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SERIES A: ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE
ITU-T

Guidelines on interoperability experiments

ITU-T A-series Recommendations – Supplement 2

(Formerly CCITT Recommendations)

SUPPLEMENT 2 TO ITU-T A-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS

GUIDELINES ON INTEROPERABILITY EXPERIMENTS

Summary

These guidelines relate to interoperability experiments to be performed outside of ITU-T. The guidelines have been prepared in order to encourage such experiments to be performed and to facilitate information exchange between ITU-T and parties participating in such experiments.

Source

Supplement 2 to ITU-T A-series Recommendations was prepared by ITU-T TSAG (1997-2000) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 5 procedure on 14 June 2000.

Keywords

Information exchange, Interoperability Experiment to be performed outside of ITU-T, Quality of Recommendations.

FOREWORD

ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is the United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of the ITU. The ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T Study Groups which, in their turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of Recommendations by the Members of the ITU-T is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSC Resolution No. 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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Introduction

These guidelines relate to interoperability experiments to be performed outside of ITU-T. The guidelines have been prepared to encourage such experiments to be performed and to facilitate information exchange between parties participating in such experiments and ITU-T study groups developing relevant Recommendation(s).

Supplement 2 to A-series Recommendations

GUIDELINES ON INTEROPERABILITY EXPERIMENTS

(Geneva, 2000)

1 Background

1.1 Study Groups of ITU-T have been doing their best to ensure interoperability of products made in accordance with ITU-T Recommendations. There is no better way to assess interoperability than to actually interoperate systems and equipment of various manufacturers. ITU-T has occasionally initiated interoperability experiments for specific projects in the past. Some examples are:

- a) Signalling System No.7 Field Trial in early 1980s (SG 11).
- b) ISDN Field Trials in various places in late 1980s. (SG 11 and then SG 18).
- c) Digital Circuit Multiplexing Equipment (DCME) in early 1990s (SG 15).

1.2 However, when interoperability experiment/testing has not been performed, users may have suffered from the lack of interoperability between products coming from different manufacturers. Moreover, manufacturers are not always members of ITU-T and develop their products only by reading relevant Recommendations.

2 Objective

The objective of these guidelines is to encourage interoperability experiments to be performed outside of ITU-T and to facilitate information exchange between parties participating in such experiments and study groups of ITU-T.

3 Guidelines

3.1 The interoperability experiments are to be performed outside of ITU-T on a voluntary basis, self-governed, self-supporting and incurring no additional cost to ITU-T. Such interoperability experiments may therefore involve non ITU-T members as well.

3.2 The self-governance of interoperability experiments to be performed outside of ITU-T means that parties participating in such an experiment should govern themselves by making rules of their own. ITU-T is in no way involved in such a rule making.

3.3 ITU-T would like to ask the kind cooperation of its members participating in such an interoperability experiment to submit contributions to study groups based on the results of the experiment in order to improve the quality of Recommendations, e.g. by proposing text changes to remove ambiguities, etc.

3.4 Furthermore, ITU-T would like to ask the kind cooperation of its members participating in such an experiment to share information on the experiment at study group meetings as much as possible. Examples of information that would be useful to be shared are as follows:

- how should experiments be performed: experiment items, experiment methods, test equipment, experiment schedules, coordinator, etc;
- where are the experiments going to be conducted;

- how should experiment results be handled in order to submit contributions to ITU-T to improve the quality of Recommendations;
- identification of other activities in the same area and potential cooperation and work-sharing with them.

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