

MEEK Project Team chat 6.6.2008

06/06/2008 11:00:45 <Erkki> Welcome, everybody!
06/06/2008 11:00:47 * Karl joins meek
06/06/2008 11:01:17 * Mike Pluke joins meek
06/06/2008 11:02:02 <Troy> Hello
06/06/2008 11:02:19 <Mike Pluke> Hello
06/06/2008 11:02:29 <Karl> Hello
06/06/2008 11:05:13 <Mike Pluke> I've just sent a revised draft with very minor editorial revisions to Erkki - don't think any of the revisions are worth discussing
06/06/2008 11:05:36 <Karl> Erkki, last week you stated "We are not stepping into the area of SC35, period". What exactly did you want to express by this?
06/06/2008 11:10:03 <Erkki> The workshop has been kicked-off by the permission of the National Bodies, and we cannot step over the limits, because we would not have been given the permission by, e.g. AFNOR.
06/06/2008 11:10:47 * Marc joins meek
06/06/2008 11:11:14 <Marc> Hello!
06/06/2008 11:12:05 <Erkki> We are to deal with solutions that can be implemented fairly quickly, because the need for some solutions is urgent. Thus, the solutions may well be interim, while the world waits for SC35 to possibly come up with long term solutions.
11:14:10 <Erkki> Karl: This is also the reason for my draft statement on your proposal. Mind you, I'm not against it per se.
06/06/2008 11:15:40 <Karl> Thus, MEEK may produce recommendations which are suited for short-term solutions and which may or may not be considered by SC35, but is not entitled to make formal proposals to SC35. Is this correct?
06/06/2008 11:16:09 <Marc> if so, I guess these should be clearly separated
06/06/2008 11:16:40 <Marc> but then, as Erkki has said, this would stretch the workshop's mandate
06/06/2008 11:17:28 <Erkki> I personally think that the mnemonics, proposed by Mr. Klappenberg, are fine for an expert to e.g. define system tables with a limited repertoire, but they can hardly be considered user friendly.
06/06/2008 11:17:55 <Mike Pluke> Agreed
06/06/2008 11:18:47 <Erkki> For those of you who've been in the business for long, they used to be called "Keld's mnemonics" in TC304 and SC22/WG20.
06/06/2008 11:20:19 <Marc> on a strategic level I believe we should attack the principal task, i.e. the short-term solutions e.g. for names, first
06/06/2008 11:20:40 <Marc> if we then feel the need to go beyond that, we can weigh our options at that point
06/06/2008 11:21:22 <Erkki> I agree with Karl's above analysis.
11:22:49 <Erkki> Further: SC35 (both the chair and the secretariat) has invited the guidance that we produce as an input to their process.
06/06/2008 11:24:17 <Marc> agreed
06/06/2008 11:30:40 <Mike Pluke> What do we all feel about the current draft from Erkki (I have noticed only minor editorial improvement possibilities and areas for possible clarification)

06/06/2008 11:31:59 <Troy> I wonder if we could include some mention of future needs in Europe, specifically in terms of new countries which "might" be entering EU and which use the cyrillic alphabet?

06/06/2008 11:32:25 <Karl> Mike, you refer to N10R?

06/06/2008 11:32:49 <Troy> Of course, their needs might be the same as those of Bulgaria.

06/06/2008 11:32:50 <Mike Pluke> Yes

06/06/2008 11:33:50 * gaid joins meek

06/06/2008 11:34:14 <Erkki> As far as I understand, priority one is to give guidance on "foreign" letters. Priority 2 would then be for the proper punctuation marks.

06/06/2008 11:34:37 <Mike Pluke> I think so too

06/06/2008 11:34:39 <Troy> Also, I wonder if we should include recommendations on documentation which should be produced, in order to help users from various locales. This would normally be the responsibility of Internet cafe operators, but I doubt they have the sufficient knowhow.

06/06/2008 11:34:53 <gaid> sorry to be late. I nearly forget again

06/06/2008 11:35:15 <Erkki> Troy: The current countries already represent all the Latin letters in modern use in Europe.

06/06/2008 11:35:34 <Mike Pluke> Troy: on documentation rece

06/06/2008 11:36:22 <Troy> Erkki, yes, I was referring to new countries, and the increasing need for cyrillics. I understand that's lower in priority than latin (priority 4?)

06/06/2008 11:36:35 <Mike Pluke> Sorry - Troy: on documentation recommendations I think that would be useful. I think that this is something that I would take an interest in developing as our ideas for the main task take shape

06/06/2008 11:37:36 <Erkki> Mike: I glanced through your proposed improvements, and I don't have any particular problems with them, and in my view I they don't need to be discussed in the chat.

06/06/2008 11:37:51 <Troy> Mike, Great. I think we will have a better reception if there is some sort of documentation. Usually people get no guidance at all when selecting a new keyboard layout. From the OS, I mean.

