Greek and Cyrillic are fairly close to latin, except in terms of the symbols, so including them might not a problem. Something like Arabic would be a big problem, since the logic of the script is so different.

30/05/2008 11:41:08 <Troy> I mean "symbols" as in graphic symbols to represent the letters.

30/05/2008 11:42:35 <Troy> Since we have Maria in the group, we have someone who actually uses cyrillics too.

30/05/2008 11:44:17 <Troy> Greek would be more of a problem, since we don't have anyone in the group who is familiar with it (modern Greek).

30/05/2008 11:44:49 <Troy> Or do we? Tero, surprise us?

30/05/2008 11:45:08 <Troy> I hear you speak a ton of languages.

30/05/2008 11:45:24 <Karl> Troy, I had learned classical Greek at school many years ago and still am able to read it.

30/05/2008 11:45:39 <Erkki> Since Bulgarian has no diacritics (as per Maria's statement) it is fairly simple.

30/05/2008 11:46:03 <Troy> Greek has many diacritics, as I understand it.

30/05/2008 11:46:06 <Tero Aalto> Heh. No, unfortunately, Greek is not among my competences. I'm vaguely aware of the characters but that's it.

30/05/2008 11:46:30 <Erkki> Monotonic Greek is also simple, whereas polytonic is more of a problem.

30/05/2008 11:46:34 <Troy> I am not sure what the differences with modern and classic Greek are in terms of the script.

30/05/2008 11:47:27 <Tero Aalto> I was going to learn it at one point but a friend of mine told me: "The Greek language is a bottomless swamp. Don't go there."

30/05/2008 11:48:11 <Troy> I know a few languages like that.

30/05/2008 11:48:22 <Tero Aalto> So at least hearing an expert on that field would probably be informative to us, unless we decide it's outside our scope.

30/05/2008 11:48:34 <Troy> Finnish is one of them.

30/05/2008 11:48:53 <Troy> I agree. Do we know anyone?

30/05/2008 11:49:12 <Tero Aalto> Is it really? We have, after all, relatively few exceptions, even though the forms are plentiful.

30/05/2008 11:49:28 <Erkki> Greek is outside our scope, but we should keep both Cyrillic and Greek scripts in mind when formulating the recommendations.

30/05/2008 11:50:21 <Erkki> We could always ask Evangelos Melagrakis on Greek, now that he's back at ELOT, I understand.

30/05/2008 11:50:32 <Troy> Finnish is not a problem for Finns, but it is for everyone else, with all the endings of words, arcane words etc.

30/05/2008 11:50:35 <Karl> Polytonic Greek is no more complex than Vietnamese (some special problems like the handling of the iota subscriptum/adscriptum are not relevant for keyboard design).

30/05/2008 11:51:48 <Erkki> If you look at the current method of eg. Microsoft to enter Vietnamese and Polytonic Greek, they are totally different.

30/05/2008 11:52:08 <Erkki> ...although they wouldn't have to be.

30/05/2008 11:52:24 <Troy> I do think it would be good to at least someone on the issue of Greek and cyrillics. Of course we have limited time and resources, so we shouldn't risk not solving issues related to the latin script.

30/05/2008 11:52:42 <Erkki> Agreed.

30/05/2008 11:53:30 <Karl> Agreed, also.

30/05/2008 11:54:45 <Erkki> I'll produce a new draft by Wednesday - I thought I mentioned this already - but couldn't locate it on the log.

30/05/2008 11:54:47 <Troy> Maybe keep in the back of our minds, that since we are expending time and effort, let's try to keep universality in mind. The example of Unicode is a good one to keep in mind. By including all scripts, there is now a solution which is truly universal.

30/05/2008 11:55:55 <Erkki> We are not stepping into the area of SC35, period.

30/05/2008 11:55:57 <Troy> In the words of Scott Meyers (a programming author), "program for the future."

30/05/2008 11:56:51 <Troy> No, of course not. I just think it's better to be inclusive where it's possible, and think ahead.

30/05/2008 11:57:37 <Erkki> Our goal is to provide immediate solutions to current problems, but we can and should try to position them into the bigger picture.

30/05/2008 11:58:26 <Troy> Exactly. That's what I was trying to say myself.

30/05/2008 11:59:02 <Erkki> OK. I guess we should meet next week at the same time.

30/05/2008 11:59:59 <Troy> I am flexible, if the time ends up not working for everybody.

30/05/2008 12:00:31 <Tero Aalto> Let's at least keep this time as the starting point.

30/05/2008 12:01:13 <Karl> OK for the same time next week.

30/05/2008 12:01:17 <Troy> OK. Can you send a confirmation on Wednesday, after Erkki's message?

30/05/2008 12:01:28 <Troy> This way we know everybody can make it.

30/05/2008 12:01:34 <Erkki> Fine! Thanks everybody, next wekk we'll again be more specific, since we are also dealing with specific text.

30/05/2008 12:01:45 <Tero Aalto> I'll do that.