To: J3
From: khb in oulu

Some remarks regarding PDF.

For what it's worth, some suggestions for J3's usage of pdf.

1. I suggest that the 007 be distributed as a single pdf file, generated by Frame by "printing" the book (with the generate pdf option turned on). I did this myself, and found that this generated a very easy to search, and very easy to navigate text. The automatic generation of bookmarks was very effective. I didn't toy with the pdf compression options, so I probably got pessimal generation. The result was only 4Mb in size, which is small enough for ftp, IMHO. (Note: I managed to zip the file down to 1.7Mb which is an alternative to producing more compact pdf ;>). For whatever it is worth, the C99 standard is approximately the same size (more compact pdf, but not zipped; their document is 554 pages or thereabouts).

2. The automatic generation of bookmarks would be even more effective if the unresolved issues have a distinct type (ala headings) and are included in the bookmark generation (note: unresolved issues may already have the right Frame attribute. Alas, I neglected to bring an updated enough copy of Frame to Finland to see this for myself, at the moment).

3. I know that the committee is loath to restrict itself to specific commercial tools, but the full version of acrobat allows for a very nice markup of documents. Each member could annotate their cop(ies) of the Standard, and "export" them (making for fairly small files to transmit). The editor (or whoever is doing the collation) can import them resulting in a single fully marked up document. Each reviewer's comments can have different color, can be sorted by topic, by author, etc. While I doubt the committee will do this as a whole, I found it handy for myself. If the committee were to try to do more "online" but physically separated work, it might prove helpful.

4. A drawback to the pdf produced ala (1) above, is that it lacks line numbers (or at least with the version of Frame and acrobat that I have. I have ordered Frame6 and perhaps it has the missing line number feature). In the event that Frame6 didn't add this feature, one could take the postscript (again, one file) and "distill" it into pdf. Unfortunately this would not produce automatic bookmark generation. However, one volunteer (but no longer me ;>) could put them in by hand for the entire committee. Since the Editor already does so much, I would suggest that someone else be asked to volunteer. It's tedious but not difficult work. Note that only this volunteer would need the full version of acrobat.

5. Although I will not otherwise be engaged in Fortran work, if the committee wanted to peruse Frame license(s) or acrobat licenses, as a one time thing I could check with my contacts at Adobe to see if we could get some steep discounts (on the order of $100 or less for Frame6 and similarly for the full version of acrobat).

6. An alternative to the single pdf file approach, that also allows easy full document searches is to create an "index" file with the Adobe Catalog tool (another component of the full version of Acrobat). I don't recommend it, as its a bit more work, and the result is a bit less easy to use than the one file option. However, it's an option if there is a strong feeling that N files are better than 1.