06/06/2008 11:39:17 <Mike Pluke> Yes - I have already identified this as a possible approach in my ETSI work - so basing ideas on the standardised MEEK solution would be very helpful

06/06/2008 11:39:36 <Erkki> Troy: You are right on Cyrillic, since, as far as I understand, Bulgarian does not use diacritics, which is not the case for all languages using the Cyrillic script.

06/06/2008 11:40:19 <Troy> Erkki, OK, that's good to know.

06/06/2008 11:42:02 <Troy> Do you think it would make sense to modify the statement regarding cyrillics to include future needs of new member states?

06/06/2008 11:42:37 <Erkki> Question to all: Do you think that I should make fundamental changes to the introductory document, or could it be used essentially as such as the basis for the discussion at the physical WS meeting? I'm in no position nor do I have any desire to dictate.

11:42:47 <Troy> Since we are not touching cyrillics (probably), it would only be a statement.

06/06/2008 11:43:13 <Erkki> I agree with Troy.

06/06/2008 11:43:40 <Erkki> ... a statement with some elaboration.

06/06/2008 11:43:44 <Troy> I think the document is basically the best we can come up with at this point. I have nothing else to add to it.

06/06/2008 11:45:17 <Marc> agreed. For now the key focus is to give the workshop food for discussion on Friday

06/06/2008 11:45:20 <Troy> Weneed more info on Karl's proposal, of course.

06/06/2008 11:46:20 <Erkki> Karl has already informed us that he'll have something new at the time of the WS meeting. Until then, I can hardly add anything.

06/06/2008 11:46:38 <Karl> I will provide more information until next Friday in Brussels. I still am working on the major revision I mentioned last week.

06/06/2008 11:47:37 <Erkki> The discussion in Brussels will not be based on the introductory draft alone.

06/06/2008 11:48:06 <Troy> It would be great to have a list of pros and cons of the various approaches. Not to evaluate the betterness of them against each other, but to have a clear view on what they have to offer. That would help us see what areas overlap, and what pieces are not covered by other approaches. First we would have to come up with a list of attributes to cover.

06/06/2008 11:48:48 <Troy> I guess we can't do that yet.

06/06/2008 11:48:48 <Karl> I hope I can demonstrate that it can serve also as base for a short-time solution, having the advantage to serve the whole Latin-writing world without any drawback to us Europeans.

06/06/2008 11:49:15 <Erkki> Troy: I'd hesitate to prepare such a list before next week's meeting.

06/06/2008 11:49:28 <Erkki> Karl: I hope so, too.

06/06/2008 11:49:33 <Troy> Great. It would be great to see a demo. Just a test to see how things work with it.

06/06/2008 11:50:41 <Karl> Such a list (or a draft for it) may be a result of the meeting, rather than an input.

06/06/2008 11:51:56 <Erkki> Karl: I agree.

06/06/2008 11:51:59 <Mike Pluke> I think that (the list) would be a good objective of the meeting

06/06/2008 11:52:01 * Marc quit (timeout)

06/06/2008 11:52:35 <Marc> indeed

06/06/2008 11:54:52 <Troy> By the by, on linux you can specify which keys change the keyboard. E.g. set a trigger to turn on the US keyboard, and another one to change to the Finnish one. I can see how this type of user selectable method would also work with Karl's system.

06/06/2008 11:55:56 <Mike Pluke> So maybe we need a list of priorities of problems that we want to solve and then a first cut assessment of the different approaches as an output from our meeting?

06/06/2008 11:56:11 <Troy> Karl, of course I don't mean a demo as in a keyboard driver. Just a virtual demo of how you visualize some user using the system.

06/06/2008 11:57:21 <Karl> In my new draft, there will be a mechanism with is somewhat similar. As I don't use Linux, I currently cannot confirm to which degree my mechanism is fully compatible.

06/06/2008 11:57:33 <Troy> That would be great. At least then we would have a document to look at and go through the various issues we need to keep in mind.

06/06/2008 11:58:01 <Troy> Great.

06/06/2008 11:59:31 <Troy> On linux, you can basically select any keyboard command (e.g. CTRL-/) to switch keyboards, or to change to a specific one.

06/06/2008 11:59:39 <Erkki> Mike: The problem of "foreign" letter must clearly be divided into two: 1. How to produce "foreign" base letters? 2. How to produce "foreign" diacritics?

06/06/2008 12:00:48 <Mike Pluke> I think so - although it is all part of one higher level problem for users

06/06/2008 12:01:16 <Troy> I think Karl's list of common symbols and letters is very useful. Clearly some symbols are missing from some European keyboards (e.g. @), so these symbols (and of course all such "foreign" letters too) must be producible through some common mechanism.

06/06/2008 12:01:52 <Troy> "Must" here meaning "it would be great if."

06/06/2008 12:02:48 <Karl> This ("foreign" base letters vs. diacritics) is also not fully separated: is Ø a base letter or an O with a "slash" diacritic (my draft sees it as the latter, as otherwise there are too many base letters)

06/06/2008 12:03:50 <Troy> The Kotoistus method also sees it that way. Of course Danes (Norwegians?) disagree.

06/06/2008 12:04:27 <Troy> In Finland, it can also be produced from the ö key.

