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ISO/IEC 12207 Software Life Cycle Processes -- Vision 2020

ISO/IEC 12207 Software Life Cycle Processes is an ISO/IEC standard that is being used by a majority of the countries in the world as their keystone standard for manufacturing high-quality, reliable software. Countries have invested substantial efforts in translating and adopting this standard for their specific needs; institutionalizing it as the basic roadmap for the production and maintenance of software. It is expected that ISO/IEC 12207 will have a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years. Working Group 7 (SC7/WG7) recognizes that the ISO/IEC 12207 standard must react to changes in the industry, incorporate changes taking place in technology and other areas, in a way that is not disruptive to the end user. In order to meet this challenge, Working Group 7 has put together a high-level vision plan, called "12207 - Vision 2020. (Attached as document W07N0280). This plan will address the maintenance of this standard for the next 20 years.

A general guideline for this vision is that updates to 12207 will occur in intervals of three to five years. A key objective is that no revision to this standard will exceed more than 15% change to the prior base line. The attached concept plan shows graphically how this vision would be accomplished by carefully planned updates to 12207 through the year 2020. The type of changes that should be incorporated are:

- Customer feedback
- Changes in technology
- Changes in how software is produced
- Incorporation and alignment with other ISO/IEC standards
- Incorporation of outstanding changes

Working Group 7 requests that all national bodies review this Vision statement and make sure it is aligned with their countries 12207 objectives. Feedback is welcomed. It is anticipated that a detailed plan for accomplishing this vision will be ready by the SC7 Plenary Meeting in Madrid in June 2000.

This plan will preserve and protect countries investments and encourage further use ISO/IEC 12207.

Please e-mail your comments to

Stan Magee, CCP
Acting Convenor WG 7
2725 NW Pine Cone Drive
Issaquah, WA 98027
Tel: 425-391-2344
Fax: 425-557-9419
E-mail: Stanmagee@compuserve.com

ISO/IEC 12207 2020 vision

	2000	2001	2003	2007	2011	2015	2020
Tasks	Amendment	Amendment	Rev 1	Rev 2	Rev 3	Rev 4	Rev 5
SC 7 N1940 (Requirements)			X	X	X		
Alignment with ISO/IEC TR 15504 (Assessment)	X		X				
Alignment with final ISO/IEC 15504 (Assessment)			X				
Alignment with ISO/IEC 15288 (system)		X					
Alignment with ISO 9001:2000			X				
User Input			X	X	X	X	X
New Technologies				X	X	X	X
New Standards (Risk Management, ISO/IEC 15939, etc)				X	X		

Note: Changes between versions will be less than 15%

Note: Detailed plans to be prepared by May 2000