06/06/2008 12:04:47 <Troy> Clearly I would call it a letter with a diacritic.

06/06/2008 12:06:02 <Troy> The "eth" etc. letters which bare no resemblance to any ASCII letter are such "foreign" letters. Erkki?

12:06:31 <Troy> Also, only the ASCII A-Z are omni-present on all keyboards.

06/06/2008 12:06:37 <Troy> omni

06/06/2008 12:07:07 <Erkki> The slash (stroke) is not a diacritic in the UCS/Unicode sense, because it cannot be decomposed, i.e. ø cannot be encoded as an o with anything else.

06/06/2008 12:08:05 <Troy> Erkki, but wouldn't it make more sense in these cases to look not at the UCS, but at how users perceive them?

06/06/2008 12:09:22 <Troy> On X11, the Ø can be produced with a 'o' and a '/' character, as I recall. (Using the meta key.)

06/06/2008 12:10:06 <Erkki> My primary concern is with the users, but any keyboard layout "standard" must also take into consideration the character encoding standards.

06/06/2008 12:10:45 <Troy> Of course.

06/06/2008 12:11:25 <Karl> Erkki, of course (my draft explicitly refers to Unicode).

06/06/2008 12:12:11 <Erkki> Karl: And we shouldn't be concerned with any other character encoding methods.

06/06/2008 12:12:51 <Karl> ... but as long as we use "dead keys" the user does not need to know if he selects a "group" or a "combining character".

06/06/2008 12:13:30 <Mike Pluke> I suspect that the majority of our most awkward problems will occur when the UCS model and the end-user view diverge - and of course this will definitely vary on a letter by letter and country by country basis

06/06/2008 12:14:09 <Erkki> Mike: I don't necessarily think so.

06/06/2008 12:14:40 <Mike Pluke> No?

06/06/2008 12:15:24 <Troy> I do think we could attempt to find a lowest common denominator for all European countries in terms of the letters and symbols which they recognize.

06/06/2008 12:15:54 <Troy> We could then specify all other letters as "foreign," since they are that to at least some users.

06/06/2008 12:16:01 <Erkki> Mike: No, because we always start with the existing keyboards with their national characters on the keytops.

06/06/2008 12:16:20 <Troy> Of course, for some users they would be their own letters.

06/06/2008 12:16:46 <Mike Pluke> What do you mean by recognize? There are relatively few characters that I have not previously seen (particularly working on this WS) but is that what you mean?

06/06/2008 12:17:12 <Erkki> And if they are not their own letters, they need to understand which are composite letters.

06/06/2008 12:17:18 <Mike Pluke> Erkki: Of course I see what you mean

06/06/2008 12:17:31 <Karl> Maybe the term "foreign" is not optimal. "Additional international characters" may be preferable.

06/06/2008 12:17:43 <Troy> Oh, yes, of course. We have to starting premises here. One is the national keyboards, which is a specified starting point for MEEK. The other is helping users produce letters and symbols on keyboards which are foreign to them.

06/06/2008 12:18:10 <Erkki> However, with e.g. the Finnish approach, they don't need to know the difference between decomposable and non-decomposable composites.

06/06/2008 12:18:44 <Karl> Which also holds for my proposal.

06/06/2008 12:19:05 <Erkki> Karl, that's what I understand.

06/06/2008 12:19:52 <Mike Pluke> So one simple definition of a "foreign" letter is a one that does not appear on your national keyboard.

06/06/2008 12:21:44 <Erkki> Troy: When producing their own national letters on keyboards that are foreign to them, they'd also have to understand which of their national letters are composites. However, once you have been introduced to a new way of thinking, this is a relatively small additional step.

06/06/2008 12:22:11 <Erkki> Mike: Yes.

06/06/2008 12:22:26 <Troy> Mike, using he "foreign" defintion you wrote, if we merge all national keyboards, we get the group of all letters which are foreign somewhere.

06/06/2008 12:22:38 <Mike Pluke> Of course in the Internet Cafe situation the keyboard has foreign letters on it and your own ones are not marked. I know that this scenario is not the starting point for MEEK, but it is in the terms of reference for the work

06/06/2008 12:22:58 <Troy> Erkki, yes, I agree.

06/06/2008 12:24:13 <Troy> Mike, yes. I think it's important.

06/06/2008 12:24:54 <Erkki> Is this enough for each of us to prepare for next week's meeting? I'll, of course, update the draft introductory document based on this discussion.

06/06/2008 12:25:15 <Troy> I think yes.

06/06/2008 12:25:26 <Karl> I also agree.

06/06/2008 12:25:39 <Mike Pluke> Me too

06/06/2008 12:26:02 <Erkki> Fine,

06/06/2008 12:26:26 <Erkki> I thank you all for productive participation today.

06/06/2008 12:26:39 <Troy> So, til next week then.

06/06/2008 12:26:50 <Tero> As usual, I'll make the notes available on the site.

06/06/2008 12:26:52 <Troy> Have a nice weekend, everybody.

06/06/2008 12:26:56 <Erkki> See you in Brussels!